

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 551

Thanking C-SPAN for its service to the House of Representatives on the 25th anniversary of its first coverage of the proceedings of the House.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2004

Mr. NEY (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. FEENEY, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. DREIER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

RESOLUTION

Thanking C-SPAN for its service to the House of Representatives on the 25th anniversary of its first coverage of the proceedings of the House.

Whereas C-SPAN (Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network) is a nonprofit educational organization created in 1979 through the vision of Brian Lamb in order to provide live, gavel-to-gavel coverage of the House of Representatives to the American people;

Whereas on March 19, 1979, the House of Representatives turned on its cameras, and for the first time C-SPAN and its staff of just 4 people brought the live proceedings of the House into 3.5 million American homes;

Whereas in 1980, C-SPAN covered its first Presidential election and created one of the first nationwide viewer call-in programs;

Whereas by 1982, C-SPAN's schedule expanded to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;

Whereas in June 1986, C-SPAN2 was created to broadcast live coverage of the Senate;

Whereas by 1990, C-SPAN broadcast to 50 million American households, and this number expanded to 60 million households just three years later in 1993;

Whereas in January 1997, C-SPAN launched live web coverage of the House and Senate proceedings on the Internet;

Whereas today, C-SPAN has a staff of 275, its around-the-clock programming is available to 86 million households via 7,900 cable systems, and an estimated 28,000,000 people watch C-SPAN each week; and

Whereas while only 51 percent of Americans voted in the 2000 election, surveys show that percentage of regular C-SPAN viewers who voted in the election was 90 percent: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses the thanks of the House of Rep-
3 representatives to the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs
4 Network (C-SPAN) for its service to the House on
5 the 25th anniversary of its first coverage of the pro-
6 ceedings of the House;

7 (2) recognizes that for 25 years C-SPAN has
8 met, and continues to meet each day, its mission of

1 providing the Members of the House with a direct,
2 unfiltered conduit to the American people on whose
3 behalf they go to work every day, and in turn has
4 provided direct access for the American people to
5 their elected officials through call-in and other pro-
6 grams;

7 (3) recognizes that since its inception 25 years
8 ago, C-SPAN has forever changed the face of Amer-
9 ican political life, provided tremendous benefits to
10 the American people and their elected officials, and
11 has had a significant positive impact on the Amer-
12 ican democracy;

13 (4) expresses its deep gratitude to Brian Lamb
14 and the more than 275 C-SPAN employees who
15 bring the proceedings of the House into the homes
16 of tens of millions of Americans each day; and

17 (5) commends C-SPAN and its employees for
18 a tremendous 25 years of service to the American
19 people and the Federal Government.

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