



H.Res. 287 - To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the first use of the name 'America', and for other purposes

H.Res. 287 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Alcee Hastings (D-FL) on March 29, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, but was not considered.

H.Res. 287 is expected to be considered on the floor on July 11, 2007.

Summary

H.Res. 287 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- celebrates the 500th anniversary of the first use of the name 'America' to describe areas in the Western Hemisphere
- honors the explorations of Amerigo Vespucci and other navigators who contributed to the discovery of the Western Hemisphere
- acknowledges the significance of Martin Waldseemu Müller's 1507 map of the world and accompanying book, 'Cosmographiae Introductio', which forever changed the accepted geographical view of the world and first officially used the name 'America'
- encourages the inhabitants of all countries of the Western Hemisphere who have the privilege to share this great name 'America' to join with the House of Representatives and citizens of the United States of America in this historic celebration.

Background

Amerigo Vespucci, an Italian navigator, was born in 1454 and traveled across the Atlantic Ocean 4 times between 1497 and 1504. During his second voyage to the Western Hemisphere in 1499, Amerigo Vespucci realized that the land Christopher Columbus discovered in 1492 was not India but a new continent.

On April 25, 1507 cartographer Martin Waldseemu. Müller, a member of the research group Gymnasium Vosagense in Saint-Die, France, first used the word `America' in his world map to honor Vespucci's realization that Columbus had discovered an entirely new continent.

This legislation encourages America and the other “Americans” to celebrate their heritage founded by Amerigo Vespucci.

Cost

This legislation has not been scored by CBO.

Staff Contact

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