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 teh 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. GUITERREZ), 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

Wrigley Field more than once. He was the first Cub in 37 years to collect more than 100 runs-batted-in in three consecutive seasons. But these statistics only speak to his athletic abilities.

Sosa supports schools and medical facilities in his homeland. He has a now famous two-finger gesture where he touches his heart for his fans, then blows two kisses, one for his mother, and one for the family and relatives back home whenever he hits a home run or has a major accomplishment in a game. This speaks to Sosa as a man, a man who has never forgotten from whence he came.

He remembers and talks about quite often when he was in the Dominican Republic as a young boy. And like many poor young people, he had to improvise. He would use a crushed up milk carton as a glove and would take a sock and ball it up real tight and use it as a ball to play baseball.

The fact is is that he now remembers those days and consistently and constantly gives back to his native Dominican Republic. He is a man who loves the game of baseball and, just as important, just like Mark McGwire, he cares about people. Sosa is a team player and a gracious winner. He is a true sportsman and is quite deserving of this wonderful and very significant honor.

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) who does represent the real shrine of American baseball, Cooperstown, New York.

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to include extraneous material.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding to me, and I thank both of my colleagues and all of my colleagues who are today here paying tribute to Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa.

All the sporting world knows that they are truly all-stars when they get on the ball field and they hit that ball. But I would suggest to everyone, as we are looking for role models, you could not have two better role models than Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. They are all-stars off the field as well.

I would suggest that all of my colleagues read an inspiring story that appears in today's New York Times, written by Bill Dedman. It is the story of Sammy Sosa. Just let me read one quote, because it just says so much about the man.

Sammy says ''I don't want to get a big head. I was raised religious, and I'm scared what would happen to me if I did that.'' That is a quote from Sammy Sosa. It is a wonderful story.

Now, let me tell you, first of all, both of these gentlemen are already represented in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. That is the shrine and mecca for baseball. For those of you who want to go to Cooperstown, and I encourage all of you to do so, take 270 north, and you go to Route 15—no, I will not give you the whole route today.

But I will tell you that, in that beautiful magnificent village of Cooperstown, New York, two very distinguished, very accomplished athletes, two great citizens, fine, decent, caring, sharing individuals are already represented. So I would encourage those who cannot get out to see Mark McGwire or Sammy Sosa play at the ball field. The season is almost over, some of us are hoping that the Cubs will really make it to the play-offs, and I know my distinguished colleague in the well will address that subject shortly.

Forevermore these fine gentlemen will be represented in the shrine of baseball in Cooperstown, New York, and I would encourage people to visit that magnificent facility and see for themselves.

Once again, let me stress that I am a baseball nut, self-proclaimed. I confess it. I am addicted to baseball. It is a wonderful way for my wife and I to sit and relax in the evening, a big bowl of popcorn and some soda and we sit and watch the game, and my Yankees are doing just fine this year, thank you, and I am excited about that.

I have to admit, in two instances recently I had tears to my eyes. One, when I saw Mark McGwire, and then after he hit the home run one of the things that happened that was so moving, Sammy ran in from the outfield, they hugged and they embraced, two great gentlemen. Then when I heard that Sammy Sosa had hit two dingers to catch up with Mark McGwire, I did not even see it, I just heard about it, and it moved me because I have such a passionate feeling about the game and what it means to this great country, but I am so excited because of the great accomplishment of these two fine gentlemen.

So I am pleased to be able to be here and share in this tribute. I thank those who have advanced it. I encourage all of my friends here in this chamber and all around the world to pay proper recognition to Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. Please come visit the shrine of all American baseball in Cooperstown, New York.

The article that was referred to previously is as follows:

THE MAN WHO WOULD BE MCGWIRE

HIS RIVAL IS 'THE MAN,' BUT SOSA MAY BE THE HOME RUN CHAMP

(By Bill Dedman)

CHICAGO, Sept. 14—Relaxing at home in his 55th-floor condominium before a game, Sammy Sosa is the same as at the ball park: focused by funny, exuberant but reserved. He is in a strange country, conversing in two languages, but his every movement displays a combination of confidence and humility.

He does not want to talk about his wealth, or his charity, or even to appear to be restraining the impulse. ''I don't want to get a big head,'' he says. ''I was raised religious, and I'm scared what would happen to me if I did that.''

Staying humble just got harder, as Sosa's glorious weekend put him dead even in the chase for the most glamorous record in sports: most home runs in a single season. After the record had been all but conceded to Mark McGwire of St. Louis, Sosa's four home runs in three days tied him with McGwire. As Sosa's Cubs begin a series tonight in San Diego and McGwire's Cardinals played at home against Pittsburgh, each had hit 62 home runs in 150 games. (McGwire had two singles but no homers in four at-bats tonight.) Two weeks remain in the season.

''I'm rooting for Mark McGwire,'' Sosa said last week. ''I look up to him the way a son does to a father. I look at him, the way he hits, the way he acts, and I see the person and the player I want to be. I'm the man in the Dominican Republic. He's the man in the United States. That's the way it should be.''

Sammy Sosa grew up without a father in the back of a converted public hospital in San Pedro de Macoris, a dusty seaside town in the Dominican Republic. His father, Juan Montero, died when Sosa was 5. Sosa shared two bedrooms with his mother, four brothers and two sisters. To help out, he shined shoes for two pesos.

Now, at age 29, Sosa has a four-year, $42.5 million contract. Besides the condo, he has two other homes and was able to give his mother, Mireya, a house for Mother's Day. But ask him about his wealth, and he will find an excuse to leave the room. If prodded to name the favorite of all his automobiles, he will allow, ''Probably the Rolls,'' and change the subject.

In Chicago last week, Sosa entertained guests before a night game at Wrigley Field. Wearing Versace jeans instead of Cubs pinstripes, he offered a glass of white wine and a tour of his condo—really four condos combined into one—in a tower rising above Navy Pier.

In the den, where the windows reveal Lake Michigan, Sosa's two agents occupied the sofa, eating shrimp and fielding offers for an advertising deal in Japan. In the dining room, decorated with a wrap-around view of the Loop skyline, his wife, Sonia, was setting out the good china for a lunch with friends. Their 5-year-old daughter, Keisha, was at school, and the three younger children were finishing their naps. Sammy's brothers were around, back among the eight bedrooms.

When Babe Ruth hit 60 home runs in 1927, his biographer noted his boast, ''Sixty, count 'em, 60!'' and Ruth's dare for anyone to match his total. Now Ruth has been matched, and bested, by Roger Maris, McGwire and Sosa. Not a braggart in the bunch.

When he came into the major leagues nine years ago, Sosa gained a reputation as a selfish player, as a flashy underachiever, ''Sammy So-So.'' His teammates, coaches and friends say he has grown tremendously, as a baseball player, as a father and as a team player. ''Sammy is showing a grace that blows my mind,'' said Tom Reich, who is one of his agents. ''He is so intuitive. He draws everyone into his loop with his good will and generosity.''

Back home in San Pedro de Macoris, there is a statue of Sosa with a fountain. In the winter he visits hospitals to deliver presents to children and schools to give new computers. They call him ''Sammy Claus.'' Pesos thrown in his fountain are given to the shoeshine boys of Macoris.

Here in the United States, Reich and his partner, Adam Katz, are taking their time working through offers for endorsements. They will let most of the deals wait until the season is over, so as not to distract Sosa from the task at hand: helping the long-frustrated Cubs make the playoffs for the first time since 1989.

Sosa says he does not mind the greater attention that has been given to McGwire since the season began back at the end of March. As to the suggestion that his dark skin color might account for his lack of acclaim compared with McGwire's, Sosa laughs and says: ''What? Come on, man, it's 1998.''

The Sosas moved in to their million-dollar home in June from a smaller one a few blocks away. It appears almost unlived in, with little of the debris of life scattered about. The only book is a Spanish-language Bible by a bed. The Sosas' winter home is in Santo Domingo, the Dominican capital, about 40 miles west of San Pedro de Macoris. And they have a stopping-off place in Miami.

A few treasures are on display in the Chicago home: photos of their children. A plaque from friends in the Dominican Republic (including the President, Leonel Fernández Reyna) in honor of Sosa's record-setting 20 home runs in a single month. An award from the Cubs honoring his community service, named for his hero Roberto Clemente, whose uniform No. 21 Sosa adopted.

A plaque rests on a cabinet in the living room: ''My house is small, no mansion for a millionaire. But there is room for love and there is room for friends.''

Sammy and Sonia met 12 years ago in the Dominican Republic. With the help of a maid, she takes care of the children: two girls, Keisha, 5, and Kenia, 3, and two boys, Sammy Jr., nearly 2, and Michael, almost 1.

On this quiet afternoon, the children woke up just in time for a family photograph and lunch before batting practice. The children know Sosa plays baseball, but they have no idea of his fame. Occasionally, on a replay, they do see the trademark two-fingered kisses that he blows their way.

''They see me on TV and say, 'Papi! Papi!'" he said. ''I am very proud of them.''

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ), a very distinguished gentleman, who is one of the sponsors of this legislation.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker I want to be brief so that my colleagues from Chicago have an opportunity to speak on this resolution. In particular, I look forward to the comments of my friends, the gentlemen from Illinois, Mr. DAVIS and Mr. YATES, original sponsors of this bill, who have worked with me on bringing it to the floor.

This is not the first time that the U.S. House has taken an opportunity to commend an individual who has achieved greatness, but it is perhaps the first time that a resolution has been offered about someone who has chosen to remain so humble in spite of his greatness.

Sammy Sosa is a man who has every reason to be proud of his accomplishments and who would be excused if he chose to be boastful about those facts. Instead, he prefers to go out of his way to talk about the achievements of his teammates and even those of his competitors. This is a man who has proven to young people that it is not simply important to be good at sports but to be a good sport, and who has proven in the most vivid way possible a lesson that bears repeating, that people who come to the United States to share their talents with us add to our country in ways that are profound, in ways that enrich our lives and in ways that make us all proud of this great Nation.

This resolution puts the United States House of Representatives on record that this body commends and congratulates Sammy Sosa for his prowess on the field and for his dignity off the field. In other words, even if Sammy himself will not admit it, the U.S. Congress is prepared to tell Sammy that he is indeed the man.

Now, we hear a lot about bipartisanship here in Washington. Well, in Chicago bipartisanship has nothing to do with bringing Democrats and Republicans together. In Chicago, bipartisanship means bringing Cubs fans and White Sox fans together. As a Member of Congress who represents both a little of the north side and a little of the south side, the fact that Sammy Sosa has achieved that feat is amazing, but it goes beyond that.

He has helped bring baseball fans all across the country and all across the world together to celebrate this beautiful game, but back to that spirit of civic unity for a moment. I want to quote from someone who worked and lived baseball on both sides of Chicago, a man named Bill Veeck. Bill Veeck put down some important roots in Chicago, literally. In the 1930s Bill Veeck planted the famous ivy on the outfield wall at Wrigley Field. Later in life, Bill Veeck went on to own the Chicago White Sox, and even in the last years of his life he could be found virtually every summer afternoon sitting in the outfield bleachers at Wrigley Field.

Well, there is a quote attributed to Bill Veeck that I think says something we need to know about baseball, maybe even about life. Bill Veeck said, and I quote, ''There is no sight more beautiful in the world than a ballpark full of people,'' and he was right. Unfortunately, Bill Veeck never saw Sammy Sosa play for the Cubs, and if he had he would have learned that there is actually one thing more beautiful than a ballpark full of people. It is when there are so many people wanting to see a game that there are hundreds, even thousands of them waiting outside the ballpark to be part of history.

For someone who has seen the highlights of recent Cub home games knows, there are people hanging out on Waveland Avenue and off the rooftops of Sheffield and all around the park, wanting to be part of the moment, to be part of history. As I say, Sammy Sosa has done more than excite a city. He has excited a country. He has excited people all over the world, especially in Latin America who love this great game.

People often say that baseball says a lot about America. It is about fair play. It is about doing your best and trying, even when the odds are against us, and in the person of Sammy Sosa we are reminded that baseball represents something else. It reminds us that baseball represents the diversity of our Nation, our country, America.

□ 1715

It reminds us that people can come to America and if they have the desire and if they have the will and if they have the optimism, they can succeed in ways that benefit us all.

Baseball shows that a team can be made up of kids from the heartland of America and from the Caribbean or Asia and even as far away as Australia. It was played in the form of stick ball in the crowded streets of Brooklyn and the West Side of Chicago where kids looked up to heroes like Hank Greenberg; by kids in the barrios of Humboldt Park of Chicago who idolized Roberto Clemente. Sammy Sosa has reminded us of that fact.

I read that Sammy Sosa has not only surpassed Roger Maris' record for home runs in a season, he has also surpassed the singer Kate Smith in the number of times someone has said ''God bless America'' in a single year.

Sometimes it takes someone who was born elsewhere, someone for whom America itself was not a birthright, to sum up for all of us the most patriotic of sentiments.

Mr. Speaker, Sammy is right to recognize the greatness of the United States. Today, the United States Congress recognizes him.

''To you, Sammy.''

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), one of the cosponsors of this legislation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for yielding me this time. I really want to thank all of those who took the time to come and pay tribute to two great athletes, two great Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I grew up in Arkansas, which was close to Missouri, and so I grew up a Cardinals fan, next to my beloved Brooklyn Dodgers. And I remember Red Schoendienst and Stan Musial and Ray Jablonski and, later on, Curt Flood and Bob Gibson.

I was thinking of the great feat of Mark McGwire, how great it would have indeed been had Harry Caray been around to be able to make the pronouncement and say, ''Look at it go.'' I guess it would probably have still been going even today. But, certainly, Mark is a tremendous athlete and a tremendous human being.

I am also pleased to take note of the great feat and contribution of Sammy Sosa. As has already been indicated, an individual who was content all year to kind of move in the shadows, always behind but knowing that eventually he would catch up. Always behind, but knowing that at some point there would be the evenness. Two men who emerged as great friends, complimenting each other almost on a daily basis, one not really worrying about who is going to be first, but knowing that they were both going to be winners. Because no matter which one ends up with the greatest number, they have combined their efforts to revive and revitalize the game of baseball to excite

people all over the world, to put spirit and energy in a game that had lost some of its luster.

Certainly, Sammy indicated that it is not always where one comes from. As a matter of fact, he used to shine shoes, like Isaiah Thomas, the great basketball player who at one time used to shine shoes at Shine King. So, he indicated that it is not always so important where one comes from in life, but what is really important is where one is going. No matter who ends up with the highest number, both of these esteemed gentlemen have, indeed, reached the top.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with all of my colleagues in saying a hardy ''thank you'' to Mark McGwire and to Sammy Sosa for revitalizing the game of baseball.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BLAGOJEVICH).

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, the odds of one of us of becoming a Member of Congress are actually longer than the odds of becoming a major league ball player. I must confess if I had my druthers, I would choose to be a major league ball player. For me, the ideal job would be to play right field for the Chicago Cubs.

But I learned very early in life, Mr. Speaker, as a ball player in the Little League, that it was probably an impossible dream for me. As hard as I tried, as much as I hustled, I must confess, and perhaps my political consultants would not want me to say this, I stunk as a baseball player.

But as someone who takes vicarious joy in looking at ball players who know how to play the game, I take particular pride that Sammy Sosa happens to play for the Chicago Cubs. And I take also pride as an American in the accomplishments of Mark McGwire.

Wrigley Field is not in my congressional district. I have the parking lots across the street. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES) has the actual ball park. So when Sammy Sosa hits a home run on Waveland Avenue or goes to right field and hits a home run on Sheffield Avenue, those balls are landing in the district of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES).

But Chicago happens to be a city of immigrants. I think it is altogether fitting that Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire both share the record at this point, and one happens to be an immigrant, because the City of Chicago and our country was built by immigrants.

Let me say that in this cynical era where sports is all about big money, and baseball has certainly not been immune to those issues, and in the era of sports agents, it is very refreshing to have two great heroes like Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire who play the sport for the love of the game.

I do not see Mark McGwire play baseball as often as I see Sammy Sosa, but it is clear to those of us in Chicago who watch him on a daily basis that here is somebody who plays the game the way it ought to be played, who plays it the way they used to play it in the old days, who plays it with great enthusiasm and who has an all-around style of game.

Mr. Speaker, I just would like to commend Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire, and I would to close by raising a question about Commissioner Bud Selig of baseball. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the commissioner, ''Where were you on Sunday, Mr. Commissioner? You should have been in Chicago at Wrigley Field.''

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed the comments of all of my colleagues on both sides. I am reminded of the story of Mr. Sosa when he was a young boy about 10 years old. His father died and he was left to help his mother take care of his seven brothers and sisters down in the Dominican Republic. There he got some rags together and some shoe shine polish and would go to the beach and he would shine people's shoes.

As fate would have it, he met a man named Bill Chase who lived on the outskirts of San Pedro, and Mr. Chase was a factory owner. He was so impressed with the shoe shine operation of the Sosa brothers, because he did it with his brother, that he would give them extra tips. He bought Sammy a glove and then he began to watch him play baseball. He was so impressed with them, that he helped them to move forward to a baseball career here in the United States.

There is so much to that story, Mr. Speaker, of how when we work together, when we bond together and lift each other up, how we can make things happen. How when we touch other people with our lives, that we can help them get to where they have to go.

But there is another important lesson in that too. So many Minor League baseball players are playing baseball right now, not knowing whether they will ever have an opportunity to come to the big leagues. But we want to salute all of them, including, of course, our friend Mark McGwire. We want to salute Sammy Sosa with a simple, simple quote. It is from a noted religious scholar named Dr. Charles Swindoll, and I think it epitomizes our two players that we honor today.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Swindoll says, ''. . . men and women of God, servant-leaders in the making, are first unknown, unseen, unappreciated and unapplauded. In the relentless demands of obscurity, character is built . . . [T]hose who first accept the silence of obscurity are best qualified to handle the applause of popularity.''

Mr. Speaker, I think that statement by Dr. Swindoll certainly epitomizes and describes our two great baseball players that we honor today. And so as this Congress pauses to salute these great gentlemen, we say to Mark McGwire and to Sammy Sosa, ''The Congress of the United States of America salutes you. And we thank you for bringing life to life and lifting all of us up, including our children, so that generations to come will look back on this wonderful, wonderful year and say that we too were a part of it.''

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join in voting for this tremendous and wonderful resolution.

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, first I want to take a moment to thank the gentlemen from Illinois, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. YATES, and Mr. DAVIS for introducing this resolution to recognize the achievements of Sammy Sosa. I was also pleased to recognize the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT), who introduced H.R. 520 which we just considered and passed, recognizing the sports achievements of Mark McGwire.

Mr. Speaker, fortunately this year's baseball season is not over. In fact, the Cubs are competing for a spot in the playoffs. This, in fact, is good news for all Americans, for indeed we have more time for Sammy Sosa to display his baseball skills and perhaps to hit a few more exciting home runs.

More importantly, though, it means there is more time for all Americans, especially young people, to learn about grace, sportsmanship, and dignity from gentlemen who have set a great example for sportsmanship.

I think this is really important at this time in our history, because it is critical that young people have role models. Today, we as Members of Congress pay tribute to those who have displayed sportsmanship, great achievement, and helped all Americans have heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FREEMAN HANKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4002) to designate the United States Postal Service building located at 5300 West Jefferson Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as the ''Freeman Hankins Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4002

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FREEMAN HANKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States Postal Service building located at 5300 West Jefferson Street, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,