Andre Agassi has proven himself to be not only a world-class athlete but a great citizen of the State of Nevada who has continually given back to his community. He should be recognized not only for his athletic prowess, but he should be recognized for what he has done in charitable endeavors in the State of Nevada.

In April of 1998, the Andre Agassi Boys and Girls Club in west Las Vegas, a minority community, was chartered as the 2,000th Boys and Girls Club in the Nation. This club provides a positive alternative to time on the streets for the youth of Las Vegas and is dedicated to the aid and education of children who are at risk of becoming involved with gangs, drugs, or both.

Not only has Andre Agassi done this, but he has also founded the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation dedicated to the continued support of children’s organizations, as well as domestic violence programs.

Andre Agassi has done more than make appearances. He personally has given and raised millions of dollars to these charities. He is an outstanding example of an athlete and demonstrates how they should return to their communities.

I admire Andre Agassi for a number of reasons, some of which I have laid out today. He is a great athlete and, of course, we admire great athletes. He is a great athlete who has returned much to his community. But one of the reasons I admire Andre Agassi is he has not forgotten from where he came. He recognizes the millions he has made in endorsements, and playing tennis did not come, in effect, because he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He recognizes he came from a family that had very little. He came from a family who worked in the restaurants and hotels of Las Vegas. He has not forgotten his roots. It is this trait I admire more than any other of this world renowned athlete. I am pleased to acknowledge the achievements of this great athlete, great Nevadan, great American, Andre Agassi.

I honor the achievements of this young man time and time again do things that were said could not be done. There were people who said over the years he did not have the basic skills great tennis players have, but he, of course, has shown them that simply is not true.

When I arrived in Denver, one of the first things I did was run to a television set to see how Andre was doing. How disappointed I was. He had lost the first two sets and was losing overwhelmingly; he had been beaten, and he was behind in the third set. If you lose the third set, it is all over. On the entire trip from Denver to Washington, I was very despondent. This opportunity for Andre Agassi to make world history was slowly dissipating as I traveled the skies. I knew the news would be bad when I arrived at Dulles.

I asked the first person whom I had a chance to talk to at Dulles, "Andre Agassi, Andre Agassi?" The answer was, "He lost." I was not surprised. I was hoping to get the news that Andre Agassi had won the French Open.

I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Andre Agassi. As I have already mentioned, he is a prominent Nevadan who has become the first man in 30 years to win tennis’ four grand slam events. Andre, who lost the first two sets to Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev, rallied in dramatic form, to say the least, to win the French Open on June 6, 1999, yesterday. He won at Wimbledon in 1992, the U.S. Open in 1994, and the Australian Open in 1995. Andre Agassi now joins the ranks of tennis immortals Fred Perry, Don Budge, Roy Emerson, and Rod Laver. Not only does this assure him of a place in the record books, but also marks a successful resurgence into the very elite of the tennis world.

Andre in previous years has been ranked No. 1. He started a few months ago, ranked 140th in the Nation. He now, of course, is in the top 10 and is rising to where he will be ranked No. 1 again. He was ranked as high as No. 3 about a year ago.