

Baseball record for the longest winning streak by an American League baseball team.

On September 4, 2002, the Oakland A's set the major league record for the longest winning streak by an American League baseball team by winning 20 consecutive games. Prior to this accomplishment, the record for longest winning streak by an American League baseball team had stood for 55 years. Only two major league baseball teams have won 20 or more consecutive games, this year's Oakland Athletics with 20 consecutive wins, and, it is my understanding, the 1935 Chicago Cubs with 21 consecutive wins.

During the winning streak, the Athletics outscored their opponents 141 to 65 and trailed their opponents in only 10 of the 180 innings of the streak. The key to any successful baseball team is of course its pitching staff. During the streak and for the duration of the season, Oakland's pitchers have been nothing short of spectacular. During the streak, Cy Young hopeful Barry Zito, Tim Hudson, Mark Mulder, and Corey Lidle pitched into the seventh inning in all six of the games, won as a part of the streak, and were credited with 15 of the 20 consecutive wins.

The phenomenal success of the Oakland Athletics can also be attributed to the team's clutch hitting. While the A's have a different hero really every night, Miguel Tejada's emerging superstardom and really uncanny knack for late-game heroics has led the A's and truly energized the fans. The A's began the streak four and a half games out of first place in the Western Division of the American League and just concluded the regular season four games ahead of second place Anaheim. Remarkably, the A's accomplishments and continued success has come with the third-lowest payroll in the major leagues. Who said that low-budget teams cannot compete and really win?

The success of the A's can also be attributed to the managerial skills of Art Howe and the unique ability of general manager Billy Beane to build a perennial contender with a very limited budget.

The winning streak and success of the Oakland A's has brought together people from all walks of life and has really brought a new-found excitement to Oakland fans and the community. The accomplishments of the Oakland Athletics organization really extend far beyond their 20-game winning streak or their American League West title. For example, the Oakland A's community fund supports charitable organizations in their efforts to improve educational programs, aid to the underprivileged. They assist in crime and drug prevention and service to children, service to our senior citizens and those who work to improve the quality of life for people throughout the Bay Area.

On September 15, another example, the Oakland Athletics organization hosted their fourth annual Breast Can-

cer Awareness Day and raised over \$100,000 for the cause. The athletic scholarship programs, disaster support fund, Little A's, and A's Amigos are just a few examples of how the athletics organization is really truly involved in our entire community. The accomplishments and contributions of the Oakland Athletics organization both on and off the field are worthy of recognition. So today I would like to congratulate the A's and its fans on a truly remarkable record-breaking regular season.

Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) know are we still in the third inning with the A's up?

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Ms. LEE. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I do not know. My last report is 3 to 5 A's. Go A's.

Ms. LEE. The fans are rooting and cheering them on to win their real first post-season game. I know that I am not alone in wishing the amazing A's the very best in their race for the pennant. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me the time.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am pleased and delighted that Oakland has had such a great run. It is also great to know that Chicago teams, although quite away back, 1905 and 1936, at least we were there at that time; but I certainly congratulate Oakland fans, the team, its management.

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague from California for bringing this resolution to the floor. We congratulate the Oakland Athletics for the terrific 2002 season highlighted by their 20-game winning streak. I urge all Members to support this resolution.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, growing up in Tracy, California, I have been a fan of the Oakland Athletics ever since they first came to Oakland in 1968. I was 7 years old at the time.

I remember their World Series Championship three-peat teams from 1972, 1973 and 1974, which featured players like Vida Blue, Bert Campaneris, Rollie Fingers, Jim "Catfish" Hunter, Joe Rudi and a young "Mr. October," Reggie Jackson. Being from the northern part of California's Central Valley, just over the Altamont Pass, the fact that their 1974 World Series Championship came by defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers made the victory even sweeter.

And what baseball fan can forget the 1989 World Series, the "Bay Bridge Series" between Oakland and the San Francisco Giants? A great Oakland team, led by Jose Canseco, Dennis Eckersley, Rickey Henderson, Mark McGwire, and Dave Stewart prevailed in that

series, but it was an earthquake that registered 7.1 on the Richter Scale, and the area uniting in response to the emergency situation, that we remember best.

Today, Mr. Chairman, as the Major League Baseball postseason begins, I am proud that the House of Representatives is taking a moment to recognize the latest accomplishment by the Oakland A's, their amazing 20 game-winning streak. And I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution honoring this great team.

Mr. Chairman, winning 20 games in a row is no fluke. It takes a sustained effort both by the pitching staff and batting line up to win 20 in a row. I'm proud to say that the fearsome Oakland starting pitching staff, Barry Zito, Tim Hudson, Mark Mulder and Corey Lidle won 15 of the 20 games in the streak.

At the plate, the A's showed a never say die attitude, with shortstop Miguel Tejada and first baseman Scott Hatterberg each hitting an RBI at the final at bat of the game, winning the game and keeping the streak alive. This streak is the longest in American League history, second only to the 1935 Chicago Cubs' 21 game-winning streak. As we enter baseball's post season, the 20 game-winning streak serves notice to the other teams in the playoffs that the Oakland A's are a team to be reckoned with.

I congratulate Manager Art Howe, General Manager Billy Beane and the entire Oakland Athletics organization.

Mr. SULLIVAN. 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 Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 530.

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.

HONORING JOHNNY UNITAS AND EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY ON HIS PASSING

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 538), honoring Johnny Unitas and extending condolences to his family on his passing.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 538

Whereas, as a member of the Baltimore Colts, Johnny Unitas' leadership and passing skills helped change the game of football;

Whereas throughout his life, Unitas defined humility, grace, and determination;

Whereas in 1955 Unitas played for the love of the sport of football, earning just \$6 per game as a player in the Greater Pittsburgh Football League;

Whereas Unitas led the Baltimore Colts over the New York Giants for the 1958 NFL championship in what came to be known as "The Greatest Game Ever Played" and quarterbacked the Colts to a 2nd consecutive title in 1959;

Whereas Unitas threw a touchdown pass in the Colts victory over the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl V;

Whereas when Unitas retired from the NFL in 1974, he held 22 NFL records, including the record of 47 consecutive games with a touchdown pass;

Whereas Unitas was named Player of the Year in 1959, 1964, and 1967, and played in 10 Pro Bowls;

Whereas Unitas completed 2,830 of 5,186 passes for 40,239 yards and 290 touchdowns during his career;

Whereas Unitas was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1979;

Whereas Unitas was named the "Greatest Player in the First 50 Years of Pro Football", and named to the NFL's 75th Anniversary Team;

Whereas throughout his career Unitas played for the love of the game, his city, and its fans;

Whereas Unitas established the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation, supported cystic fibrosis research, and with his wife Sandra, sought to assist victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; and

Whereas Unitas' compassion and sense of charity gave hope to those in need in Baltimore and throughout the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) celebrates the remarkable life of Johnny Unitas and his indelible impression on the City of Baltimore;

(2) honors him for his leadership, sportsmanship, and outstanding achievements on the football field;

(3) recognizes his remarkable spirit and tireless work to improve the lives of those in need; and

(4) extends its heartfelt condolences to the family of Johnny Unitas on his passing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SULLIVAN. 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 538.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the House consider House Resolution 538, important legislation introduced by my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRLICH). This resolution celebrates the life and achievements of the greatest quarterback who ever lived, Johnny Unitas.

Johnny Unitas passed away suddenly last month at the age of 69. He may be gone but his greatness on the football field will never be forgotten. Unitas played 17 seasons for the Baltimore Colts. He led the Colts to three NFL championships and held nearly every NFL passing record at the time of his retirement in 1973. He was the first quarterback to throw over 40,000 yards in a career and holds the record for throwing a touchdown pass in an incredible 47 consecutive games, nearly a 4-year span of games. But numbers

alone do not adequately tell the story of his greatness on the football field.

Considered the ultimate team leader, Unitas is credited with inventing the 2-minute drill, leading the Colts to many victories in the final seconds of the game. His most famous game-winning drive came in 1958 when he led the Colts on an 80-yard drive in a sudden death overtime to beat the Giants for the NFL championship. To this day the 1958 championship game is known as the greatest game ever played. His composure and courage on the field were legendary. Former teammate John Mackey, himself a Hall of Famer and considered by many the best tight end to have played, once said of Unitas, "It's like being in the huddle with God."

Unitas led by example. On a Colts team full of tough, gritty players, former teammate and fellow Hall of Famer Art Donovan was asked who he considered to be the toughest of all. Without hesitation Donovan said "Unitas, because he took the punishment. And never said a word about it."

After his football career ended in 1973, Unitas made Baltimore his home. The city loved and admired Unitas not only for his toughness and ability on the field but for his humanity. Even though he was revered by millions, he was a humble and gracious man. At his funeral mass in Baltimore, his youngest daughter, Paige, spoke of her father's tenderness. When she once grew impatient with fans seeking his autograph, Unitas told her, "It takes so little to make people smile." He was untiring in his work for charity, including supporting research for leukemia, cystic fibrosis, and prostate cancer. Also, he formed the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation to provide financial assistance to underprivileged and deserving young scholar-athletes.

Johnny Unitas may have left us too soon, but his legend will live on. The sight of a hunched-over Johnny U., No. 19, slowly walking off the field at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium in his black high-topped shoes after throwing a touchdown pass will be etched in the memories of football fans for years to come. We offer condolences to Unitas's family and celebrate the life of the greatest quarterback who ever played the game, Johnny Unitas. Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to support this resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

National Football League Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said, "Unitas epitomized football, the enduring values of toughness and competition, and he epitomized this community and America."

□ 1745

Johnny Unitas, the Hall of Fame quarterback who broke nearly every

National Football League passing record and won three championships with the Baltimore Colts in an 18-year career, died of a heart attack in Baltimore on September 11.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1933, Johnny Unitas was raised in a working-class family during the Depression. His father, a coal delivery man, died when he was 5, and his mother worked two jobs to raise four kids.

Inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, in 1979, Unitas retired after the 1973 season with 22 National Football League records, among them marks for the most passes attempted and completed, most yards gained passing, most touchdown passes, and most seasons leading the league in touchdown passes.

Unitas was voted the Most Valuable Player in 1964 and in 1967, and played in 10 Pro Bowls. He led Baltimore to the National Football League championship in 1958, 1959, and the Super Bowl in 1970. He was named the Greatest Player in the First 50 Years of Pro Football, and was named to the National Football League's 75th anniversary team.

This long list of accomplishments stems from a player who hitchhiked home from his first National Football League training camp after the Pittsburgh Steelers cut him in 1955. He spent that season playing semipro football on rock-and-glass covered fields in Pittsburgh for \$6 a game and working as a pile driver at a construction site.

At his induction in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Unitas said, "A man never gets this station in life without being helped, aided, shoved, pushed and prodded to do better. I want to be honest with you: the players I played with and the coaches I had, they are directly responsible for my being here. I want you all to remember that. I always will."

Those who helped, aided, shoved, pushed and prodded him to do better, the players he played with and the coaches, as well as those who simply enjoyed watching him play the game of football, will always remember him and his contributions to the sport. His comments epitomize the career of Johnny Unitas, who was always giving credit to others for helping to make him the star that he was.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this resolution.

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRLICH).

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, we have heard about the numbers, about the greatest game ever played; and I just spoke with the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) about what a sad day it was at the funeral.

But I have a quick story about my friend and constituent. A couple years ago, Johnny Unitas was doing an event for me and the Q&A time came. The question was, "Mr. Unitas, if you were playing today, how much money would you be making?"

The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) will appreciate this. Johnny thought for a second and said, "About 3 million bucks."

There was a murmur in the crowd, and they were all thinking 3 million bucks for Johnny U, and that players get \$100 million contracts these days and so the questioner said, "Aren't you really underselling yourself, the greatest quarterback who ever played?"

Johnny thought for a second and said, "Well, I am 66 years old."

Mr. Speaker, I have told that story a lot because it says all one needs to know about my friend and my constituent. And as Kendall Ehrlich, my wife, always likes to say, the coolest celebrity she has ever met because Johnny U. will always be the coolest celebrity one could ever meet because he was an ordinary person who was able to achieve extraordinary things on the football field and he never took himself too seriously. He always had time for whomever wanted an autograph or needed help, the charity of the day, the week, the month or of the year in Baltimore, the State of Maryland, or in the United States of America.

That was our Johnny U. I will miss him. The people of Baltimore, the State of Maryland, United States of America, sports fans around the world will miss No. 19.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, let me pay my respects to Johnny Unitas, what he meant as an individual and what he meant to our community. I agree with the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRLICH) and his comments. I feel very privileged because I had the opportunity to witness Johnny play at just about every one of his home football games in Baltimore.

During the NFL's 50th anniversary, he was voted the Greatest Quarterback of All Times, and clearly he was the greatest quarterback of all times on the field. He established just about every record during his time, and currently holds the record for throwing a touchdown pass in the most consecutive games, a record that is not likely to be challenged for a long time to come.

But that is just half the story about Johnny Unitas. Members know him as a great athlete, a person during the time of football when the quarterback really controlled the game, called the plays, was responsible for the leadership of the team. Johnny Unitas represented the best that there was in that regard. He is responsible for getting the American public interested in the game of football. He probably is responsible for a lot of the high salaries today because of the interest on television for football today.

But the other story is Johnny Unitas the individual, off the field. I feel privileged not only to have witnessed him as a great athlete on the field, but to see how he worked within our community. He was always there to help our community. Baltimore was his adopted home. He came to us through other towns, but Baltimore is where he lived his life and where he gave back so much to the community. He was responsible for a lot of charitable activities. He always worked with young people and never turned down a request for an autograph, not because he was honored to be asked to give an autograph, but because he did not want to disappoint anybody. That was the type of life he lived. He was a great individual.

He will always be remembered as the person who led Baltimore to championships, the person who always was on the sidelines during all of our games. His number 19, of course, is known by all; but he is clearly number one in the hearts of all of the people of the Nation. I thank the gentleman for bringing this resolution before us.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 538. I was fortunate enough to play in several games against Johnny Unitas, I guess maybe a better word is "unfortunate" because Johnny's team always came out on top.

One time we played in Baltimore, and they had a white horse that ran around the field every time Baltimore scored. On that day we almost killed the horse because the horse ran around the field 15 to 20 times. Johnny was sharp that day, and we were not very good.

Johnny had a quick release, excellent skills, arm strength and accuracy. But as many Members have mentioned, probably his greatest attribute was physical toughness because at the time Johnny played, we did not have the rules protecting the quarterback that we have today. Today players can hardly touch a NFL quarterback, but Johnny took a licking for 18 years, and he always got up. I was impressed by his leadership and his physical toughness.

He did not have early NFL success. As was mentioned, he was cut by the first team he tried out for. He played semipro football for \$6 a game, a tough league. Many Members have mentioned the 1958 championship game against the Giants, which the Colts won 23 to 17. That was a landmark game. I remember watching that game that day. That was the game that caught people's attention. That was the game that launched the National Football League as it is today.

Johnny played at a unique time. The top players were paid \$10,000 a year. When compared to today's salaries, just imagine the difference. Most players at that time worked in the off season to make ends meet. He had no agent. He had great loyalty to his team and community. He did not bounce around for the best deal. He stayed most all of his career in one place.

When he played, there were 36 players on a team. Today there are 53, so every one of those 36 players had to contribute. At that time there were about one dozen NFL teams. Today there are roughly 30.

I think today's NFL teams and players owe a lot to Johnny Unitas and others like him who played at that time. He was a great humanitarian and a great human being. Much has been said about his 22 NFL passing records, his three NFL MVPs, his 18 years with one team; but probably the greatest credit to Johnny was the fact that he was named the greatest NFL player in the first 50 years of the league. Of course, that takes in a lot of great players. I urge support of this resolution and again would like to offer my condolences to the family and in support of Johnny and all that he represents.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for bringing this resolution to the floor and giving this House the opportunity to express its admiration for this extraordinary athlete and extraordinary man.

We extend our condolences to the Unitas family on the death of Johnny Unitas. To us, he was the greatest quarterback to ever play the game of football, a man whose toughness and compassion embodied the spirit of Baltimore and whose talent on the gridiron made him a legend in his own time.

But he was much more. They know him as a husband and father and had the opportunity to share in his extraordinary life.

We can only hope that the outpouring of admiration from the many people who were touched in some way by Johnny Unitas will provide a comfort to them in the days ahead. I urge all Members to support this resolution.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H. Res. 538 honoring Johnny Unitas and extending condolences to his family on his passing. I thank my Maryland colleague and friend Congressman EHRLICH for introducing this legislation.

Johnny Unitas set 22 NFL records, went to 10 pro bowls, was player of the year 3 times, and was named Pro Football's Greatest Player in the first 50 years. But interestingly, all this came from an inauspicious beginning.

Notre Dame didn't want him because he was thought to be too small. Others didn't think he had the smarts to play quarterback. The Pittsburgh Steelers drafted and promptly cut him. Later, with the Baltimore Colts, Johnny Unitas was put in for their injured starter, and his pass was intercepted. On the next two possessions, he fumbled. Since the other Colts backup quarterback had decided to go to law school, Unitas started the next game. Unitas and the Colts beat the Green Bay Packers; then they beat the Cleveland Browns; and so began Johnny Unitas's ascendance. Later that very season, he began

his string of 47 consecutive games with a touchdown pass. That record is still unrivaled to this day. And no one has even come close.

He typified an athletic style that at times seems of a bygone era. He was famously hard-working, had a self-effacing manner, and was public spirited with an uncanny devotion to his adopted city and fans. With his modest style, it was said that one couldn't tell from the way Johnny Unitas walked off a football field whether he'd thrown a touchdown or an interception. In fact, the photo of him taken moments after he threw the game-winning overtime touchdown in the 1958 NFL Championship—in what is known as the Greatest Game Ever Played—shows Johnny Unitas, head bent, walking toward the Colts bench as if nothing much had happened.

His skills, warmth, charities, and remarkable life have touched people far beyond the gridiron. During his funeral, a small plane pulled the same banner that flew above Memorial Stadium on his last game in Baltimore. It read: "Unitas We Stand."

He played for the love of the game, his city, and its fans. He was Baltimore. Our prayers are with the Unitas family. We all miss you, Johnny U.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Johnny Unitas—a great football player, a great Baltimorean, and a great human being. Johnny Unitas epitomized all that is right about sports, and he put Baltimore on the map with his dazzling skill and workmanlike attitude.

Johnny Unitas hitchhiked home from his first training camp in 1955, cut from the Pittsburgh Steelers. He spent that year playing semipro ball for \$6 a game, and working at a construction site nearby to make ends meet. The rest, as they say, is history.

The Baltimore Colts signed Unitas the next year. He retired after the 1973 season, setting 22 NFL records, including the most passes attempted and completed, most yards gained passing, most touchdown passes and most seasons leading the league in TD passes.

Unitas completed 2,830 of 5,186 passes for 40,239 yards and 290 touchdowns. He completed at least one touchdown pass in 47 straight games, a record not challenged since it was set from 1956–60.

Johnny Unitas was the Most Valuable Player in 1964 and 1967 and played in 10 Pro Bowls. He led Baltimore to the NFL championship in 1958 and 1959 and the Super Bowl in 1970. On the NFL's 50th anniversary in 1969, Unitas was voted the greatest quarterback of all time. He also was selected at quarterback for the NFL's All-Time team in 2000 by the 36 Pro Football Hall of Fame voters.

To many, including myself, Johnny Unitas was the greatest quarterback to play the game. He left an indelible mark on football, Baltimore, and this nation.

Johnny never strayed far from the game. After his retirement in 1973, he was a fixture in the Baltimore football scene that he made famous, watching the Baltimore Colts move to Indianapolis and the Ravens take their place.

Johnny was famous for saying, "Talk is cheap. Let's go play." I believe this is advice we could all afford to heed.

On September 11, at the age of 69, Johnny Unitas suffered a heart attack and passed away.

I extend my condolences to the family of Johnny Unitas, to his fans, and to all those people he touched. He will be missed.

Mr. SULLIVAN. 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 gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 538.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SULLIVAN. 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.

FEDERAL-UTAH STATE TRUST LANDS CONSOLIDATION ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4968) to provide for the exchange of certain lands in Utah, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4968

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal-Utah State Trust Lands Consolidation Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The San Rafael Swell in Utah is a 900-square mile, wild and beautiful region west of the Green River. The San Rafael Swell is dominated by the jagged, uplifted San Rafael Reef, which has nearly two dozen major canyons and many side draws and box canyons. The San Rafael Swell towers above the desert like a wilderness castle, ringed by 1,000-foot ramparts of Navajo sandstone. Its highlands have been fractured by uplift and scooped hollow by erosion over countless millennia, leaving a tremendous basin punctuated by mesas, buttes, and canyons and traversed by sediment-laden desert streams.

(2) The San Rafael Swell region was one of the country's last frontiers and possesses important natural, historical, and cultural resources, including exceptional backcountry recreation opportunities, productive habitat for Desert Bighorn Sheep, important historical sites, including sections of the Old Spanish Trail and the Outlaw Trail, significant paleontological resources, and multiple wilderness study areas created pursuant to section 603 of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976, or otherwise identified by local government and conservation interests as having significant conservation values. The beautiful rural landscapes, historic and cultural landscapes, and spectacular scenic vistas of the San Rafael Swell region contain significant undeveloped recreational opportunities for people throughout the United States.

(3) The State of Utah owns approximately 102,871 acres of land located in the San Rafael Swell region and administered by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration. These lands were granted by the Congress to the State of Utah pursuant to the Utah Enabling Act of 1894 (chapter 138; 23 Stat. 107), to be held in trust for the benefit of the State's public school system and

other public institutions. The lands are largely scattered in checkerboard fashion amidst the Federal lands comprising the remainder of the San Rafael Swell area.

(4) Development of surface and mineral resources on State trust lands within the San Rafael Swell area, or the sale of such lands into private ownership, could be incompatible with management of such lands for non-impairment of their wilderness characteristics pursuant to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, with future congressional designation of the lands as wilderness, or with future designation of such lands as a national monument, national heritage area, or other conservation designation.

(5) The State of Utah also owns 3,533 acres of land within or directly adjacent to the Manti-La Sal National Forest in Grand and Emery Counties, Utah, and 6,411 acres of land within the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, a conservation reserve established in 1995 by the United States and Washington County, Utah, to implement a multiple-species habitat conservation plan approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service under section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The Reserve contains the highest density of critical habitat for the Mojave desert tortoise, a threatened species, in the United States. These State trust lands are also administered by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, but the use of such lands by the State is limited because of the conservation designations of surrounding Federal lands.

(6) The United States owns lands and interests in lands elsewhere in Utah that can be transferred to the State of Utah in exchange for the San Rafael Swell inholdings, the Manti-La Sal forest lands, and the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve lands without jeopardizing Federal management objectives or needs.

(7) The large presence of State trust land inholdings in the San Rafael Swell region, the Manti-La Sal National Forest, and the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve makes land and resource management in these areas difficult, costly, and controversial for both the State of Utah and the United States.

(8) It is in the public interest to reach agreement on exchange of such inholdings, on terms fair to both the State of Utah and the United States. Such an agreement, subject to ratification by Congress and consent by the Utah legislature, would save much time and delay in meeting the legitimate expectations of the State school and institutional trusts, in simplifying management of Federal lands, and in avoiding the significant time and expense associated with administrative land exchanges.

(9) The State of Utah and the United States have reached an agreement under which the State would exchange certain State trust lands within the San Rafael Swell region, the Manti-La Sal National Forest, and the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve for various Federal lands outside of those areas but in the same region of Utah.

(10) The parties agreed at the outset of negotiations to avoid identifying Federal assets for conveyance to the State where any of the following was known to exist or likely to be an issue as a result of foreseeable future uses of the lands:

- (A) Wilderness study areas.
- (B) Areas proposed for wilderness designation in pending Federal legislation.
- (C) Significant endangered species habitat.
- (D) Significant archaeological resources.
- (E) Areas of critical environmental concern.
- (F) Other lands known to raise significant environmental concerns of any kind.

(11) Because the State trust lands to be acquired by the Federal Government include