Public Law 99-523
99th Congress

Joint Resolution

Oct. 22, 1986
[S.J. Res. 169]

To commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of the first patent and the first copyright laws.

Whereas the Constitution empowers Congress "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries";

Whereas the enforcement of this constitutional principle through specific patent and copyright laws merits special recognition;

Whereas the first patent bill signed into law on April 10, 1790, and the first copyright bill was signed into law on May 31, 1790, and we will recognize the bicentennial anniversary of these laws in 1990: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That special recognition be given during 1990, the bicentennial year of the first patent and the first copyright laws, and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation upon the enactment of this joint resolution calling upon the people of the United States to foster such recognition through appropriate educational and cultural programs and activities.

Approved October 22, 1986.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 169:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 132 (1986):
June 10, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 10, considered and passed House.

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