

CONGRATULATING MARK MCGWIRE FOR BREAKING THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SINGLE-SEASON HOME RUN RECORD

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 520) congratulating Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals for breaking the Major League Baseball single-season home run record, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I further ask unanimous consent that the debate on the resolution be confined to 40 minutes, equally divided between myself and the gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. CUMMINGS).

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 520

Whereas the game of baseball is America's national pastime;

Whereas one of the grandest records in baseball, and indeed in all sport, is the record for the most home runs hit in a single Major League Baseball season;

Whereas during the 1998 Major League Baseball season, Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals and other fine players have challenged the Major League Baseball single-season home run record, bringing great excitement to the 1998 Major League Baseball season and capturing the imagination of the people of the United States and baseball fans around the world;

Whereas Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals has been subjected to intense pressure and media scrutiny, but has conducted himself with uncommon grace, class, and dignity, and has been a first-rate role model for the young people of St. Louis, the State of Missouri, and the United States; and

Whereas on September 8, 1998, Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals hit his 62nd home run of the 1998 Major League Baseball season, breaking the Major League Baseball single-season home run record: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates and commends Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals—

(1) for breaking the Major League Baseball single-season home run record;

(2) for bringing great excitement to the 1998 Major League Baseball season; and

(3) for being an inspiration to the youth of America and the world and baseball fans everywhere.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the unanimous consent request, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. CUMMINGS), each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 520.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased this afternoon to congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT), for introducing this resolution.

On September 8, 1998, Mark McGwire broke the Major League baseball record for home runs in a single season and joins such immortals as Babe Ruth and Roger Maris as legends of our national past time. But, Mr. Speaker, when America watched Mark McGwire pursue, and then break, Roger Maris's single-season home run record, we witnessed far more than a spectacular athletic achievement and a sportsmanship achievement. In the apt words of the gentleman from Missouri, he stated, "Mark McGwire conducted himself with uncommon grace, class, and dignity." At all times he was, as the resolution goes on to say, a first-rate role model for the young people of our Nation.

But it is not just the young people who can learn from this athlete's example. Everyone can and should learn by his achievements and the manner in which he conducted himself.

More memorable than the home run that he hit that night was the grace with which he conducted himself, the joy with which he greeted his young son as he crossed home plate, the great respect he showed for the Maris family, and the friendship that he and Sammy Sosa, who is also challenging the home run record, demonstrated that night and so many millions of Americans witnessed.

It is, therefore, appropriate that Congress commend and recognize Mark McGwire for breaking this record and for the manner in which he did it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I also want to commend the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) for introducing this very, very important resolution. Today we honor 2 true sportsmen, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. Last week Mark McGwire tied, and then broke, Roger Maris's 61st single-season home run record, making him the new major league leader, with 62 home runs. On Sunday, Sammy Sosa hit his 62nd home run, matching McGwire and helping to propel his team to victory in a crucial game against the Brewers.

Last year, this Congress honored the lifetime achievements of another great baseball player: Jackie Robinson. Mr. Robinson would be proud to see how McGwire and Sosa have embraced and supported each other in the race to break Maris's record. McGwire and Sosa are making history, and they are doing it with respect for each other and with dignity and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 520 honors Mark McGwire for breaking the

record for the most home runs in a season, and among other things, serving as a true role model for young people. But not only is he a role model for young people, but it has been well stated in the media that he gives somewhere in the area of \$1 million per year to lift up children and to make their lives better, and for this we applaud him.

As baseball regains its popularity and more young people flock to ball fields across America, it is important that our major league players set an example of hard work, sacrifice, dignity and respect for oneself and one's other players. Mark McGwire exemplifies all of these.

Parents can speak of McGwire as not only a great ball player, but as a good man. After breaking Roger Maris's record, McGwire took time to acknowledge the Maris family who were sitting in the stands and hugged and lifted up his own son on the baseball field. Those two things, I think, sent a true message to all of us in America, and that is to never forget from whence we came and never forget those who came before us. Those were moments that all Americans could be proud of.

McGwire's contributions to baseball have been memorialized in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. The ball that McGwire hit his season record 62nd home run, his bat and his St. Louis Cardinals uniform are on display for current and future generations to see. Fathers and sons and daughters who journey to Cooperstown will be able to share a historic moment, a moment that will be further commemorated with this resolution in his honor. What he has done has left a spark in all Americans and has left a very, very, very important memory so that we might cherish it for our entire lifetimes.

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT), the author of this resolution.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I admire and appreciate the gentleman's eloquence and that of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), and I do not know that there is a lot I can add. I just think that this resolution is important for a number of reasons. They have commented, and I think it bears repeating, on the class that Mark McGwire had throughout this whole season as he chased this record. He showed the affection that he has in his heart for his son; he showed the regard that he has for his competitor, Sammy Sosa; and that was returned time and time again. I really appreciate the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) remark because that showed how far baseball has come from the days of Jackie Robinson. Mark McGwire showed the respect

that he has for baseball and for the way that he treated the Maris family, and I think all of those things justify this resolution.

I had a personal reason as well for filing it. I was able to share that evening with my 8-year-old son, and to share that moment with him when Mark McGwire hit the 62nd home run, and it struck me that the experience we had together and the way I felt afterwards when my son said it was the best night of his life, was probably shared by millions and millions of families around the country who were together watching this achievement, watching Mark McGwire chase this with such class and achieve it on that night, and they shared that memory then and they will share that memory forever. I think it deserves this memorial.

This is a class individual. None of it was a put-on. It is just the way he is. I am glad the House is taking a few moments to recognize him. I am sure everyone will support this resolution.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the distinguished majority leader.

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I share his optimism. I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri for bringing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, let me just first say that I have been a Cardinal fan my entire life, as I am sure my friend from Missouri has been. The night that Mark McGwire hit this home run was indeed a very important night in the life of any Cardinal fan. In fact, I was alone watching it on television and tears streamed down my face as I saw him make this accomplishment.

I think that there is a much larger meaning, however, that comes out of this, in both the case of Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. First, they have both shown love for their families, they have shown love for fellow human beings, and they have shown respect for other human beings who have had similar records or their families have had a connection with similar records. Those are very important messages for baseball heroes to send to the people, and I most want to be for this resolution today because of that and because of what that means to Americans and what that means to all of our people. We commend them, we honor them, and we wish them well in the days ahead.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, Mr. Speaker, there is, in fact, baseball yet to be played this year. Perhaps there are more home

runs to be hit. We really do not know yet what the new home run record will be. We do not know who will hold that title and that record. What we do know is that Mark McGwire has at all times conducted himself both as a gentleman and as a true sportsman. His athletic achievements are, in fact, a deed to be respected, but the quality of character he has demonstrated throughout this historic baseball season should be honored.

At a time, Mr. Speaker, when values, character, and professional conduct is being challenged both here in Washington and at every level across our land, it is indeed fitting that today Congress recognize a true role model, Mark McGwire.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to vote for this resolution.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong baseball fan, nothing has been more exciting than seeing the home run chase this year for Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. Not only has the race brought a great deal of excitement to this year's baseball season, the grace, dignity and good sportsmanship of these two sluggers has brought honor to sportsmanship and sports in general.

While we should salute the achievements of Mark, we must not forget that the season is not over. Indeed, the fantastic weekend performance of Sammy Sosa demonstrates that we still do not know who will be the single season home run king until the last game is played. It also points out how Congress sometimes gets ahead of itself.

The grace of a home run swing (some 124 at last count), the kind words of mutual respect uttered by Mr. McGwire and Mr. Sosa, the thrills that have been experienced by millions of fans remind us all that human achievement brings out the best in us. Diversion and recreation is sometimes the best antidote for tough times. Amidst all the political trauma of the last few weeks, many were happy, even just for a moment, to forget it all and blissfully discuss the home run race. They have also taught us some important lessons like genuine humility which inspires us much more than stirring words. The magnificent performance of Mark and Sammy on the field has only been matched by their outstanding handling of the media attention which has been given to them. They deserve our recognition.

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, whether you were at the game or enjoying the moment elsewhere with family and friends, on the evening of Tuesday, September 8, 1998, America witnessed a milestone. As my hometown newspaper, the Southeast Missourian printed Wednesday morning, "In a nation that demands bigger, more, better, faster, Mark David McGwire is now a name—and an event—to be remembered."

But there is something even more memorable about Tuesday night. More memorable than Mark McGwire hugging his son, Matt, as he crossed home base. More memorable than Mark McGwire taking time to share his accomplishment with the Chicago Cubs own Sammy Sosa; and yes, even more memorable than the touching moments that Mark McGwire shared with Roger Maris' family.

Sure, hitting number 62 was great. And there isn't any Little Leaguer I know who probably didn't drift off to sleep that night thinking

about what it would be like to be the "King of Swing." But what truly touched me about Tuesday night was the way the entire country came together in the last days and weeks leading up to this very special event.

When Mark McGwire belted number 62 into the record books, he put a special and indelible mark on history that will remain forever. Tuesday night, Missouri—the Heartland of America and my home—became the hallmark that represents what can be accomplished with dedication, perseverance, hard work and a little help from the Man upstairs. Mark McGwire recognized that Tuesday night and it reminded me of how proud we in the Eighth District are to call Missouri home.

But something even more magical happened when Mark McGwire smacked that ball the last 341 feet into American history. In that instant—and with the help of what ESPN has called "the nation's best fans"—the fans cheering on the Cardinals in Busch Stadium—it felt great to be an American. Again.

Now that may sound strange to some, but in a time when coverage of the examples of poor role models often overshadows the coverage of good role models, it truly is comforting that today all of America has something to be proud of. On Tuesday night, America saw the kindness, honesty and dignity of a man whose character is not measured by numbers and dollars, but by the love of a national pastime and a respect for all of those who play the game. Tuesday night it felt good to be 10-years-old again rooting for your hero. Tuesday night, it just felt good to cheer.

My dad, Ab Hermann, also played professional baseball. Even though he taught me countless lessons about life, I remember two very distinctly. First, you always have to keep your eye on the ball. Second, honesty and character really do matter. Like my colleague, J.C. Watts, another great athlete, says "character means doing what's right when nobody is looking."

Well, Mark McGwire did that. As Mike Jensen of the Standard Democrat noted on September 9, 1998, "That monumental home run will neither solve world hunger nor the issues in the Mideast. But it did remind us that sometimes good guys finish first." And Tuesday night when all America was watching, Mark McGwire, with the class befitting a "Home Run King," wrote his own story in American History. Thank you Mark, for giving all of America a story worth telling.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mark McGwire and his extraordinary feat in setting a new, single-season home run record.

Throughout this season, Americans have been treated to one of the most incredible sporting achievements of our lifetime. The single-season home run mark of 61 stood as perhaps the most awesome feat in baseball history.

I feel privileged to have been able to witness Mark McGwire in action this year—every baseball fan in America knows that they have seen something special in 1998.

Roger Maris set that record 37 years ago, topping perhaps the most impressive achievement of Babe Ruth, the best all-around player ever to take the field in professional baseball. Watching McGwire's pursuit of 62 home runs, placing him among icons like Ruth and Maris, has been a pure joy to witness.

Mark McGwire is not only an outstanding athlete, he is also a man whose conduct epitomizes good sportsmanship.

He has remained focused on his goal in the face of a media frenzy and a sea of exploding flash bulbs. And he did it with amazing grace and real class.

The chase showed something special about Mark McGwire. But it also showed me something special about the people of St. Louis. The fact that seven very lucky fans gave up progressively larger amounts of money, returning their souvenir home run balls to Number 25, showed that Cardinals fans truly are, as the magazine *Baseball America* called them, "The Best Baseball Fans in America."

These fans showed their true spirit when they stood and cheered not only for St. Louis' own Mark McGwire, but also for that other great athlete, the Cubs' Sammy Sosa.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be more proud to say I am from St. Louis, and I could not be more proud to say I am a Cardinals' fan. Thank you and congratulations, Mark McGwire.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING SAMMY SOSA FOR TYING THE CURRENT MAJOR LEAGUE RECORD FOR HOME RUNS IN ONE SEASON.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the Resolution (H. Res. 536) and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I further ask unanimous consent that the debate time be limited to 40 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and myself.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 536

Whereas Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs hit two home runs on Sunday, September 13 against the Milwaukee Brewers at Wrigley Field in Chicago;

Whereas these home runs were his 61st and 62nd of the 1998 season, tying Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals for the current major league record for home runs in one season and moving him past Roger Maris' previous single home run record, which had stood unsurpassed—and barely threatened—for 37 years;

Whereas Sammy Sosa's achievement is one of the most impressive and difficult to accomplish in the history of baseball, placing him in the very exclusive company of the national pastime's greatest home run hitters, including legends such as Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron, Roger Maris, Mickey Mantle, and Willie Mays;

Whereas Sammy Sosa's drive toward the historic home run record is part of one of the

best overall performances in baseball history, which will likely include more than 150 RBIs, a batting average of over .300, nearly 20 stolen bases, exceptional defensive play in right field and providing leadership to the Chicago Cubs in a close race for the playoffs;

Whereas throughout the intense media scrutiny and public attention that has accompanied his historic home run chase, Sammy Sosa has consistently conducted himself with dignity, modesty, and selflessness that has been an inspiration to all Americans;

Whereas as a native of the Dominican Republic, Sammy Sosa has proven to be an outstanding role model and source of pride for all residents of his native country, as well as all Latin Americans and all immigrants to the U.S. from across the globe;

Whereas throughout his record-breaking accomplishments and thrilling head-to-head race with Mark McGwire to surpass the home run milestone Sammy Sosa has embodied the talent, exuberance, team-spirit and determination that Americans associate with the very best qualities of sports and athletic competition;

Whereas while Sammy Sosa is almost certainly not done hitting home runs in 1998, and has two more weeks to amaze all of America with tape-measure shots that delight Chicago's bleacher bums and send Cubs scattering on Waveland Avenue in pursuit of a piece of history, and Sammy Sosa will continue to enhance a proud legacy of Chicago Cubs sluggers in the tradition of Hack Wilson, Ernie Banks, Billy Williams and Andre Dawson;

Whereas on September 13, 1998, Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs hit his 62th home run of the 1998 Major League Baseball season and tied the current single-season home run record: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates and commends Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs—

(1) for his amazing accomplishments and thanks him for a summer of unsurpassed baseball excitement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the unanimous consent request, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 536.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

□ 1700

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES), and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) who are authors and who have introduced this resolution.

This has been indeed, as we have said, a very historic baseball season. We have not only seen Roger Maris' 37-year-old single season home run record broken, we have seen the new record tied within just a few days.

All America has watched with admiration as Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa have challenged each other to new heights each and every day during one of the most exciting periods of baseball history. We watched as the record fell, and we watched as the new record was tied.

Sammy Sosa deserves the respect and admiration of all baseball fans for his great athletic achievement, but more importantly, Sammy Sosa has earned the esteem of all Americans for the great and dignified manner in which he has conducted himself at all times.

When Mark McGwire became the first to break Roger Maris' record, the St. Louis Cardinals were playing Sammy Sosa's Chicago Cubs. Sammy Sosa was among the first to offer his congratulations, running to congratulate Mark from his position in the outfield. A lesser man would have resented that another man will always be known as the gentleman who broke Roger Maris' record, but not Sammy Sosa.

Reflecting the highest ideals of sportsmanship and character, Sammy Sosa graciously saluted that achievement and embraced Mark McGwire warmly.

I have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that it was because of Sammy Sosa's character that all Americans cheered when he tied this new record. I am proud to support this resolution to honor an excellent athlete and, in fact, a true gentleman.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I first want to congratulate the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES) for introducing this very, very important resolution.

Today, this Congress pauses to salute a man named Sammy Sosa. Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs is being honored today for being a fine sportsman and for conducting himself with dignity and modesty while in pursuit of Roger Maris' single season home run record. A native of the Dominican Republic, Sammy Sosa is an inspiration to Americans, Latin Americans, and all who love the game of baseball.

On Sunday, in a critical Cubs-Brewers game, Sosa caught up to Mark McGwire and hit his 62nd home run. At that moment, the Cubs were still behind, and though he was experiencing a personal victory, Sosa did not celebrate until his teammate Mark Grace hit the winning home run to end the game 11 to 10. Sosa carried Grace a few steps to the dugout, and the Cubs carried Sosa. Baseball is a team effort, and Sosa's actions exemplify just that.

Sosa is the player in Cub's history, the only player in Cub's history to hit 30 or more home runs and steal 30 or more bases in the same season. In 1997, he became the third player in team history to hit more than 25 home runs at