

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 mans' 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 Elign 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.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 111 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell 22 acres of land in Dos Palos, CA, to a nonprofit group, the Dos Palos Ag Boosters, to establish a farm school to teach middle and high school students how to farm. The transfer will be a sale based upon fair market value of a parcel of land to be determined by the USDA's farm service agency.

I think that identifies the legislation, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 111, as amended, which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to convey for fair market value a parcel of unused agricultural land in Dos Palos, CA, to the Dos Palos Ag Boosters for use as a farm school for local high school and middle school students. Passage of this bill will achieve a couple of worthy goals:

First, it will ensure that this land remains in agricultural use; second, it will educate and train students and beginning farmers by giving them the hands-on experience necessary to succeed. The students and beginning farmers will learn firsthand about irrigation and conservation methods, integrated pest management, agricultural marketing and administration. This bill will help these students learn to appreciate the hard work that goes into producing our Nation's food supply and may get a few of them off to a good start as farmers.

I would note that this bill is virtually identical to legislation that passed the House last Congress. The minor and technical changes that we incorporate in the bill today are changes requested by the administration. The administration in a prior statement of administrative policy indicated that they supported the objectives of H.R. 111 but would seek perfecting amendments in the Senate. In the interests of expediting consideration of H.R. 111 in the other body in order to get it to the President's desk as soon as possible, we have included in the administration's minor technical changes in the version of H.R. 111 we are considering today. With these changes the administration strongly supports H.R. 111.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from California [Mr. CONDIT], who is a chief sponsor of the bill.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I will take just a moment. I simply want to thank the Committee on Agriculture, the chairman of the committee, the ranking member, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. STENHOLM], for expediting this bill and making sure we got it through here. We had a minor problem, and

they worked very hard to work it out, and I appreciate it very much, and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. STENHOLM] has explained the bill. It is a straightforward bill, and I hope that all Members will join me in supporting H.R. 111 when it comes to a vote.

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

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I, too, yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. SMITH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 111, 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 provide for the conveyance of a parcel of unused agricultural land in Dos Palos, California, to the Dos Palos Ag Boosters for use as a farm school."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 607, by the yeas and nays;

House Concurrent Resolution 61, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 607, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH] that the House suspend the rules and

pass the bill, H.R. 607, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were— yeas 421, nays 7, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 80]

YEAS—421

Abercrombie	DeLauro	Hyde
Ackerman	Dellums	Inglis
Aderholt	Deutsch	Istook
Allen	Diaz-Balart	Jackson (IL)
Andrews	Dickey	Jackson-Lee
Archer	Dicks	(TX)
Armey	Dixon	Jefferson
Bachus	Doggett	Jenkins
Baesler	Dooley	John
Baker	Doyle	Johnson (CT)
Baldacci	Dreier	Johnson (WI)
Ballenger	Duncan	Johnson, E. B.
Barcia	Dunn	Johnson, Sam
Barr	Edwards	Jones
Barrett (NE)	Ehlers	Kanjorski
Barrett (WI)	Ehrlich	Kaptur
Bartlett	Emerson	Kasich
Barton	Engel	Kelly
Bass	English	Kennedy (MA)
Bateman	Ensign	Kennedy (RI)
Becerra	Eshoo	Kennelly
Bentsen	Etheridge	Kildee
Bereuter	Evans	Kilpatrick
Berman	Everett	Kim
Berry	Ewing	Kind (WI)
Bilbray	Farr	King (NY)
Bilirakis	Fattah	Kingston
Bishop	Fawell	Klecza
Blagojevich	Fazio	Klink
Bliley	Filner	Klug
Blumenauer	Flake	Knollenberg
Blunt	Foglietta	Kolbe
Boehkert	Foley	Kucinich
Boehner	Forbes	LaFalce
Bonilla	Ford	LaHood
Bonior	Fowler	Lampson
Bono	Fox	Lantos
Borski	Frank (MA)	Largent
Boswell	Franks (NJ)	Latham
Boucher	Frelinghuysen	LaTourrette
Boyd	Frost	Lazio
Brady	Furse	Leach
Brown (CA)	Gallegly	Levin
Brown (FL)	Ganske	Lewis (CA)
Brown (OH)	Gejdenson	Lewis (GA)
Bryant	Gekas	Lewis (KY)
Bunning	Gephardt	Linder
Burr	Gibbons	Lipinski
Burton	Gilchrest	Livingston
Buyer	Gillmor	LoBiondo
Callahan	Gilman	Lofgren
Calvert	Gonzalez	Lowe
Camp	Goode	Lucas
Canady	Goodlatte	Luther
Cannon	Gooding	Maloney (CT)
Capps	Gordon	Maloney (NY)
Cardin	Goss	Manton
Carson	Graham	Manzullo
Castle	Granger	Markey
Chabot	Green	Martinez
Chambliss	Greenwood	Mascara
Chenoweth	Gutierrez	Matsui
Christensen	Gutknecht	McCarthy (MO)
Clay	Hall (OH)	McCarthy (NY)
Clayton	Hall (TX)	McCollum
Clement	Hamilton	McCrary
Clyburn	Hansen	McDade
Coble	Harman	McDermott
Coburn	Hastert	McGovern
Collins	Hastings (FL)	McHale
Combest	Hastings (WA)	McHugh
Condit	Hayworth	McInnis
Conyers	Hefley	McIntosh
Cook	Hefner	McIntyre
Cooksey	Hergert	McKeon
Cox	Hilleary	McKinney
Coyne	Hilliard	McNulty
Cramer	Hinchey	Meehan
Crapo	Hinojosa	Meek
Cubin	Hobson	Menendez
Cummings	Hoekstra	Metcalf
Cunningham	Holden	Mica
Danner	Hoolley	Millender-
Davis (FL)	Horn	McDonald
Davis (IL)	Hostettler	Miller (CA)
Davis (VA)	Houghton	Miller (FL)
Deal	Hoyer	Minge
DeFazio	Hulshof	Mink
DeGette	Hunter	Moakley
Delahunt	Hutchinson	Molinari