

last night in the bottom of the ninth inning of the Arizona Diamondbacks in the baseball World Series. Naturally, we Arizonans are very proud of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

I am proud of the New York Yankees, and I am proud of the people of the city of New York. Ever since I was a little kid, I was a New York Yankees fan because my grandfather used to listen to the games on the radio back in the Midwest I became familiar with the statistics of all of the great players of the New York Yankees throughout the years, mostly through the good but through both the good and the bad.

They have been the most successful franchise in baseball history, of course, and when the events of September 11 occurred in New York City, all of America, in a sense, became New York Yankees fans. When they won the American league pennant and went to the World Series for the first time probably in their history, Americans were pulling for the New York Yankees rather than the other team which, of course, had always before been the underdog, and mostly Americans pulled for the underdog. But this time, they were pulling for the New York Yankees; everybody except, that is, the Arizona Diamondbacks fans.

Four years ago, Arizona got a baseball team. At that point, I became, at least in the National League, an Arizona Diamondbacks fan. My fantasy was to have a World Series that involved the American League champion, the New York Yankees, and the National League champion, the Arizona Diamondbacks, in which both teams would do very well and which would be won by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the bottom of the ninth inning of the seventh game.

Lo and behold, that is exactly what happened, a dream come true for a baseball fan all of my life and somebody who likes both of these teams very well.

Obviously, I rooted for the Diamondbacks. I understand the disappointment of the New Yorkers who lost but, of course, as we all know, New Yorkers have more often than not been on the other side and have tasted the fruits of victory.

All Americans appreciate the valiant battle both teams put up and certainly what the New York Yankees were trying to achieve for not only themselves as a team but the people of New York. In a larger sense, all Americans participated in this series fully aware of what it meant to the people of New York and, frankly, it meant that same thing for all of the people of America because we could not go to the series with the Yankees playing without thinking of the events of September 11.

Yet in another way, the series having been won by a new, fresh team, the Arizona Diamondbacks, I think also is a great thing for America. As a

Diamondbacks fan, it is especially gratifying that after just 4 short years, the Arizona Diamondbacks won the baseball World Series, the shortest period of time ever in the history of baseball.

It was not by accident. The Arizona Diamondbacks wanted to play the very best in the World Series. They wanted to play the New York Yankees; they got that chance. They wanted to beat the very best, and in Mariano Rivera, the New York Yankees' relief pitcher, that is who they had to beat in the bottom of the ninth. And they did. It takes nothing away from Rivera or the rest of the Yankees who are truly a class act, but what it shows is that there has now begun a new dynasty in baseball—the Arizona Diamondbacks. They won 100 games in their second season, did not win the National League pennant but did very well.

Naturally, we were very proud of them. Now to win it all in the World Series really caps it off for Arizona fans.

My hat goes off to the general partner of the Arizona Diamondbacks, Jerry Colangelo. Jerry is known in the sports world as a very successful sports entrepreneur, a real fan, and also a participant. He himself played ball in his youth and, coming from Chicago, obviously was involved in the key franchise of the Chicago Bulls, came to Arizona, and helped create the Phoenix Suns, a very successful franchise in its own right.

He was the natural person to whom the leaders of Phoenix came when they wanted to put together a major league baseball team. And he said: I really have my hands full with the other things I'm doing, including the Phoenix Suns and in getting a new stadium, a new place for the Phoenix Suns to play ball; and he said: We would have to have a brand new ballpark: that would take a lot in terms of public support, and I would rather not be involved in it.

But he was the logical choice, and reluctantly he agreed to take the leadership in bringing together the Arizona baseball franchise. He did that. He raised the money. He provided the leadership. He got the BankOne ballpark built with a beautiful stadium in downtown Phoenix with a retractable roof that goes back and forth in 6 minutes, a beautiful natural turf ballpark in which to play.

His philosophy was to create a winner. Jerry Colangelo is about winning. He is not a guy who just wants to field a team and then perhaps take 20 years to get to the World Series. He thought the Arizona fans deserved a winner at the very beginning, and that is what he set about to create. Naturally, it did not come free, and as a result, because a new major league baseball franchise cannot participate in most of the revenues from the league for I think it is

about 5 years, it was very costly to the people who supported the team, and financially as well. Therefore, I really appreciate what has happened for Jerry Colangelo. He deserves the very best, as does his management team, his son Bryan, and all the others who worked to make that a great family and a great team in the State of Arizona.

So this will be a big boon to them not just from a fan support base but financially as well. Therefore, I really appreciate what has happened for Jerry Colangelo. He deserves the very best, as does his management team, his son Bryan, and all the others who worked to make that a great family and a great team in the State of Arizona.

I note that I talked to Jerry Colangelo this morning. He had received a congratulatory call from President Bush, himself a great baseball fan. And hopefully some of the Diamondbacks will be able to get to Washington in the not too distant future to meet with the President. He is also on the way to Chicago for the baseball owners meetings, and there are some big decisions the owners have to make about this great American pastime.

I just wanted to share with my colleagues my joy, and I am sure I speak for all the people in Arizona, the way they feel about the Arizona Diamondbacks this year, the way they have kept together as a team. They have had to play a very tough National League Western Division, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Francisco Giants, who were challenging them every step of the way. San Diego was a tough team for them, as were the Colorado Rockies.

All of those teams deserve a lot of credit. But in the end it was the Arizona Diamondbacks who marched through the other teams and ended up beating Atlanta to take the pennant and I think, in facing the New York Yankees, faced the best the American League had to offer. It was obviously a victory in which all of Arizona can take a great deal of pride. And I hope fans across the United States who may have been pulling for the Yankees for other sentimental reasons this year will take a good hard look at the upstart Arizona Diamondbacks who deserve a lot of credit, having beaten the best, and will be around for a long time to come as a great baseball team playing our great national pastime.

A final word on this. I was talking to somebody this morning who said: You know, during this series, which has to go down as one of the greatest series in the history of baseball, the way the games were won in Yankee Stadium and in the bottom of the ninth in the seventh game in Phoenix, a lot of America was focused on having fun with our national pastime and not thinking about some of the more serious and difficult issues we have had to face. One of the ways we can show the terrorists that they can have absolutely no chance of beating the American spirit is to continue to do what we