

to his Maryland roots, but beyond that is his devotion to his family, his mother Vi, his late father Cal Ripken, Sr., his wife Kelly, and his children Ryan and Rachel. Cal has shown this devotion countless times, and I know that in his retirement, Cal, will have more time to enjoy the loving family that we are all proud to know simply as the Ripkens.

But here, as with the statistics and records, listing Cal's charitable programs and donations and noting his loving role as son, husband, and father, can not fully capture the phenomenal manner in which Cal Ripken has lived his life and given back to his community. Cal was born in Havre de Grace, MD, and was raised in the neighboring City of Aberdeen. He was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles organization in 1978, and spent every year of his professional career, except one, playing baseball in the State of Maryland. Cal Ripken's career has been the fulfillment of the childhood dream of so many of us, to become an athletic superstar and play your entire career for your hometown team. And beyond that, Cal Ripken has lived this dream with the dignity, honor, humility, charity, passion, and pure love of baseball that make myself, the City of Aberdeen, the City of Baltimore, the State of Maryland, and the United States of America proud to call Cal a legend and a role model for us all. I urge my colleagues to join us in honoring and congratulating Cal Ripken's amazing and storybook career by saying thank you Cal.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life and career of Cal Ripken. He has given us 21 glorious years—and I know that we have seen nothing yet. The resolution that I am introducing with Senator SARBANES seeks to commemorate one of the great careers in baseball—and one of the great role models of our time.

Most Marylanders will confess to some sadness about what will happen this weekend. We will see the Iron Man take the field for the last time at Camden Yards. But I promise my colleagues—this is not the last you will hear of Cal Ripken. He will go on to other careers and other challenges. He will continue his extraordinary service to his community. He will continue to be someone we can all look up to and respect.

We all know the amazing statistics he compiled in his career. In 1982, he won Rookie of the Year—and after that, the records kept breaking. He set a record for most home runs by a shortstop. He received the most Silver Slugger Awards of any shortstop and set eleven different fielding records. He was MVP twice during the regular season twice, and twice during the All-Star Games. He also amassed over three thousand hits and four hundred home runs.

He is best known for setting the record for most consecutive games played. It is unlikely that his record of 2,632 games will ever be broken.

Cal did not do this just for the sake of breaking a record; he broke that record because that is how he lives. He gives 100 percent every day. Ask any of the hundreds of Baltimore Orioles who played with him over the last twenty-one years.

Ask Cal's coaches who have seen him rededicate himself every day. Ask any of the thousands and thousands and even millions of Orioles fans for whom he stayed at the ballpark late at night, willing to sign autographs. Ask the community and charitable organizations who he volunteered for. Ask the thousands of children who he helps through his foundations.

Athletes of Cal's caliber often move from town to town and team to team. Yet Cal spent his entire career here in Baltimore. He did it for his family—his father Cal, Sr.—the great former manager of the Orioles. He did it for his children—to enable them to grow up as he did—in a community that values faith, family, community and patriotism.

Cal always puts these values into action. He has a passion for teaching baseball to children and for his charitable organizations. He created "Reading, Runs and Ripken" program, the Cal Ripken Little League Division, the Kelly and Cal Ripken, Jr., Foundation, and the Cal Ripken, Jr./Lou Gehrig ALS Research Fund. These service organizations will continue—serving children into the future.

Cal Ripken is the Iron Man, not because of his streak but because of his values, the Oriole way—showing up every day, working hard, playing by the rules, putting the team first. Cal will have lots of adulation over the next few days—and he absolutely deserves it. But Cal would want us to honor him not only with resolutions and parades and cheers from the grandstand. He would want us to practice the Oriole way: show up, work hard, play by the rules—and put your family and team first.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be added as a co-sponsor to the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 168) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The text of S. Res. 168 is printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

MEMORIALIZING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed

to the immediate consideration of Cal-endar No. 181, S.J. Res. 18.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 18) memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statement relating to the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 18) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. J. RES. 18

Whereas 1,200,000 men and women comprise the fire service in the United States;

Whereas the fire service is considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States;

Whereas fire service personnel selflessly respond to over 16,000,000 emergency calls annually, without reservation and with an unwavering commitment to the safety of their fellow citizens;

Whereas fire service personnel are the first to respond to an emergency, whether it involves a fire, medical emergency, spill of hazardous materials, natural disaster, act of terrorism, or transportation accident; and

Whereas approximately 100 fire service personnel die annually in the line of duty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That each year, the United States flags on all Federal facilities will be lowered to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

MEMORIALIZING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 42, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 42) memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 42, a bill to memorialize our Nation's fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, MD. This measure is similar to legislation