

the futures of thousands of children just like him, depend in part on the decisions made here in Congress and in Bethesda, Maryland, the headquarters of the NIH. Diabetes affects virtually every tissue and organ in Charlie's body, and it can create serious medical complications for him. His mother and father have to be constantly vigilant to make sure Charlie's diabetes is kept under control with insulin. Right now, the average life expectancy of a person with diabetes is 15 to 20 years less than for those without the disease. Indeed, the stakes for children like Charlie are very high in this fight. Children like him need a medical breakthrough, and they need it now.

We are at a crucial decision point in the war on diabetes. Will we try to wage this war on the cheap, with proverbial sticks and rocks? For the sake of 16 million Americans, I sure hope not. Or will we use the full array of life-affirming and life-saving technology at our nation's disposal, and fund the fight at the level recommended by the Diabetes Research Working Group?

As a nation, we need to refocus and rededicate ourselves to finding the cure for diabetes. Despite great progress to date at the NIH, we are still not designating diabetes among our top priorities. For instance, from FY 1980 through 1999, NIH-funded diabetes research as a percentage of the total NIH budget has never exceeded 4.1 percent, despite the fact that diabetes-related illnesses during the same period represented 12 to 14 percent of the health care expenses in the United States. Right now, only \$30 per year in federal research is spent per person affected with diabetes. That is less than a family might spend for a movie and a pizza! Affected persons need more care and relief than \$30 per person per year can buy.

Diabetes costs our nation an estimated \$105 billion annually in health care costs. In addition, seniors are also at a great risk for diabetes. Fully one out of every four Medicare dollars is spent on caring for diabetes, totaling about \$28.6 billion per year and making diabetes and its related complications Medicare's single largest expense. And the human costs of diabetes are simply incalculable.

Diabetes is not a discriminatory disease. It is a lifelong condition that affects people of every age, race, income level, and nationality. The number of Americans with diabetes has increased nearly 700 percent in the past 40 years, leading the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to call it the "epidemic of our time." Nearly 123,000 children and persons under 20 suffer from some form of diabetes.

The cost would most likely be lower if diabetes were detected earlier. Too frequently this epidemic goes undiagnosed: 5.4 million Americans have the disease but do not know it. About 197,000 Americans die each year from the complications of diabetes, and there are approximately 800,000 newly diagnosed cases each year.

But there is hope, if only Congress will set aside the necessary resources to track down promising leads and research proposals. Early detection and preventive medicine is crucial in assisting Americans become better aware and educated about diabetes. If we can teach patients to know the warning signs and symptoms of diabetes, we can lower the risks of further infection and complications.

With the information technology revolution upon us, I believe a cure is in sight. I voice my

enthusiastic support for H. Res. 325, and urge every one of my colleagues to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 325.

The question was taken.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. 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.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING WALTER PAYTON AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO HIS FAMILY ON HIS DEATH

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 370) recognizing and honoring Walter Payton and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family on his death.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 370

Whereas Walter Payton was born in Columbia, Mississippi, on July 25, 1954;

Whereas Walter Payton was a distinguished alumnus of Jackson State University, home of the Jackson State Tigers and the nationally renowned Sonic Boom of the South;

Whereas Walter Payton was known by all as "Sweetness";

Whereas Walter Payton serves as the highest example of his Christian faith and his sport in countless public and private ways;

Whereas Walter Payton was truly a hero and role model for all Mississippians who had the privilege of watching him play the game he loved so much;

Whereas Walter Payton was viewed by his friends and former classmates as a fun-loving, warm, and smiling man with a joy for life, his family, and his sport;

Whereas Walter Payton played the game of football with unparalleled determination, passion, and desire;

Whereas Walter Payton, an extraordinary Mississippian and the National Football League's greatest running back of all time, died leaving us great memories of personal and athletic achievements;

Whereas Walter Payton received national acclaim as a running back and was the Chicago Bears' first pick, and was chosen fourth overall, in the 1975 draft;

Whereas Walter Payton played 13 seasons in the National Football League;

Whereas Walter Payton played a critical role in helping the Chicago Bears win Super Bowl XX in 1986;

Whereas Walter Payton was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1996;

Whereas Walter Payton was inducted into the Professional Football Hall of Fame in 1993;

Whereas Walter Payton holds the National Football League record for career yards—16,726 yards;

Whereas Walter Payton holds the National Football League record for career rushing attempts—3,838 attempts;

Whereas Walter Payton holds the National Football League record for yards gained in a single game—275 yards in a game against the Minnesota Vikings on November 20, 1977;

Whereas Walter Payton holds the National Football League record for seasons with 1,000 or more yards—10 seasons, 1976 to 1981 and 1983 to 1986;

Whereas Walter Payton holds the National Football League record for consecutive seasons leading the league in rushing attempts—4 seasons, from 1976 to 1979;

Whereas Walter Payton holds the National Football League record for most career games with 100 or more yards—77 games;

Whereas Walter Payton holds the National Football League record for combined net yards in a career—21,803 yards;

Whereas Walter Payton holds the National Football League record for combined attempts in a career—4,368 attempts;

Whereas one of Walter Payton's greatest achievements was the founding of the Walter Payton Foundation, which provides financial and motivational support to youth and helps children realize that they can raise the quality of their lives and the lives of those around them;

Whereas the Walter Payton Foundation's greatest legacy has been the funding and support of children's educational programs, as well as programs assisting abused or neglected children; and

Whereas Walter Payton died on November 1, 1999, of liver disease: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and honors Walter Payton—(A) as one of the greatest professional football players;

(B) for his many contributions to Mississippi and the Nation throughout his lifetime; and

(C) for transcending the game of football and becoming a timeless symbol of athletic talent, spirited competition, and a role model as a Christian gentleman and a loving father and husband; and

(2) extends its deepest condolences to Walter Payton's wife Connie, his children Brittany and Jarrett, his mother Alyne, his brother Eddie and sister Pam, and the other members of his family on their tragic loss.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Walter Payton.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 370.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 370, which recognizes and honors Walter Payton and expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family on his death; and I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING) for introducing this important resolution.

We are here today to honor the life of Walter Payton, number 34 for the Chicago Bears. The tragic and all too early end to his life November 1 cannot obscure his greatness, not just as a football player but as a human being. It is not just his eight NFL records, from career rushing yards to number of 1,000 yard rushing seasons to yards gained in a game. It is not just his 28 Chicago Bears' records. The Bears often had great individuals. Walter Payton meant so much more to the team than just individual statistics.

I still remember attending the 1963 NFL championship game in Chicago where the Bears beat the New York Giants 14 to 10. Unfortunately, this would be the last time any of us would see the Bears in the playoffs, that is until Walter Payton arrived. He began to carry the Bears with his work ethic, determination, and relentless pursuit of excellence. Sometimes it seemed that he was the only weapon the Bears had. And, finally, he led the Bears back up to the top in Super Bowl XX in 1986.

Over the years that Walter Payton played, Chicago saw a renaissance in its sports teams. The White Sox and the Cubs made the playoffs, and Michael Jordan began to take the Bulls to the top. But Walter Payton was the first and the brightest, and the Bears owned Chicago because of him.

More importantly, Walter Payton made his mark off the football field in a way that few athletes do. In truth, he gave back to Chicago more than Chicago could ever have given to him. He coached high school basketball, read to children in literacy programs, and made significant charitable contributions during and after his NFL career. His Walter Payton Foundation funds educational programs and helps countless abused and neglected children throughout the country.

He was a successful businessman, always open to new ventures, from his restaurants to an Indy car racing team. But perhaps, most importantly, he was a successful father and husband. When his daughter Brittney joined his wife Connie in accepting the Life Award for him at the Arete Courage in Sports awards in late October, and when his son Jarrett addressed the media 2 weeks ago, we could see the same poise in them that the world saw in Walter Payton.

Lucky are those whose lives were touched by this special man. Like most Chicagoans, I feel that somehow I knew Walter Payton; that he was one of us and we were better off for that.

To his wife Connie, his son Jarrett, his daughter Brittney, and to all his friends, we are proud to send the Nation's condolences, and to remind them how much Walter Payton meant to the American people. His sweetness remains with us forever.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, over the last several weeks, this Nation has endured numer-

ous reports of tragedies and deaths. Last week I came to the floor to express condolences on behalf of this body for the unexpected death of the great Payne Stewart, and in a few minutes I will do the same for Joe Serna, Jr., the recently deceased mayor of Sacramento, California.

I followed the news reports of the 217 people who died on board Egypt Air Flight 990, and the gunman in Hawaii who shot and killed his office workers. But in all of these stories of death and despair is a story of life and how we choose to live each and every day of it.

Walter Payton began his football career in 1975 at the age of 21. He was 5 feet 10 and 200 pounds. As the Bears' first-round choice out of Jackson State in Mississippi, he was an awesome human being. Payton, the NFL's career rushing leader, was called "Sweetness" because of the gritty and defiant way he ran the ball. His sweetness extended off the field, where he was known for his humor and consideration of others.

House Resolution 370 recognizes Walter Payton for his career triumphs and for establishing the Walter Payton Foundation, which provides financial and motivational support to youth and helps children realize that they can raise the quality of their lives. This resolution cites Payton as a Christian who was viewed by his friends and former classmates as a fun-loving, warm and smiling man with a joy of life, his family and his sport.

On February 2, when Walter Payton announced that he was suffering from a rare liver disease, he was frail and emotional. I shall never forget sitting at the television and watching him as the tears rolled down his face. Payton brought joy into the lives of millions of fans, but at 45 years old, only 45 years old, he needed the gift of life. His liver disease could only be cured by an organ transplant, a transplant he would never, unfortunately, receive.

On November 1, Walter Payton died of a disease malignancy of the bowel duct. He had undergone chemotherapy and radiation treatment to stem the cancer. But because of the aggressive nature of the malignancy, and because it had spread to other areas, a liver transplant, even if a donor were available, could no longer save Walter Payton's life.

By encouraging the 20,000 fans who attended a memorial service for Payton to register as organ donors, Walter Payton's family used his death to highlight the importance of organ donations and the gift of life. In other words, it was their effort to try to bring out of his death new life.

I could not help but think of Walter Payton when it was reported that in my own district of Baltimore, Maryland, a 60-year-old mother of three from Bowie donated a kidney to a 51-year-old father from California. What was special about this situation was that it was a Good Samaritan organ donation. Good Samaritan organ donations, in which the donor offers an

organ to a recipient who is a complete stranger, are very unusual. Most live organ donors are relatives or friends of the recipient.

The donor, Sue Rouch, read about the desperate need for an organ donor in a newspaper and called various local hospitals offering to become a donor. She is quoted as saying, "It's a gift. I'm a generous person, and giving and receiving is all part of the same circle of life." Last Friday, she gave her gift to Rick Sirak. If not for Sue Rouch, a generous and compassionate human being, Rick Sirak may have suffered the same fate as our hero, Walter Payton.

Like Rouch, Walter Payton was a generous and caring man. He was famous and world renowned but he was a Good Samaritan who cared for the abused and the needy among us. He celebrated life and brought joy into the lives of so many he touched.

Gregory Brown, coach of the Calumet Park Rams, a youth league team in Chicago, stated, "Walter Payton was a true greatness, true poetry. We tell our kids to run like Payton on the field and act like Payton in your life."

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

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Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING), my esteemed colleague and the sponsor of House Resolution 370.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support and as a proud sponsor of this resolution before us.

The gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and her great State had the privilege of watching Walter Payton play for the Chicago Bears. But in Mississippi, he was our native son and he made us all proud in a place that takes football very seriously, where there is Brett Favre, Jerry Rice, the NFL MVPs that we see and watch today on Sundays.

But it was Walter Payton, it was sweetness, that first broke through and created the greatness and the pride that we have in Mississippi. He was a tremendous ambassador and representative of our State and one of the greatest running backs of all time.

I am sad to say that, with his passing, we will no longer enjoy his example off the field, but we will have the memory and the legacy of what he did both on the field and as a person and as a father.

I remember well watching his son introduce him and speak for his induction into the Hall of Fame. What pride would any father have to see a son stand and introduce them into the place where their peers and where history records greatness. But to go to a son, something never done before, to make that introduction was a great example of the priorities of Walter Payton's life.

He was a native of Columbia, Mississippi. I am proud to join with my

colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS), who represents Columbia and who will join us today in speaking of Walter Payton. He was an alumnus of Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, where he received national acclaim as a running back and was chosen fourth by the Chicago Bears in the 1975 draft.

He then went on to play 13 seasons in the NFL, winning a Super Bowl and setting the all-time record for most yards at 16,726.

He was inducted into the college football Hall of Fame in 1996 and to the professional football Hall of Fame in 1993. He was truly a hero and role model for all of us in Mississippi who had the privilege of watching him play the game he loved so much.

My condolences go out to his wife, Connie, and to his children, Brittany and Jarrett.

Walter Payton will always be remembered for his style, class, and outstanding reputation on and off the football field. He was a great ambassador for our home State of Mississippi, and he will be missed by all Mississippians. He may not have been the biggest or the fastest, but it was clear he had the largest heart both on and off the field.

To Walter Payton we simply say, thank you.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to another distinguished gentleman from Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District (Mr. SHOWS).

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take the opportunity and a minute to tell my colleagues and the American people of my thoughts on Walter Payton. Walter's death was untimely, and it is important that we pause to remember this remarkable Mississippian and American.

Walter spent his life giving all he had to his profession, the sport of football. And through his remarkable gift of talent and ability, he gave all, what we call a real American hero.

Walter was a role model of fairness and honesty. With open hands, he often reached down to the opponent he had just out-maneuvered to help him off the turf. With a sweet voice, he always offered praise and encouragement to others in football. And with courage under fire, he never showed a quitter's attitude, right up to the end.

Walter was an American hero. I can honestly say that Walter Payton was a mentor for a lot of young people across our Nation. He was from my congressional district in Columbia, Mississippi, but about 20 minutes from my home.

I can remember when Walter was playing high school football, we heard about this young man that played at Columbia High School who was so fast he could go across the line and turn around backwards and look at his opponents backwards chasing him.

Many of us followed his remarkable career from when he packed out the

high school stadiums in my district. He was a streak of lightning down the football field then, as he was years later in the NFL.

Walter humbly rose to star status in our Nation and never let the attention change him. He was always Walter. He touched the lives of everyone, white and black, young and old.

The Bible teaches us about giving and caring, honesty and integrity. I think Walter must have listened well to the preachers in the churches that he attended as a child and throughout his life. Walter embodied those values that make us great and that we all need to value ourselves.

Walter Payton was good for football, he was good for our youth, and he is good for America. I am indebted to Walter Payton for his example. We are all indebted to him for his gift and life.

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Chicago, Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for yielding me the time.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING) for introducing this resolution. I am pleased to join with the millions of others throughout America and the world who have been inspired, motivated, and stimulated by the life and the legacy of Walter Payton.

Yes, Walter was indeed a great athlete and thrilled millions weekly as he glided, weaved, bobbed, and zipped up and down football fields, chewing up yardage, scoring touchdowns, and helping to win championships.

But Walter Payton was much more than a gifted athlete. He was a gentleman, a good son, a good husband, a good father, a good citizen, and yes, indeed, a role model.

He attended a small school, one of the historically black colleges and universities, Jackson State, in the Southwest Conference, the same conference that I had the opportunity to participate with and in when I attended one of the same small colleges and universities.

Walter proved that it is not always a matter of where we come from as much as it is sometimes a matter of where we are going. He demonstrated to all of us that there can be inspiration in death just as there is inspiration in life. He helped to raise the issue of organ donation and transplantation, even though at the latter part of his life he knew that he would not be able to use one even if it was available.

I want to commend the city of Chicago, my city, for the outstanding tribute that it paid to Walter Payton when thousands of people filled up Soldier Field. Yes, Walter was the best on and off the field. So, on behalf of the people in the Seventh District of Illinois, we celebrate his life and offer condolences

to his family and say that all of us are a little bit better because Walter Payton lived.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am urging all of our colleagues to support this very appropriate resolution. I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING) for sponsoring it and all the cosponsors and for all of those who have spoken today.

When one looks back at the life of Walter Payton, I can only help but think about a song that says, "The times we shared will always be. The times we shared will always be."

I think Walter Payton brought so much to our lives. One great writer said, he brought life to life. And there is absolutely no question about that. And so, we take a moment today to not be here because he died, but we take a moment to salute him because he lived. He took his God-given talent; and he made the very, very best of them.

And so, to his wife, Connie, and to his children, Brittany and Jarrett and to his relatives, we say to them, thank you very much for sharing Walter Payton with us. He lifted our lives; and, on and off the field, he made our lives better. He, indeed, brought life to life.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 370 provides a fitting memorial to the career and life of Walter Payton. We remember him as an intense competitor on the field and a superb human being and citizen. He dedicated himself fully to his chosen work, and he set an example of humor and grace that we can all admire.

I am proud to speak in his memory, and I join my colleagues in urging swift passage of this resolution honoring a man whose generous life among us was far too brief.

I want to thank again the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING) for introducing this resolution and all the gentlemen from Mississippi and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) who have spoken so eloquently about the life of Walter Payton.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 370, and to celebrate the profound impact of the life of Walter Payton.

This man, who struck fear into the hearts of opposing NFL defenses for 13 years, inspires our hearts today. As unstoppable and resilient as Walter Payton was on the football field, he was caring, as confident as he was uplifting—this irresistible force was also an immovable object of a good man.

Walter Payton exploded into Chicago in 1975. The Bears, having been spoiled by some of the greatest running backs of all time, from Red Grange, to Bronko Nagurski, to Gale

Sayers, were looking for a savior for their backfield. Walter's 66 touchdowns, whopping 6.1 yards per carry, and NCAA scoring record seemed an answer to the Monsters of the Midway's prayer. Chicago chose him with its number one pick. Said Walter's first Bears position coach, Fred O'Connor, upon seeing his new prodigy, "God must have taken a chisel and said, 'I'm going to make me a halfback.'"

For the next 13 years Walter ran roughshod over the best athletes in the world. No one has more yards rushing, more rushing attempts, more rushing yards in a game, more 100-yard games, or more all-purpose yards than Walter Payton. He won two MVP awards, led the best football team of all time to victory in Super Bowl XX, and only missed one game in 13 years (a game he insisted he could have played in). Walter made a career out of fighting for the extra yard, never taking the easy run out of bounds, blocking for his teammates, playing through injuries, and leaping into the endzone. He was Sweetness, yet was tougher than Dick Butkus and Mike Ditka. He was also one of the classiest athletes in the history of the NFL—politely handing the ball to officials after scoring, and helping opposing players to their feet after knocking them flat. Ditka, his coach and friend, dubbed him "the greatest Bear of all," and the best football player he'd ever seen.

But for all his successes on the field, Walter was better off it. He was a restaurant owner, an entrepreneur, an investor in forest land and nursing homes, a professional and amateur race-car driver, a television commentator, a motivational speaker, a philanthropist, a father, a husband, and a friend.

While Walter attained amazing financial success in his sporting, business, and speaking pursuits, he turned around and gave back to those who could not fend for themselves. He founded the Walter Payton Foundation to provide financial and motivational support to youth—the foundation continues to fund and support children's educational programs, and to assist abused and neglected children. When faced with fatal liver disease, he turned his illness into a positive force by raising awareness of the need for organ donors. He also helped found and support the Alliance for the Children, which serves the very neediest—the wards of the State of Illinois. In 1998 alone, Walter's foundations provided Christmas gifts for over 35,000 children, helped over 9,000 churches, schools and social services agencies raised by funds by donating autographed sports memorabilia, established college scholarship funds for wards of the State of Illinois, and established a job training program for children 18 to 21 "graduating" from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services system.

Walter is survived by his wife Connie, his children Brittany and Jarrett, his mother Alyne, his brother Eddie, his sister Pam, his loyal teammates, his respectful opponents, his legions of loving fans, and the millions he touched, helped and inspired in some way. He spent the final 9 months of his life, from the day he bravely announced his disease in February, surrounded by these friends and family members. He knew he was loved in the twilight of his life, and we can feel that love for him now that he's passed on. We should all be so blessed.

Walter once, said, "people see what they want to see [in me]. They look at me and say,

'He's a black man. He's a football player. He's a running back. He a Chicago Bear,' But I'm more than all that. I'm a father, I'm a husband. I'm a citizen. I'm a person willing to give his all. That's how I want to be remembered."

That's how we'll remember you, Walter, and thank you.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month our Nation lost a man who earned a lasting place in the hearts of all Americans through his efforts on the football field and in his community. This man, who was affectionately known as "Sweetness," distinguished himself as a father, a citizen, and an American sports icon. Walter Payton's road to success started in Columbia, Mississippi, and wound through the collegiate ranks at Jackson State University and the rough and tumble world of the National Football League. After his playing days, he devoted his time and energy to improving the lives of others.

It is difficult to turn on a television or radio these days and not hear of another instance where a professional athlete has taken a wrong turn or made a bad decision which disappoints legions of fans. They have made commercials to proclaim that they are not role models. Walter never did. They have shied away from placement on a pedestal which would hold them to a higher standard. Walter embraced it. They have failed to realize their influence on children who cheer for them each time they suit up. Walter understood it. They forgot the communities they once called home. Walter never did.

So the next time your kids hear about the latest professional athlete's brush with the law, tell them about Walter Payton. After all, what parent wouldn't want their child to grow up to be like number 34. He was a role model in his public life and as a professional athlete and more importantly in his life off the field as a husband, father, and community leader. Walter, thanks for the memories.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great football player and person, Walter Payton. As his old Chicago Bears coach, Iron Mike Ditka, said the day of his passing, some might have been better runners, some might have been better receivers, some might have been bigger or faster, but no one was a better football player than Walter Payton.

Most everyone knows that Sweetness holds the NFL record for rushing yards, total yards, combined yards, and most rushing yards in a game, 275. But what made Payton a great football player was his total package—the blocking, the running, the receiving, and the durability—he only missed one game his entire career, during his rookie season when the coaches held him out despite Payton's insistence on playing through an injury. He was also the Bears emergency kicker, punter, and quarterback—he once played quarterback in 1984 when all of the Bears quarterbacks were injured.

While many people throughout the nation remember Payton along with the dominant 1985 "Super Bowl Shuffle" team, true Chicagoans remember the high-kicking Payton in the Bears' lean years, when he carried the team on his shoulders. Walter was a source of pride for Chicagoans in the late 70's and early 80's, and the city identified with the hard-working, lunch-pail attitude that Payton brought to the field.

Walter was a role model on and off the field. He owned many businesses and started a

charitable organization, the Walter Payton Foundation. Payton quietly helped collect toys and clothes for children who spent the holidays away from their own families, usually because of abuse or other mistreatment. For some children, the toys were the only gifts they got.

Walter was also a religious man. His former teammate, Mike Singletary, said that Walter found an inner peace the day of his death when the two read scripture together.

Mr. Speaker, it came as a surprise when Walter was diagnosed with his rare liver disease. Still, those who followed Walter's career on and off the field believed that he would overcome the disease just as he had overcome many opponents on the field and in the boardroom. So the big shock came with news of his death. The nation grieved the loss of a sports hero, but Chicago mourned the loss of an icon who touched many.

When Payton was once asked how he wanted to be remembered, he replied, "I want people to say, 'Wherever he was, he was always giving it his all.'" Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that up in heaven, Walter Payton is giving it his all.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 370.

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.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING
MAYOR JOE SERNA, JR., AND
EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TO HIS FAMILY AND PEOPLE OF SACRAMENTO

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 363) recognizing and honoring Sacramento, California, Mayor Joe Serna, Jr., and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family and the people of Sacramento on his death.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 363

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., was born in Stockton, California, on September 3, 1939;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., was the loving husband of Isabelle Hernandez-Serna and devoted father of Phillip and Lisa;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., was the son of Gerania and Jose Serna and the brother of Maria Elena Serna, Reuben Serna, and Jesse Serna;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., grew up the son of an immigrant farm worker, and was widely recognized as ambitious with an irrepressible drive to succeed;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., experienced a pivotal point in his life when he became a successful football player on the Lodi Flames as a sophomore qualifying to play on the varsity squad;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., graduated from Lodi High School and went to work, where he later lost his job because he endorsed a