

HONORING AMERICAN ZOO AND
AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 408) honoring the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and its accredited member institutions for their continued service to animal welfare, conservation education, conservation research, and wildlife conservation programs.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 408

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Congress recognizes and honors the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and its member institutions of zoological parks and aquariums for their dedicated service in animal welfare, conservation education, conservation research, and wildlife conservation programs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, founded in 1924, the American Zoo Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums. AZA institutions draw over 135 million visitors annually and have more than 5 million zoo and aquarium members. These institutions teach more than 12 million people each year in living classrooms, dedicate an estimated \$50 million annually to education programs, invest an estimated \$50 million annually to scientific research, and support over 1,300 field conservation research projects in 80 countries.

AZA member institutions are a critical component in the conservation of marine mammals in the wild through broad-based education research and standing recovery rehabilitation programs.

Additionally, many AZA facilities and scientists collaborate with researchers from colleges, universities, and other scientific institutions to conduct studies important to species conservation and health. AZA facilities have developed species survival plans which are cooperative long-term breeding and conservation programs that provide many species with an insurance policy against extinction. Some of the species covered by these plans include all the great apes, Africa and Asian elephants, Siberian and Sumatran tigers, and black, white Sumatran and greater one-horned rhinos.

These cooperative conservation programs support both field and institutional research to ensure that these animals are carefully managed and maintain a healthy self-sustaining population that is genetically diverse and demographically stable.

AZA institutions across the United States have maintained high curatorial

and veterinarian standards for zoos and aquariums in addition to supporting programs that protect, conserve, and restore wild animal populations.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 408 commends the American Zoo and Aquarium Association for all the great work they have done, and I urge Members to support passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise also in support of this concurrent resolution recognizing the American Zoo and Aquarium Association for its outstanding role in the conservation of the world's biodiversity and for its advancement of zoos and aquariums here and abroad.

Collectively, AZA member institutions draw over 135 million visitors each year. This affords the AZA facilities a huge opportunity and responsibility to instruct the public on the need to protect and conserve the wonders of the natural world.

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The wide variety of public education and interpretive programs made available through AZA institutions admirably fulfills this mission, and I applaud the AZA for their important work towards developing the next generation of wildlife conservation.

In closing, H. Con. Res. 408 is non-controversial, and I urge its adoption by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands and the staff on both sides of the aisle for supporting this legislation in recognizing all of those people, whether it is a tiny zoo in Cecil County, Maryland, or Salisbury, Maryland, or the magnificent aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland, to zoos and aquariums all across this country by trying to understand, and doing a pretty good job of it, of understanding the nature of the magnificence of where people fit into the natural environment on this blue planet.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for the gentleman's leadership and the work he has done to accommodate the needs and unique considerations of the territories as we work on the Committee on Resources. We have no members of AZA, but we do have Coral World in St. Thomas, and I am hoping at some point in the near future they will be a member of this wonderful organization.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Virgin Islands is a beautiful place in the Caribbean; that is its own AZA.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 408.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF CONSTITUTION OF COMMON-
WEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 395) celebrating the 50th anniversary of the constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 395

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Congress celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILCHREST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 395. The gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), and Resident Commissioner ANIBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ worked together to compose this non-partisan and status-neutral resolution celebrating the 50th anniversary of the constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

H. Con. Res. 395 celebrates the 50th anniversary of this important historical event in our Nation's history by listing some highlights Puerto Rico's local constitution went through in becoming adopted. The resolution is non-controversial, and I ask Members to join me in its support.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.