

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 568

Recognizing and congratulating Cal Ripken, Jr.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 1998

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. EHRLICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and congratulating Cal Ripken, Jr.

Whereas Cal Ripken, Jr., the Baltimore Orioles' All-Star shortstop and third baseman for 16 consecutive years, ended his record-breaking consecutive-games-played streak on September 20, 1998, after having started and played in 2,632 consecutive games;

Whereas during that time Ripken was named Rookie of the Year (1982), Most Valuable Player (1983 and 1991), and 1983 All-Star Game MVP, earned 2 Gold Gloves, achieved the Major League career record for most home runs by a shortstop (353), and created an amazing record of 8,243 consecutive innings played without a break;

Whereas on the day Ripken's streak began, May 30, 1982, the following items were in the news: British troops had

invaded the Falkland Islands; President Reagan was serving his first term; a fledgling cable station called MTV was completing its first year in business; Olivia Newton John was at the top of the pop charts; the movie Conan the Barbarian was a hit; a 19-year-old college freshman named Michael Jordan led the University of North Carolina to the NCAA Championship; and the running of John Riggins powered the Washington Redskins to victory in Super Bowl XVII;

Whereas upon returning to the lineup the day after his streak ended, Ripken recorded his 2,874th career hit, moving him ahead of Baltimore's other favorite son, Babe Ruth, on baseball's all-time hit list;

Whereas baseball fans and historians alike widely credit Ripken with saving America's pastime in 1995 when he broke Lou Gehrig's legendary consecutive-games-played record and restored confidence in baseball following a bitter strike that canceled the 1994 World Series;

Whereas on the nights Ripken tied and then broke Gehrig's streak, he hit home runs in his home ballpark, Oriole Park at Camden Yards;

Whereas the player with the next best consecutive-games-played streak on the day Ripken's streak ended had played 327 games, meaning that player would have to play 14 more years without missing a game to break Ripken's record;

Whereas baseball fans will always recognize 1998 as one of the most historic years in baseball history with the setting of Ripken's record and the shattering of Roger Maris' single-season home run record by 2 players, the St. Louis Cardinals' Mark McGwire (who was 18 years

old when Ripken's streak began) and the Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa (who was 13 years old when Ripken's streak began);

Whereas Ripken further endeared himself to the citizens of the great State of Maryland when he remarked the night he ended his streak: "If this is going to end, let it end where it started—Baltimore";

Whereas Ripken and his wife, Kelly, have established the Kelly and Cal Ripken, Jr., Foundation, which supports community adult and family literacy and youth recreational programs in the greater Baltimore area;

Whereas in an age when prepackaging and hype have taken away so much from the true essence of sports and sportsmanship, Ripken quietly ended his streak with little fanfare, informing his manager of his decision a few minutes before the game; and

Whereas for 16 years Ripken never missed a day of work and served as a model to the Nation's children and as a representative of the working men and women of the United States, who rise each day to do their jobs and provide for themselves and their families: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recog-
 2 nizes and congratulates Cal Ripken, Jr., of the Baltimore
 3 Orioles for breaking Lou Gehrig's consecutive-games-
 4 played streak, establishing a new record of 2,632 games,
 5 and playing baseball with unparalleled grace, endurance,
 6 and skill, as Ripken said, "the only way I know."

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