

Congratulations to the entire Red Sox team, who will be remembered forever as the conquering heroes who Reversed the Curse and brought a baseball championship to New England for the first time since the Wilson Administration. (Woodrow Wilson, not Mookie.)

Congratulations also to all the great Red Sox players of the past, including Johnny Pesky, Dom Dimaggio, Carl Yastrzemski, Jim Rice, and Luis Tiant—this victory was as much for them as anyone. The same can be said of Ted Williams and all the other Sox greats who have passed on, but who no doubt watched from the heavens above, smiling.

And most importantly, congratulations to baseball's most loyal and passionate fans: Red Sox Nation.

Mr. Speaker, on April 11, 2005, the Red Sox will raise the 2004 World Championship banner at Fenway Park alongside its counterpart from 1918. In the visiting dugout, watching the Sox try on their rings, will be a team that has suffered without a championship since the year 2000—the New York Yankees.

Don't worry, Yankees fans, there's always next year.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 854

Whereas on October 27, 2004, the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series title in 86 years in a four-game sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals;

Whereas the Red Sox won their sixth world title in the 104-year history of the storied franchise;

Whereas the 2004 Red Sox World Champion team epitomized sportmanship, selfless play, team spirit, determination, and heart in the course of winning 98 games in the regular season and clinching the American League Wild Card playoff berth;

Whereas the 2004 Red Sox World Champion team honored the careers of all former Red Sox legends, including Joe Cronin, Bobby Doerr, Carlton Fisk, Jimmie Foxx, Carl Yastrzemski, Cy Young, Johnny Pesky, Dom DiMaggio, Jim Rice, and Ted Williams;

Whereas the 2004 postseason produced new Red Sox legends, including Derek Lowe, Pedro Martinez, Curt Schilling, Tim Wakefield, Jason Varitek, Keith Foulke, Manny Ramirez, David Ortiz, Johnny Damon, Trot Nixon, Orlando Cabrera, Kevin Millar, Mike Timlin, Alan Embree, Mark Bellhorn, Bill Mueller, and Dave Roberts;

Whereas Red Sox Manager Terry Francona brought fresh leadership to the clubhouse this year, and brought together a self-proclaimed "band of idiots" and made them into one of the greatest Red Sox teams of all time;

Whereas Red Sox owners John Henry and Tom Werner and Red Sox President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Lucchino never wavered from their goal of bringing a World Series Championship to Boston;

Whereas Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein assembled a team with strong pitching, a crushing offense, and most important, the heart and soul of a champion;

Whereas the Red Sox never trailed in any of the 36 innings of the World Series;

Whereas the Red Sox set a new major league record by winning eight consecutive games in the postseason;

Whereas Derrek Lowe, Pedro Martinez, and Curt Schilling delivered gutsy pitching performances in the postseason worthy of their status as some of the best pitchers in Red Sox history;

Whereas the Red Sox starting pitching in Games 2, 3, and 4 of the World Series had a combined earned run average of 0.00;

Whereas Manny Ramirez won the 2004 World Series Most Valuable Player award in the World Series after batting 0.350 in the postseason with two home runs and 11 runs batted in;

Whereas the Red Sox staged the greatest comeback in baseball history in the American League Championship Series against their rivals, the New York Yankees, by winning four consecutive games after losing the first three games of the series;

Whereas the Red Sox prevailed in four consecutive American League Championship Series games, while producing some of the most memorable moments in sports history, including Dave Roberts stealing second base in the bottom of the ninth inning of Game 4, David Ortiz securing a walk-off home run in the 12th inning of Game 4, David Ortiz singling in the winning run in the bottom of the 14th inning in Game 5, and Johnny Damon making a grand slam in Game 7;

Whereas the entire Red Sox organization has a strong commitment to charitable causes in New England, demonstrated by the team's 51-year support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Jimmy Fund in the fight against childhood cancers;

Whereas fans of the Red Sox do not live only in Boston or New England, but all across the country and the world, and a grateful "Red Sox Nation" thanks the team for bringing a World Championship home to Boston;

Whereas the 2004 Boston Red Sox and their loyal fans believed; and

Whereas this IS next year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Boston Red Sox for winning the 2004 Major League Baseball World Series and for their incredible performance during the 2004 Major League Baseball season; and

(B) the eight Major League Baseball teams that played in the postseason;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the Boston Red Sox players, manager, coaches, and support staff whose hard work, dedication, and spirit made this all possible;

(3) commends—

(A) the St. Louis Cardinals for a valiant performance during the 2004 season and the World Series;

(B) the fans and management of the St. Louis Cardinals for allowing the Red Sox fans from Boston and around the Nation to celebrate their first title in 86 years at their home field; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the 2004 Boston Red Sox team;

(B) Red Sox Manager Terry Francona;

(C) Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein;

(D) Red Sox President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Lucchino;

(E) Red Sox Principal Owner John Henry; and

(F) Red Sox Chairman Tom Werner.

The resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY
MR. OSE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the preamble.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the preamble offered by Mr. OSE:

On page 1 line 10 strike the word "payoff" and insert the word "playoff".

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I do want to speak to the amendment, if I might, because I know the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) comes from district eight in Massachusetts, and clearly there has been an error in the third paragraph of the resolution. We are going to call this E-8 in the gentleman from Massachusetts' (Mr. CAPUANO) memory because I do not believe he meant to put the word "payoff" in there, and we are attempting to correct this. And I just want to assure folks of the district that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) represents that it was an error made in good faith and that it was an error much like many errors in the past like Mr. Buckner has made, and I hope to never see such an error again in the next 86 years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment to the preamble.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. DREIER, (during debate on H. Res. 854) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-784) on the resolution (H. Res. 861) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A FISCAL U-TURN: BACK IN THE HOLE AND STILL DIGGING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I joined many of my colleagues in Little Rock, Arkansas, for the official dedication of the William Jefferson

Clinton Presidential Center, a place where scholars and all Americans can study the many remarkable achievements of 8 years of the Clinton administration.

As I sat through the dedication ceremonies today, I reflected on the unparalleled economic prosperity that America experienced during President Clinton's tenure. I also could not help thinking about the important matter we would be confronted with on the House floor later in the day, a vote to raise the debt limit for the third time since President Clinton's successor took office. With today's vote, the majority of this House has agreed to a whopping \$800 billion increase in the debt ceiling from its present level of \$7.38 trillion to \$8.18 trillion.

The impending breach of the statutory debt ceiling is the latest warning about the Nation's fiscal health. Our debt has been growing faster than our economy's ability to repay it due in large part to a reckless economic policy over the last 4 years. These policies have undone the hard work it took to balance the budget during the 1990s and have left us awash in a sea of red ink.

At the beginning of the Clinton administration in 1992, the Federal budget deficit was at a historic high of \$290 billion, 10 million Americans were out of work, and the Nation's economic growth rate was the lowest in more than half a century. In response, President Clinton and the congressional Democrats worked together to enact the 1993 Deficit Reduction Plan which passed the House and Senate without a single Republican vote. The balanced budget plan demonstrated that guided by common sense and realism, we could slash the deficit in half while also making important investments in our future including education, health care, science, and technology.

The plan included more than \$500 billion in deficit reduction and cut taxes for 15 million of the hardest pressed Americans as well as small businesses.

□ 2340

What followed is unarguable: the creation of more than 22 million new jobs and the Nation's lowest unemployment rate in 30 years. The Nation went from the largest budget deficits in history to the largest budget surpluses in history. Four consecutive years of debt reduction also followed, a total of \$453 billion paid down, bringing the public debt down to \$2.9 trillion lower in 2001 than projected in 1993.

When President Clinton left office, we were on track to eliminate the Nation's public debt by 2012, making America debt-free for the first time since Andrew Jackson was President.

Today, we continue the fiscal U-turn that this Congress and administration have steered us into over the last 4 years. Today's vote to increase the debt limit marks yet another unfortunate milestone in our Nation's history where we have the largest deficits we have ever had, \$413 billion, and abso-

lutely no plan in sight to put our fiscal House in order.

For years, members of the Blue Dog Coalition have warned that we were spending money we did not have, that the administration had no economic plan, and that tax cuts alone were not a substitute for an economic plan for our country's future. This Congress continues to reject efforts to budget in the same way that your family and mine does, by paying as you go.

Even as we sought to stave off the day of reckoning, middle-class Americans are paying for our profligacy in the form of rising interest rates. As a result, American consumers are paying more for their mortgages and on their credit cards.

With the retirement of the baby-boom generation beginning in just 4 years, we must rededicate ourselves to ensuring that our children and future generations are not saddled with the enormous responsibility of paying for our economic health and our safety. We owe it to the American people to stop imperiling the Nation's economic future by borrowing money to pay for irresponsible policies.

We all acknowledge that the September 11 attacks and the resulting war on terrorism as well as the war on Iraq have put an additional stress on our economy. But instead of spending political capital to ask all Americans to share in the Nation's sacrifice, the President and the majority today took the easy way out.

Mr. Speaker, the day of reckoning is at hand, and with today's vote we must all acknowledge we have hit rock bottom.

In his farewell address to the Nation from the Oval Office in February, 2003, President Clinton left the American people with three thoughts about our future. His first admonition was that America must maintain its fiscal responsibility. Pointing to record deficits turned into record surpluses and the paying down of our national debt, he urged us to stay on track. "If we choose wisely," he said, "we can pay down the debt, deal with the retirement of the baby-boomers, invest more in our future, and provide tax relief."

Unfortunately, this Congress and this administration have not chosen wisely. The juxtaposition of today's dedication of the Clinton Library and this evening's vote to increase the national debt is a clarion call to return to the sound fiscal policies that were central to the economic boom of the 1990s. We have a duty to the American people to restore sanity and discipline to our Nation's finances.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it was an honor and a privilege to join with over 100 of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, and four U.S. presidents to dedicate the William J. Clinton Library in Little Rock, Arkansas. All of the four presidents spoke eloquently. I was especially moved by the words of former President George W. Bush when he said it not a Democrat or Republican day, but it was a great day for all Americans.

I joined President Clinton in the 1992 election here in Washington to represent northern Michigan to do, as President Clinton challenged us then, to put people first. I have learned and tried to do that each day as a Congressman. I learned this not just from President Clinton but from my own father who was a local elected official in Delta County, Michigan.

I come tonight to put people first, to put our children first as I continue to speak out against the acne drug Accutane. As a legislator, I have called for more restrictions on the distribution and use of this drug, which is known to cause severe birth defects and a form of impulsive behavior and depression in young people taking this drug.

This drug has devastated my family with the loss of our son BJ and more than 250 other families who have lost their young son or daughter across this Nation who have lost them while they were taking Accutane.

As we were flying back from Little Rock, Arkansas, CBS news ran a story tonight, and I quote an FDA safety reviewer, Dr. David Graham, when he spoke to the Senate Finance Committee. Dr. Graham said, "I would argue that the FDA as currently configured is incapable of protecting America against another Vioxx." He told the Senate Finance Committee that "there are at least five other drugs on the market today that should be looked at seriously to see whether