

canine that has served alongside officers enforcing our laws. Because of their unique role, many of these animals have had protection training, which could make them a danger to public safety if they are handled by someone who had not been trained in this capacity.

As a result, these canines should not simply be sold to the highest bidder at an auction to be taken home as a family pet. Unfortunately, if no appropriate trained handler comes forward to bid on the property, there is a possibility that this dog would be caged or even in some cases destroyed.

This is hardly humane, a hardly humane treatment of an animal that has spent its life protecting Americans and upholding our laws.

□ 1415

According to the CRS research, there are over 500 canines in service of the Federal Government. H.R. 173 would allow the surplus canines to be donated to their handlers, who would thereby assume all the costs and responsibilities related to the care of that animal.

This is a simple solution to a unique problem that confronts our Federal law enforcement canine units. H.R. 173 removes the hoops agencies must jump through to place a canine that has served our country with a handler and a nurturing home.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] and the committee's action on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 173 to ease the adoption of Federal law enforcement canines.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 173, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to authorize donation of Federal law enforcement canines that are no longer needed for official purposes to individuals with experience handling canines in the performance of law enforcement duties."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS OF JACKIE ROBINSON

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 61) honoring the lifetime achievements of Jackie Robinson.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 61

Whereas Jackie Robinson was the first four sport letterman at the University of California at Los Angeles;

Whereas on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson was the first African-American to cross the color barrier and play for a major league baseball team;

Whereas Jackie Robinson, whose career began in the Negro Leagues, went on to be named Rookie of the Year and subsequently led the Brooklyn Dodgers to six National League pennants and a World Series championship;

Whereas Jackie Robinson's inspiring career earned him recognition as the first African-American to win a batting title, lead the league in stolen bases, play in an All-Star game, win a Most Valuable Player award, play in the World Series and be elected to baseball's Hall of Fame;

Whereas after retiring from baseball Jackie Robinson was active in the civil rights movement and founded the first bank owned by African-Americans in New York City;

Whereas his legacy continues to uplift the Nation through the Jackie Robinson Foundation that has provided 425 scholarships to needy students;

Whereas Jackie Robinson's courage, dignity, and example taught the Nation that what matters most is not the color of a man's skin but rather the content of his character;

Whereas Jackie Robinson, in his career, consistently demonstrated that how you play the game is more important than the final score;

Whereas Jackie Robinson's life and heritage help make the American dream more accessible to all; and

Whereas April 15, 1997, marks the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's entrance into major league baseball: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the achievements and contributions of Jackie Robinson be honored and celebrated; that his dedication and sacrifice be recognized; and that his contributions to African-Americans and to the Nation be remembered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] and the gentleman from New York [Mrs. Maloney] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN].

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may yield my time to the gentleman from Oklahoma, [Mr. WATTS], and that he be permitted to yield blocks of time.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS].

Mr. WATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 61. This resolution encourages all Americans to remember the achievements of Jackie Robinson at this important time in our country's history.

There is something magical about the firsts in our society. I sometimes think God gave them broader shoulders to carry the tremendous load they have had to bear to make life better and pro-

vide greater opportunities for the rest of us.

The list of firsts is long and should never be forgotten. The Rosa Parkses, the Frederick Douglasses, the Arthur Ashes, the Marian Andersons, the James Merediths, the Jesse Owens and, in Oklahoma, Prentiss Gault and Ada Louis Sipuels, and most recently in our Nation we know of Tiger Woods. These are all men and women who had the courage, heart and insight to be the first to create change in our society.

Being the first can often be lonely, but these American heroes have had the strength to push ahead and find justice where injustice had prevailed.

As a former professional athlete, I am thankful for the Jackie Robinsons and the firsts of this world. They have gone before and not only opened the door but they have left it wide open for people like me.

April 15, 1947, was the first day that Jackie Robinson crossed the color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers. What made Jackie Robinson so memorable was that his list of achievements did not stop with that crashing of racial barriers. His accomplishments, including being named Rookie of the Year and leading the Dodgers to six National League pennants, including a World Series championship, matched his bravery.

Jackie Robinson understood that he could lock arms with other blacks and fight racism and fight bigotry, but he also understood that success is determined by the individual effort, not by the group.

Jackie was a true entrepreneur. His life did not stop with baseball. He went on to be active in the Civil Rights movement during the 1960's. He served in Governor Nelson Rockefeller's administration and started the first black-owned bank in New York City, as well as a construction firm.

Last night the Nation celebrated this anniversary during the fifth inning of the Dodgers-Mets game. Mrs. Robinson graciously accepted the accolades and America paused to recognize number 42.

Athletics is one of the few arenas today where we are judged on our merits. If an individual is good enough to play, they play. Jackie is an icon because of his integrity and character and what he proved by being the first and opening the door. He accomplished more for all people than he could have accomplished in Washington with more legislation.

There is a lesson in the life of Jackie Robinson for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Jackie Robinson is a true American hero. Fifty years ago yesterday he stood up against racism, prejudice and hate and changed this country for the better. We applaud the strength that

he showed on the field and especially the courage he exerted off the field. He was a pillar of strength in the civil rights movement and we are fortunate that his legacy is continued today in the Jackie Robinson Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California, [Mr. HORN].

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. It is a great day when Members in both parties can honor one of the really fine Americans of this century.

Jackie Robinson did break barriers throughout his life: as a college student, a college player, and as a professional player. I am delighted to note in the city of Long Beach, which I am honored to represent and in which I live, a few years ago we established the Jackie Robinson Academy. It is located in the inner city. It is an academic achieving school. President Clinton has visited there, spent time with the students and the faculty in the school, and Mrs. Robinson was there on the dedication day, as were a few thousand others. And it was a great spirit that he would have been proud to see if he were still alive.

It is that spirit and gentlemanliness, that compassion that he personifies, and that I think all who study his career hopefully will emulate.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois, [Mr. DAVIS].

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from New York for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with all of those who have come together in this resolution to honor the life, the legacy, and the contributions of a great American.

I grew up during the Jackie Robinson era and I can tell my colleagues, as a young person there was nobody alive at that moment who had as much impact. As a matter of fact, Jackie Robinson was so important to us and to everybody that I knew that we could recite the Brooklyn Dodger lineup, beginning with the catcher to the right fielder.

More important than that, Jackie Robinson demonstrated not only skill but courage and determination to help break down the barriers of racism, of prejudice, of assumptions that individuals could not all play on one field and make a score. If we can remember that, then I think we will score well not only for ourselves but for generations yet to come.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky, [Mr. BUNNING.]

(Mr. BUNNING asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 61. I did not get to pitch against Jackie Robinson very many times in his career, because it was just

about over when I finally got to the big leagues. When I started out I was in the American League with Detroit and he was in the National League with Brooklyn, so the only time I really got to face him was in spring training games in 1954, 1955, and 1956.

But in those days, Brooklyn was the team to beat. They had a real dynasty going. In fact, they made it to the World Series in 1952, 1953, and again in 1955 and 1956. And Jackie Robinson was one of the biggest reasons they were such an outstanding team.

He was a real trail blazer and an outstanding ball player. A man of destiny. In the mid 1950's, when I finally made it to the major leagues, nearly 10 years after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier, there were not too many blacks in the American League, and that was 8 years after Jackie Robinson played his first game for Brooklyn.

I can tell my colleagues this: Under the best of circumstances, when an individual is starting out, it is pretty frightening to walk out to the pitcher's mound or to the batter's box in a big league game. That is even true when an individual's race is not an issue. So it is mind-boggling to consider the kind of pressure that Jackie Robinson must have been under when he walked out there the first time when race was an issue, a very big issue.

The fact that he tried, the fact that he dared, the fact that he made it is tremendous testimony to his courage, his self-confidence, and to his love of baseball. Jackie Robinson changed the face of baseball and, for that matter, all other sports, and he made a tremendous contribution to race relations in this Nation.

Fifty years ago Jackie Robinson made a difference. It is right and fitting that we honor the memory of his achievements here today and his courage in doing the things that he did when he lived. My good wishes to Rachael and all his family today.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may yield my time to the gentleman from Maryland, [Mr. CUMMINGS], and that he be permitted to yield blocks of time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It certainly is an honor to stand here today to salute a great hero. As I watched the President on television last night, and as I listen to my colleagues, and I am very grateful to all of them for every syllable that is spoken on behalf of Jackie Robinson, I stand, Mr. Speaker, and wonder what he would feel if he were standing here today.

In Baltimore, where I hail from, we have a team that is doing pretty good right now. I look at that team and I ask myself, if it were not for a Jackie Robinson, how many African-American players would be there today?

But going back to the question that I asked before, the question is how would he feel. I think that and I hope that as we celebrate this great man's life, and certainly we do not celebrate because he died but because he lived, I hope that we will keep a lot of things in mind, and I am sure if Jackie Robinson were here today he would agree with me.

First of all, it is true that he did break the color barrier with regard to baseball. But as I read his history, it went far beyond that. He was a man who spoke eloquently about race relations. He stood up for what was right, no matter what the situation was. And that is very important in our society; that we ought to bring about positive change.

I would submit that he was a great man of integrity. The great writer Stephen Carter, in his book "Integrity" says that integrity is based upon three things: No. 1, he says one must discern between what is right and wrong, what is good and bad. And Jackie Robinson surely did that.

□ 1430

He did it over and over and over again. He did not take a walk when it came time to stand up for what he believed in. He made a decision between right and wrong, and he stood on that. Even when people spat on him and people called him all kinds of names, names that I dare not say in this Chamber, the fact is that he stood for what he believed in.

The great writer, Stephen Carter, goes on to say that there is a No. 2 thing that we must do to have true integrity, and Jackie Robinson had it. That is that you must act upon what you believe in even to your own peril.

So I say to America and to our country and to this great Congress that his example is one that we must live up to. That is, that we must look at a man called Jackie Robinson, who broke this color barrier 50 years ago, who stood up over and over and over again for what he believed in, even to his own peril. I cannot even imagine what he must have felt going onto a field with people calling him everything but a child of God. I cannot imagine it. But yet and still, he performed quite nicely under all of those circumstances.

Going back to the writer Stephen Carter, he says you must do one other thing. He says, No. 1, you must discern between right and wrong; No. 2, you must act, even to your own peril, on what is right; but then he says something else, that you must tell someone about it. The reason why he says you must tell someone about it is because of the fact that in order to change the world, in order to change the world, you have to tell people what you stood for and what you did with regard to that.

And so it is that Jackie Robinson told the world. He told the world that no matter what, I shall stand up for what I believe in. He told the world

that I will play baseball even under difficult circumstances.

But, Mr. Speaker, he had something else going for him, too. He had a vision. I am sure he had a vision that one day every team in the American League, every team in the National League would have African-American players playing great baseball, African-American players sharing rooms with white players, African-American players doing everything that they could to stand up for what they believed in, just as Jackie Robinson did. And so it is with great honor that I stand here in support of House Concurrent Resolution 61.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman from Maryland, that was very well said.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH].

Mr. HAYWORTH. I thank my colleague from Oklahoma for yielding me this time and my colleague from Maryland who preceded me with his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution to honor the memory and the legacy of Jack Roosevelt Robinson. A couple of Arizonans offer a unique perspective on the life of Jackie Robinson. One is former Phoenix Mayor Sam Mardian, who grew up in the modest Pasadena neighborhood in close proximity to Jackie Robinson.

In a recent column in the Arizona Republic, he spoke of Robinson's unique gift not only as a great athlete but as one who could reach across barriers, as one who could work to extol the virtues of teamwork. And even as we recognize that, we dare not, we cannot pause without reflecting on Robinson's incredible athletic gifts. A four-sport letterman at UCLA. Indeed, baseball, ironically, was not his greatest sport. But in baseball it is where he began to make a difference for this land of ours.

Another recollection comes from another man who now calls Phoenix home, former Dodger pitcher Joe Black, who joined the Brooklyn organization after Jackie broke the color line and who had the occasion to room with Mr. Robinson. Joe Black recalls that Jackie's first words to him were, "You're a big man, Joe. I bet you're good in a fight, but we're not here to fight."

A personal recollection. My grandfather spent 50 years in major league baseball. He was honored to scout, alongside Branch Rickey, many of those who would come from the Negro leagues into major league baseball. And what Jack Robinson brought to the game was more than a great physical ability, it was an incredible ability to bring his intellectual capacities, the notion of strategy. Indeed, he helped to change the face of baseball. The strategy of using his speed to even steal home changed the face of baseball just as surely as he broke the color line.

Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor the memory and legacy of Jackie Robinson, who described himself as an eternal optimist. He did so in one of the most difficult moments in our history. In the wake of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Jack Roosevelt Robinson said, I am an eternal optimist and I believe some good will come even of this tragedy.

Jack Robinson was one who was a pioneer in many areas. He stood unafraid to speak the truth as he saw it, active in both major political parties, and it is that eloquence, that ability and, yes, that pioneer spirit that we honor today.

Mr. Speaker, to his widow Rachel, to his family and most of all to the people of the United States of America, we go on record today proud to honor the legacy of Jack Roosevelt Robinson.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona who just spoke for his comments. He said something that I would like to just piggyback on just a bit.

So often out of difficult circumstances come great things. I think that when you look at what Jackie Robinson did and coming through the difficulty that he did come through, the fact is, is that he opened the doors for so, so many. I would venture to guess that the 39 members of the Black Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, owe a great debt of gratitude to this great man, for he did open many doors. But he did it through pain. I think that if we are to learn anything from this great man, we should learn that through pain, a lot of times come great things.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SHADEGG].

(Mr. SHADEGG asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank and compliment all of those involved in this great discussion this afternoon.

Jackie Robinson played his first major league baseball game on April 15, 1947. That was 7 years before the Supreme Court's historic decision in Brown versus Board of Education. It was 18 years before the voter registration drives in Selma, AL. It was 16 years before Martin Luther King's famous "I have a dream" speech. And it was 18 years before passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

It was 1 year before President Truman ordered the integration of the United States Army and 21 years before Arthur Ashe would become the first black man to win the U.S. Open men's singles title. It was 16 years before Michael Jordan was born and 50 years before Tiger Woods, to the pride of millions this weekend, became the first

black man to win the Master's golf tournament.

Jackie Robinson and baseball were at the forefront of America's race relations. As baseball went, I am proud to say, so too has gone the country, slowly improving race relations and moving toward equality for all Americans regardless of color. Children growing up in the late 1940's and the early 1950's could look to Jackie Robinson and to his Dodger teammates and witness firsthand black and white working together, being part of a common team. And while there remained much progress to be made after Jackie Robinson integrated baseball and much progress still to be made today, a major step had been taken.

When Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey showed the courage to challenge baseball and America, to reevaluate American racial policy, they helped start a movement that continues to this day. While much progress remains to be made in today's race relations, we have made great strides in the last 50 years, strides that would not have been possible but for heroes like Jackie Robinson and others similar.

I join the gentleman and am pleased to support this resolution and am proud to be a part of this effort.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Philadelphia, PA [Mr. FATTAH].

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding me this time, and I rise in support of our attempt to honor the life and legacy of this great African American.

I am reminded, however, that as we come to honor Jackie Robinson, we should be clear what brought him to the opportunity to play major league baseball. It was in its own way an affirmative action program in which he was sought out, brought in to deal with the fact that African-Americans had been excluded from the opportunity to play in major league baseball. If it were not for the active effort to include him, then we would not be here today honoring him, and as we honor him as a nation, we should think about the other doors that are sometimes locked to persons of color because, for whatever reason, people are unable to get past prejudices, to deny people access to law school and medical school, to colleges, college preparatory schools, to deny them access to contracts and employment opportunities.

We know all too well that the racism that existed that prevented Jackie Robinson from being able to play and others who were even more qualified than him perhaps and were denied the opportunity to play in major league baseball at that time has not evaporated totally in this country over the last 50 years.

So I come to the floor to join my voice to the voices of others, but I want to remind us that as we pay homage to Jackie Robinson and as we marvel at the ability of a Tiger Woods, we

should know that they represent the reality that Americans of every color and persuasion have gifts given to them by the Creator and are capable if they are given the opportunity. We should continue as a Congress to try to find ways to open those doors of opportunities so that these young people and people like them can continue to create a circumstance in which we can all be proud.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland, and thank my colleagues from the other side of the aisle. I hope that as we vote to honor Jackie Robinson, we will not vote to close doors of opportunity to other young people, those same doors that we today rise to congratulate and recognize the accomplishments of this great African-American.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, I just want to go back to something that the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania just talked about. He talked about the fact that there had been doors closed over and over again to people of African-American descent. And there have been doors closed to many immigrants that have come to this country. As I sat there listening to what he had to say, I could not help but be reminded of my childhood as a young boy in south Baltimore, where we did not have many opportunities. We did not play on grass. We played on asphalt. I will never forget looking up to a Jackie Robinson and saying there is a man who looks like me, who looks like my father, there is a man who came from the same kind of neighborhood that I came from, there is a man who is doing it, and so I know that I can do it, too. That was very significant for me.

I shall never forget standing and singing in class, in elementary school, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing." And then I asked the question, but am I singing for a dream that can be fulfilled? Am I singing for a dream like a Jackie Robinson?

Mr. Speaker, I would submit to the Members of this great Congress that it is people like Jackie Robinson that stood up for little boys and girls all over our country.

□ 1445

When they looked at Jackie Robinson, they said to themselves, "He looks like me, he comes from my same kind of neighborhood, he stands up like my father, he looks like my father, and if he can do it, so can I."

And so it is that it is only fitting that on this 50th anniversary that we pause, and sometimes, Mr. Speaker, it is so important that we simply pause in our lives to take a moment to recognize great people, that we pause out of our busy schedules and say, wait a minute, time out; let us take a moment to realize and recognize what a great man did.

So to Jackie Robinson, who is not here, but I do believe that he is here in

spirit, wherever he is, Jackie Robinson I say to him, thank you, thank you for standing up, thank you for being an example, thank you for being someone that little boys and little girls could follow and who can say that you were a true role model. Thank you for being a role model. Thank you for not taking a walk and saying to our young people that I will not be a role model, that I am not a role model. You were a role model.

So we say to him today, thank you, thank you for lifting us up, thank you for all of us who are now in our 40s, 50s, and 60s, thank you for being that example, thank you for bridging the gap. Thank you for building bridges so that we reach out to one another and say we too are America and so that when little children sing, my country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, so that when they sing those wonderful songs about this patriotic world that we live in, this country that we live in, they can too stand there and say that I can too succeed, that I can too be powerful, that I can too make a difference.

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Jackie Robinson said,

Life is not a spectator sport. If you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstands just watching what goes on, in my opinion you're wasting your life.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Robinson did not waste his life. He inspired the lives of others. He carried the weight of the world on his shoulders on April 15, 1947, to make America better. He carried the weight of the world on his shoulders in order to raise the conscious level of the American people concerning injustices of our great Nation at the time, and because Jackie Robinson became better, not bitter, he challenged us all to be our best.

Mr. Speaker, I urge unanimous support for this resolution.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in honoring a real American hero—a man who changed the face of baseball and inspired so many others to break down barriers. Fifty years ago this week, Jackie Robinson walked onto Ebbets Field, wearing his Brooklyn Dodgers uniform and before a crowd of 26,623 fans, became the first African-American to play major league baseball. For young people today, it's probably hard to imagine a time when the color of your skin could keep you from fulfilling your dream of playing professional ball. But for half a century, America's most beloved past time had been off limits to anyone who was not white.

When Jackie Robinson took to the field that day, it marked a turning point in American history. As Jackie Robinson's wife, Rachel, later wrote: "I think the single most important impact of Jack's presence was that it enabled white baseball fans to root for a black man, thus encouraging more whites to realize that all our destinies were inextricably linked." Jackie Robinson's major league debut was a triumph for a naturally gifted athlete who grew up in Pasadena, CA, and excelled in every

sport he tried. He was an all-American in basketball and broke the long jump record. During his time at UCLA, he also became a star football player.

When World War II broke out, Robinson joined the Army and was commissioned a second lieutenant. Despite his outstanding athletic ability and commissioned officer status, Robinson came face-to-face with the harsh reality of a segregated America. He was denied an opportunity to play on either the Army's football or baseball teams. When he personally challenged the so-called Jim Crow laws that prohibited Blacks from sitting in the front of a bus, Robinson faced a court martial. Although, he was found innocent, his Army career was soon over.

After his military service, Jackie Robinson returned to his first love, baseball, joining the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro American League. When the Dodgers' general manager Branch Rickey recruited him for the major leagues, Robinson was not the most famous or talented of the Negro league players. But Rickey saw in Jackie Robinson a man of great courage and conviction, someone who could stand up to adversity and turn the other cheek to those who were out to destroy his career and the dreams of all African-Americans.

Over and over again Robinson was put to the test. He faced the boos, the racial slurs, and even death threats from many fans. Even the other players were far from supportive. Some of Jackie's own teammates threatened to strike. And, once on the field, players dug their spikes into him as they slid into base. Pitchers baited him by throwing balls directly at his head. Jackie Robinson responded saying, "I'm not concerned with you liking me or disliking me. All I ask is that you respect me as a human being."

Jackie Robinson had to put up with other indignities as well. He couldn't stay in the same hotels as his teammates or join them for a meal at many restaurants. In some cities, he had to drink from colored only water fountains and catch a ride in colored only cabs. Throughout it all, Jackie Robinson resisted the temptation to strike back. He let his actions on the field speak for themselves. By the end of his first season, his power hitting and aggressive base running earned him the Rookie of the Year honor as he led the Dodgers' to the National League Pennant.

Jackie Robinson went on to be the spark that ignited the great Dodger teams of the 1950's. He batted .300 or better 6 years in a row and led the National League in stolen bases during two seasons. He was the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1949 with a batting average of .342. And then, in 1962, he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Years later, in 1987, the National League Rookie of the Year Award was renamed in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, Jackie Robinson was a great ball player, but as we celebrate his achievements on the field, we must also remember the contributions he made to the American way of life. Jackie Robinson put his own fears aside, stood up to bigotry and hatred, and he triumphed. His remarkable achievement has been a rallying cry to confront all forms of prejudice. Jackie Robinson's legacy is still visible today in the faces of the young boys and girls of all different colors who dream of becoming a professional athlete or of achieving, in some other way, their own special place in history.

In the words of Jackie Robinson "a life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." Jackie Robinson's life can serve as an inspiration to all of us, both young and old, that through hard work and determination we can overcome any obstacles and break down what appear to be insurmountable barriers.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on this 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's major league debut, I am proud to say that I am and always have been a fan of Jackie Robinson. Not just for his athletic prowess, but for what I believe is his greatest achievement: his ability to keep his eye on the goal of playing baseball and doing his best in the face of the catcalls, the hissing, and the jeers.

With all the societal pressures placed on him, Jackie Robinson breathed life to the idea of community and equality; and proved to his contemporaries that the only color that mattered to him was Dodger blue. But more importantly, he made sure he was judged not by the petty man's standard of skin color, but by the higher standard of merit, performance, ability, tenacity, and perseverance.

No doubt, Jackie Robinson had tough times and dreary days throughout his career. His gift to baseball and, indeed, to America, was his sensibility to see past the setbacks, the biases, the bigotry, and the prejudices directed at him and focus on the enormous task of playing baseball, well, and proving that shades of skin color do not make the player or the man.

In high school, I was on the track and field team, and now, as many of my colleagues know, I play annually on the Republican baseball team. I cherish those times on the field. It's hard to imagine that, before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier, so many were excluded from the opportunities and rewards that playing organized and professional sports provide us. Some of life's greatest skills—teamwork, stick-to-itiveness, determination, diligence and comradery—are learned and reinforced on the ball field, and to have excluded an entire race from our national pastime is unconscionable.

I have four children, Mr. Speaker, who, like myself, have a passion for sports. Every sport my children participate in, from baseball—that would be my son, Chris—to lacrosse—my daughter Melissa—to soccer—my son Mike and my youngest daughter, Elyse, is a lesson in unity and selflessness. And no one lived that lesson better than Jackie Robinson. With two out and one on in scoring position, and your teammate coming to the plate for the possible game winning RBI, you stand and root him on. And your teammate isn't Jackie, the African-American kid, he is Jackie, your friend, and the best darn player on the team.

Each time my children step on to a field with their teammates and I see the matching colors of their jerseys worn by a vibrant mix of ethnicity and race, I know that we are getting closer to an equal and unified society. I thank Jackie Robinson for breaking the color barrier and laying the foundation. Yet, I know Jackie Robinson would be disappointed in all of us if we didn't finish what he so courageously began. By remembering and honoring him today we rededicate ourselves and our nation to equality and liberty and justice for all.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, last night I had the honor of attending the ceremony at Shea Stadium marking the 50th anniversary of Jack-

ie Robinson's first game with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Not only was Jackie Robinson a great athlete, he was a man of amazing courage and grace who served as a powerful role model to so many of us growing up in that era.

I recall vividly when I was a young boy the excitement among my friends as we followed the career of Jackie Robinson. In fact, in 1946, when he was still with the International League, he played in Jersey City, which is now in my congressional district, before a wildly enthusiastic crowd of 26,000 cheering fans.

He led the Dodgers to six National League pennants and a World Series championship in 1955. Over the course of his major league career, he was named to six all-star teams. He distinguished himself by winning a batting title, leading the league in stolen bases, and winning a Most Valuable Player Award.

I had the opportunity to see Jackie Robinson play the year he broke the color barrier, 1947. For African-Americans, his accomplishments were a source of great pride and hope for the future.

Last night many of those who knew Jackie Robinson best, his former teammates and colleagues, testified to his strength and perseverance under enormous day to day pressure. Sadly, that strain took a personal toll which undoubtedly led to his medical problems and premature death.

I recall that in 1972, the year which marked the 25th anniversary of his debut in the major leagues, a special tribute was, at long last, given in his honor. At that ceremony, he looked beyond the accolades given to him personally, and spoke out in behalf of future opportunities for other African-Americans. He said that our mission would not be complete until an African-American was given the opportunity to become a manager, a privilege which he was never offered despite his obvious talent and ability. He put his sentiments in these words: "I will be even more pleased when I can look at the third-base coaching box and see a black manager. I'd like to live to see a black manager."

Jackie Robinson never got his wish. He died 9 days later.

As President Clinton noted last night, our Nation can best honor Jackie Robinson's legacy by striving to become a society where we all work together in a spirit of harmony and a shared vision for the future.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember the remarkable legacy of Jackie Robinson, let us also resolve to honor the lessons he so eloquently taught us.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 61.

The question was taken.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 61.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

DOS PALOS LAND TRANSFER

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 111) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey a parcel of unused agricultural land in Dos Palos, CA, to the Dos Palos Ag Boosters for use as a farm school, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 111

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LAND CONVEYANCE, UNUSED AGRICULTURAL LAND, DOS PALOS, CALIFORNIA

(a) CONVEYANCE.—In accordance with the provisions of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the Dos Palos Ag Boosters of Dos Palos, California, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property (including improvements thereon) held by the Secretary that consists of approximately 22 acres and is located at 18296 Elgin Avenue, Dos Palos, California, to be used as a farm school for the education and training of students and beginning farmers regarding farming. The conveyance shall be final with no future liability accruing to the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), the transferee shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the fair market value of the parcel conveyed under subsection (a).

(c) ALTERNATIVE TRANSFEREE.—At the request of the Dos Palos Ag Boosters, the Secretary may make the conveyance under subsection (a) to the Dos Palos School District.

(d) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of the parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a). The exact acreage and legal description of the parcel shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of any such survey shall be borne by the transferee.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. SMITH] and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. STENHOLM] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. SMITH].

(Mr. SMITH of Oregon asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.