

of the World Trade building and eventual debris alive. We are also indebted to their families. I also thank the VI firefighters for their raising funds for their families and traveling to New York City to offer support and help. We also today and this week remember all of our nation's firemen and women who have fallen in the line of duty.

As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Parks Recreation, and Public Lands I want to especially remember those who have given their lives in fighting fires in our nations parks and public lands, and in protecting them and neighboring properties.

So I gladly join my colleagues in support of 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.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J.Res. 42, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING CAL RIPKEN, JR.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H.Res. 247) honoring Cal Ripken, Jr., for an outstanding career, congratulating him on his retirement, and thanking him for his contributions to baseball, to the State of Maryland, and to the Nation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 247

Whereas Cal Ripken, Jr., played in 2,632 consecutive Major League Baseball games and holds the all-time record for consecutive games played by a Major League player, shattering Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130;

Whereas Ripken has over 3,000 career hits and ranks 14th on the all-time hit list;

Whereas Ripken is 1 of only 7 players to have 400 home runs and 3,000 hits in a career;

Whereas Ripken was an All-Star 19 times in his Major League career, twice winning Most Valuable Player of the All-Star Game;

Whereas Ripken was named to Major League Baseball's All-Century Team;

Whereas Ripken has won 2 Golden Gloves and 2 Most Valuable Player awards;

Whereas Ripken played all 21 of his Major League seasons with the Baltimore Orioles,

choosing to stay with his team in an era dominated by free agency;

Whereas at one point during his career with the Orioles, Ripken's brother Bill Ripken was also playing for the team, and his father, Cal Ripken, Sr., was managing;

Whereas Ripken has been a model citizen for Harford County, Maryland, and the Baltimore City metropolitan area while contributing millions of dollars and countless hours to community projects;

Whereas Ripken and his wife Kelly have led their community in projects ranging from battling illiteracy to helping inner-city youth through various foundations, including the Kelly and Cal Ripken, Jr., Foundation, the Baltimore Reads Ripken Learning Center, and the Reading, Runs, and Ripken program; and

Whereas Ripken has pledged \$9,000,000 for the construction of a baseball facility in Harford County, Maryland, which includes 6 baseball fields, recreational facilities, and dormitories: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors Cal Ripken, Jr., for an outstanding career, congratulates him on his retirement, and thanks him for his contributions to baseball, to the State of Maryland, and to the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.Res. 247.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to speak on House Resolution 247, a resolution introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRlich). This legislation is cosponsored by all Members of the House delegation from the State of Maryland and others.

I am proud to be personally associated with this resolution, and I rise in strong support of it, congratulating Cal Ripken, Jr., baseball's true ironman, on a 20-year career full of great achievements and dramatic moments. He is a hero to Marylanders and to all Americans.

During his 2 decades as a Baltimore Oriole, Cal Ripken embodies what it means to love the game of baseball. His grace, talent, determination, and strength of character have been obvious both on and off the field. Cal will retire this week as one of only seven players in the history of baseball to collect more than 3,000 hits and 400 home runs in a career. The other six are in the Hall of Fame, and we look forward to the summer day in 2006 when Cal will join them.

His place in baseball history has long been secure. Cal set a Major League record with 345 home runs as a shortstop, won the Rookie of the Year and two American League Most Valued Players awards, earned two Gold Glove awards, and led the Orioles to their last World Series triumph in 1983.

Cal Ripken is the consummate professional. All he wanted to do was come to the park every day, work harder than anyone else, and play the game. And from May 30, 1982 until September 19, 1998, Cal did just that, for every single game. He shattered what was thought to be an unbreakable record, Lou Gehrig's streak of playing in 2,130 consecutive games. When Cal decided to voluntarily end "the streak," he had bested Gehrig's mark by more than three full seasons. It is unimaginable that his record of 2,632 games will ever be approached.

And what is amazing about Cal Ripken, Jr., is that he has had as many triumphs off the field as on it. He and his wife long ago founded the Kelly and Cal Ripken, Jr., Foundation, which primarily supports adult and family literacy, youth recreation, and health-related programs in the Baltimore, Maryland area. He is active in medical research, supporting the performing arts and other civic activities. It speaks for itself that just last year the Babe Ruth Baseball League chose to name its youth division, which teaches baseball to children between 5 and 12 years of age, after Baltimore's own ironman.

For 20 years, Cal Ripken, Jr., wore number 8 on the back of his jersey, but he was always number one in our hearts. Thanks for the memories, Cal.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRlich) for introducing H.Res. 247, and to all of the cosponsors of the resolution. I also want to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) of the Committee on Government Reform; the chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON); the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN); and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the ranking members respectively on the Committee on Government Reform and the Subcommittee on Civil Service for expediting consideration of this measure.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support House Resolution 247.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that there are those who would want to ask the question, given the circumstances of our time and our being, why are we taking time to honor athletes? Why are we taking time to tell people about individuals who have hero status that are

not necessarily related to September 11?

Then there are those who understand that the individuals we honor, such as Cal Ripken, represent the essence of what is good and wholesome in our Nation, represent the essence of courage, of endurance, of skill, the kind of courage, endurance and skill that can serve us well in any endeavor.

Cal Ripken holds the major league record for the most consecutive games played. On September 6, 1995, in the 14th season of his streak, Ripken surpassed the previous record of 2,130 consecutive games played which had been set by Lou Gehrig in 1939, and which, for many years, had been considered unbreakable. Ripken's streak of 2,632 consecutive games over nearly 17 seasons ended on September 20, 1998, when he asked to be taken out of the starting line-up. His durability, attitude and mastery of the fundamental skills of baseball made him one of the sport's most respected performers of the late 20th century.

Calvin Edwin Ripken, Jr. was born in Maryland and grew up in Maryland. He was signed by the Baltimore Orioles after he graduated from high school in 1978, and he debuted in the major leagues for the Orioles in 1981. By 1983, he was considered one of the best shortstops in the major leagues, leading the American League that year in hits, doubles, runs and assists.

Ripken's play in 1983 earned him the American League's Most Valuable Player award. Ripken's baseball accomplishments are numerous. In 1984, he established an American League fielding record with 583 assists. Six years later, he set a single season record for fielding percentage by a shortstop when he registered a .996 mark in 1990, committing only three errors in 680 chances.

In 1991, when Ripken won the American League Most Valuable Player award for the second time, he had a .323 batting average with 34 home runs and 114 runs batted in during the season. That same year, he was also the Most Valuable Player of the All-Star game and the American League Gold Glove winner for fielding at shortstop.

In 1997, Ripken moved from shortstop to third base. The change of position did not affect his streak. In 1998, Ripken continued at third base and led American league third basemen with a .979 fielding average. He was also voted to the All-Star game for the 16th consecutive time.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRLICH), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. EHRLICH. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman, my friend from Montgomery County, and thank her for the time.

We all just heard the records. It probably should be repeated: 2,632 consecutive games; Most Valuable Player awards, two; 19 All-Star games; 3,000 hits; 14th all time in hits; one of seven players to have 400 home runs and 3,000 hits in a career; American League Rookie of the Year in 1982; born, raised, bred and lives in the Second Congressional District. I know the gentlewoman from Maryland is proud of that, and the Third right next door, we have been joined by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) who shares our pride in Cal's accomplishments. He is the best shortstop I have ever seen and a great athlete. Three errors in one season and all those chances, a .996 fielding percentage speaks for itself, an incredible athletic feat.

But I would like just a minute or two to talk about something outside the numbers, the statistics, the records, the legend, and, that is, what a role model is. It is an often overused and abused term these days in this country, even prior to the events of 2 weeks ago. It is overused and abused because it is not correct in many contexts.

With regard to this man and this family and what they have meant to Aberdeen and Harford County and the metropolitan area and the State and the country and the national pastime, it is appropriate. He lives it every day. It is the way he conducts himself, like a pro, with the children and understanding the importance of giving back, as a professional athlete, the wealth of fame he has. Many do not give back. He does. Cal does. It is why he is the most popular athlete in America today.

He gives back in so many ways. He gives back with respect to literacy programs, in helping kids, and \$9 million for little leaguers to learn the game, learn it the right way, learn it the Ripken way, giving back to us, to make us better, giving back to our kids to make their lives better. That is what a real pro is about. That is what an American hero is truly all about.

I am really happy to join my colleagues today in honoring our friend and national hero, Cal Ripken.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, let me thank my friend for yielding me this time. I just want to follow up on some of the comments that the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRLICH) made. It is true that he grew up in the Second Congressional District, he lives and played most of his career in the Third Congressional District, but he is truly the pride of all of Maryland. He is what we think a sports figure should be, a role model should be, and a person that gives back so much to his community beyond just playing baseball. We have

heard these numbers. As the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRLICH) said, they are worth repeating.

Americans across the Nation have taken joy in the many successes of Cal's remarkable career, from his 2,632 consecutive major league games, to his 3,000 career hits and 400 home runs and his 19 All-Star appearances. He redefined our notion of what a shortstop should be, paving the way for a new generation of stars, including Alex Rodriguez and Derek Jeter. He represents all that is right with sports and competition in America.

Madam Speaker, over a long career that has been defined by consistent excellence, Cal has also demonstrated an ability to rise to the occasion and perform best when the spotlight was brightest. His career batting average in the postseason is a remarkable .328. I think none of us will forget that when he tied Lou Gehrig's record and then when he went on to beat Lou Gehrig's record for the most consecutive games, in both of those games, with everyone in the Nation focused on Camden Yards, he hit home runs. And the second home run, the President of the United States was actually in the press gallery calling the game, calling the home run.

During that time, he met the Nation's attention with humor and good will, frequently staying on the field long after the end of a ball game to sign autographs for thousands of fans. His performance, both on the field and off, coming at a time when baseball had been rocked by the cancellation of the World Series, led many sportswriters to declare that Cal had "saved baseball." In the process, we can say that he showed us the essence of grace under pressure.

Of course, we in Maryland take special pleasure and celebrate Cal as one of our own. Number 8 has played all 21 years of his major league career as a Baltimore Oriole. While that is rare enough in major league sports, at one point Cal's brother Bill was playing for the Orioles as well as his father, Cal Sr., was managing the team. The Ripken family has played an extraordinary role in the Baltimore community for a generation.

As the people of Maryland have enjoyed Cal's career and shown him unending support, Cal has been a strong community leader. As my colleague from Baltimore County pointed out, he and his family have given generously to many worthy projects and have led on many more, including the Baltimore Reads Ripken Learning Center and the Reading, Runs and Ripken program. He has truly given back so much to our community in addition to what he does on the field.

With Cal's retirement from major league baseball, we look forward to his continued role as a leader in our community. Among other efforts, Ripken is

building a major, new baseball facility in his hometown of Aberdeen, just north of Baltimore.

Madam Speaker, at a time when the sports news is often dominated by reports of labor unrest or athletes involved in unsavory behavior or owners running their team with no apparent regard for the feelings of loyal fans, Cal Ripken, Jr. has stood as a symbol of all that is good and right about baseball. For Cal, it has always been the game that matters the most. His dedication to the rhythms and rituals of the game, his commitment to doing a job he loved as well as he could, day in and day out, has stood as an example to millions of Americans, and especially America's children, that we can admire and aspire to what he has done.

Madam Speaker, this weekend will be the end of an extraordinary career by Cal Ripken as he plays his last game at Camden Yards. His legacy will live on. He will serve as a model for future generations. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the outstanding career of Cal Ripken, Jr.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

After listening to all of the accomplishments of Cal Ripken, there is no wonder that we would take time to congratulate and honor him on his retirement.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman for his comments and those that have been offered by all of those who have spoken on this particular issue. It is true that Cal Ripken wore the number 8 on his back but is number 1 in our hearts. We are very proud in Maryland of the record that he has set, of him as a role model, and we are very proud of him as Americans.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, this Member rises in support of H. Res. 247, to honor, congratulate, and thank Cal Ripken.

In less than a week, Cal Ripken will conclude his remarkable baseball career and it's certainly appropriate to take this opportunity to recognize his contributions both on and off the field. Throughout his 21 years in the majors, Cal exemplified the highest possible level of sportsmanship. His constant dedication and unmatched work ethic earned him the respect and admiration of teammates, opponents, and millions of fans.

Quite simply, Cal knew the right formula for success. He combined a serious approach to the game's fundamentals with an infectious enthusiasm and sense of fun each time he went on the field. Cal's determination as well as his love of the game were obvious for all to see.

Cal clearly put up some of the most impressive numbers in baseball history during his Hall of Fame career. He also set a new stand-

ard for shortstops with his power hitting and nearly flawless fielding. He is one of only seven players with at least 400 home runs and 3,000 hits.

However, the most amazing number in Cal's illustrious career is certainly 2,632, the number of consecutive games he played. It's a record that virtually everyone agrees will never be matched and it symbolizes an unequalled commitment to doing a job and doing it right.

Many of Cal's accomplishments can be quantified, but these numbers offer only a glimpse of his profound influence throughout baseball and society. He became a role model for children and adults alike who saw what can be done through preparation, hard work, and perseverance.

Cal's unique style of play appealed to fans on many different levels. The intense baseball fan admired his meticulous attention to detail and studious approach to the game. The casual fan appreciated his dramatic home runs and extraordinary defensive plays. Even those who didn't follow baseball admired all that he represented as a player.

The Iron Man won gold glove and silver bat awards, but it was the intangibles that helped set him apart. Perhaps more than anything, it's Cal's character and strong values that make him such a special individual. His loyalty, demonstrated by playing his entire career with the Baltimore Orioles, was extended to his teammates and those who enjoyed watching him play.

Off the field, Cal always had times for the fans. He also put an emphasis on giving back to the community. He and his wife have supported numerous charities through the Kelly and Cal Ripken, Jr. Foundation and have promoted adult literacy, medical research and numerous other worthy causes.

Fortunately for baseball fans everywhere, Cal has made it clear that he plans on staying involved in the game that he loves. His commitment to share his knowledge with young players means that the "Ripken Way" will continue even after Cal retires.

Madam Speaker, this Member is pleased to join all of America in saying "Thank you, Cal" and wishing him well.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise to personally congratulate an American icon—a role model in the game of baseball and culture—Cal Ripken, Junior.

In the world of sports, it is pretty difficult to find someone who children can look up to, admire and emulate. Too often, popular figures seem to lose their roots and gain a false sense of pride. But not Cal Ripken. He is a class act—a stand-up guy. In the Major Leagues, he takes us back to the future by reminding us about the best of what was, while breaking records and re-defining what is. He has kept baseball historians and statisticians on their feet by constantly out-performing himself and others. The awards he has won speak for themselves.

Cal Ripken, Junior picked a team and stuck with it through thick and thin. Like the heroes of yester-year, Ripken chose not to shop around for the highest bidder. Rather, he excelled while being a team player in the truest sense of the words.

Off the field, Cal Ripken, Junior was a classy a guy as he was on the infield. We rec-

ognize him as a model citizen for the good works he has performed. Ripken has given his time and money to investing in our nation's youth, combating illiteracy and other laudable missions.

It is never easy to say goodbye. I do not doubt the difficulty involved with retiring from the game of baseball. But there is something to be said for going out on top. In fact, I just saw Ripken hit a grand slam a few weeks ago.

For the service Cal Ripken, Junior has performed on his own time and the amazing talent he has demonstrated inside the park, Congress commends Mr. Ripken. There may never be another like him in Baltimore. I look forward to watching Cal Ripken's last game and wish him a lifetime of happiness in his retirement.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 247.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING TONY GWYNN ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM BASEBALL

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 198) congratulating Tony Gwynn on the announcement of his retirement from the San Diego Padres and from Major League Baseball.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 198

Whereas Tony Gwynn has a lifetime batting average of .338, 15th on the all-time career leaders list, which includes baseball legends as Ty Cobb, Rogers Hornsby, and Tris Speaker;

Whereas Gwynn has 3,127 career hits, and only 16 players have more hits than Gwynn, including Ty Cobb, Hank Aaron, and Stan Musial;

Whereas Gwynn is the owner of eight Silver Bats for the eight batting titles he has won, tying him for the National League record with Honus Wagner, with only Ty Cobb of the American League having won more titles;

Whereas among the all-time Padres career leaders, Gwynn is first in batting average, hits, runs batted in, and runs;

Whereas Gwynn has not only proven to be a great hitter but a great defensive player, winning five Gold Glove awards;

Whereas of the 20 seasons Gwynn has played, he has had a batting average of .300 or better in 19 of those seasons;

Whereas throughout his career, Gwynn has been selected to 16 All-Star teams;

Whereas Gwynn has played in two World Series, in 1984 and 1998;

Whereas, in an era when money dominates the game of baseball, Tony Gwynn chose to play in San Diego for the Padres when it was believed that he could have earned more money with another team in another city;