of us has our own memories of the greatest Olympic moment, the Olympics give us memories, and a collective sense of openness and pride that many times is lost in the worlds of professional sports and business and politics. Through the years, U.S. athletes have not only been outstanding standard-bearers of the Olympic ideal, but they have consistently been among the world’s best in the athletic arena.

I had the distinct privilege to represent my country three times in the Olympic games. Each experience was different, but each represented the opportunity to put on the uniform that read USA. Not long before I attempted to qualify for the 1964 games in Tokyo, I was a 17-year-old high school student who did not really know what the Olympic Games were all about. While many remember the 1968 games in Mexico City, the unrest and the civil rights movement, I also remember the countless world records and Olympic records set during the track and field competition. In 1972, I watched in horror as Israeli athletes tragically lost their lives. The games did go on, most importantly to show that terrorists would not break the spirit of the Olympic ideal of a more peaceful world.

1972

In 1972, I also had a personal tragedy as the favorite in the 1500 meters for the United States; and with the world watching, I was tripped and fell and was not knocked out of the competition. I cannot begin to describe the anger and disappointment I felt at that moment. However, I no longer feel that was a tragedy. Rather, I point to that event as a turning point that taught me the value of life through the miracle it brought to new life the importance of God and family in my life. Every Olympian has their own stories to overcoming long odds and personal triumph, regardless of whether they are births of terrorists. The games did go on, most importantly to show that terrorists would not break the spirit of the Olympic ideal of a more peaceful world.

2100

We are delighted. The Olympics obviously are a significant event for all nations to share in the accomplishments of men and women in the area of athletics.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), for expediting this matter, and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN) for bringing it to our attention. We wholeheartedly endorse it.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 500) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the violence, breakdown of rule of law, and troubled pre-election period in the Republic of Zimbabwe, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Congress of the United States to observe such anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.