

business operations. This is a continuing problem that should lend itself to solutions in a relatively short time frame. The U.S. government should press for concrete steps that improve transparency at all levels.

WILLIAM PRIMOSCH,

*Director, International Business Policy,
National Association of Manufacturers.*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of H. Res. 414, a resolution which I am co-sponsoring and which encourages China to move to a more flexible exchange rate. As Chairman of the Financial Services Committee, which has jurisdiction over domestic and international monetary policy as well as economic growth and stabilization, I believe that this is an important measure which deserves the support of the House.

I commend Mr. ENGLISH for his leadership in introducing this important resolution, which seeks to encourage China to continue taking concrete steps to reform its economy and move towards a more flexible exchange rate mechanism. I note that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the United Steelworkers of America, and the American Iron and Steel Institute all support this resolution.

I also want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) who chairs the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology, which held the first House hearing on this subject.

I support this resolution because it helps signal to the Chinese government that this House is monitoring closely the efforts of both the Chinese and U.S. governments to position China to develop a more appropriate exchange rate and infrastructure to support that exchange rate. The goal is to ensure that serious progress continues to be made.

For some time now, our own dynamic economy has been undergoing a dramatic shift towards services sector jobs. It is unclear how the Chinese exchange rate regime contributes to, or accelerates, this trend. However, the trend should not be confused with the notion that the U.S. economy will someday outsource all production of physical goods.

The manufacturing sector in this country is a significant source of innovation, patent development and, therefore, economic growth. We cannot permit potentially unfair competition to undercut this important activity. We should not accept that possibly unfair competition will require hard-working Americans doing a good job to be unemployed.

China is the world's most populous country. It is becoming one of the United States' most important trading partners. It has recently served as a source of strength in Asia, as well as an engine of economic growth globally. U.S. companies and consumers benefit from a strong and growing China, but only if that growth is based on a fair system.

China's economic growth and potential should lead it to adopt 21st Century exchange rate policies as well. If China is going to be serious about its WTO commitments, it must also recognize that fair competition requires market-determined exchange rates in addition to opening its markets to foreign companies.

It is true that such large changes cannot occur overnight, especially in a command economy. It is also true that a financial system must be strong and resilient in order to absorb the kind of capital market volatility that accompanies floating exchange rates. Finally, it is true that China's fragile banking system needs

to be strengthened if a floating rate system is to be launched successfully. Change is needed for the good of China's own economy.

Mr. Speaker, these facts should underscore the importance of China moving clearly and unambiguously towards banking sector reform. They cannot serve as an excuse for delaying these necessary reforms.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 414.

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. ENGLISH. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of H. Res. 414, the resolution just debated.

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

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING THE FLORIDA MARLINS FOR WINNING THE 2003 WORLD SERIES

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 415) congratulating the Florida Marlins for winning the 2003 World Series.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 415

Whereas Pro Player Stadium, located in the City of Miami Gardens and Miami-Dade County, is the home field for the Florida Marlins;

Whereas Major League Baseball is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the World Series this year;

Whereas on October 25, 2003, the Florida Marlins won the 2003 World Series in a six game series;

Whereas by defeating an excellent New York Yankees team—the American League Champions and the latest team in a storied franchise which, with 26 World Series victories, dominated professional baseball's first 100 years—the Florida Marlins have captured their second World Series title in the brief ten year history of the team;

Whereas, during the World Series, Marlins pitcher Josh Beckett struck out 19 Yankee batters in two games, maintained a 1.10 earned run average, including a 2-0 shutout during the crucial 6th game, and was named the 2003 World Series Most Valuable Player;

Whereas the Marlins won 91 games during the regular season to earn a playoff berth by clinching the National League Wild Card slot;

Whereas the Marlins have never lost a post-season series;

Whereas the Marlins defeated the Western Division Champion and defending National League Champion San Francisco Giants in the National League Divisional Series;

Whereas the Marlins defeated the Central Division Champion Chicago Cubs in the National League Championship Series;

Whereas, during the National League Championship Series, Marlins catcher Ivan Rodriguez batted .321 with 2 home runs and ten runs batted in while playing stellar defense, and was named the 2003 National League Championship Series Most Valuable Player;

Whereas the Marlins team of skilled players, including Josh Beckett, Ivan Rodriguez, Juan Pierre, Jeff Conine, Mike Lowell, Luis Castillo, Alex Gonzalez, Miguel Cabrera, Derek Lee, Juan Encarnacion, Brad Penny, Carl Pavano, Mark Redman, Dontrelle Willis, Ugueth Urbina, Braden Loper, Chad Fox, Michael Tejera, Nate Bump, Rick Helling, Mike Redmond, Brian Banks, Lenny Harris, Mike Mordecai, Todd Hollandsworth, Armando Almanza, Toby Borland, Blaine Neal, Kevin Olsen, Tommy Phelps, Tim Lincecum, Justin Wayne, Ramon Castro, Josh Willingham, Andy Fox, Kevin Hooper, Jesus Medrano, Wilson Valdez, Josh Wilson, Chad Allen, Chip Ambres, Abraham Nunez, Gerald Williams, and A.J. Burnett, contributed extraordinary performances during the regular season, the playoffs, and the World Series;

Whereas Manager Jack McKeon, who was hired on May 11, 2003, provided strong and wise leadership and bold strategy for a young and resilient baseball team during the regular season and in the postseason and, in the words of one columnist, ". . . recapture[d] much of what baseball once was, how tangy it tasted, what a field of honor it celebrated and how its central emotion should be joy";

Whereas the Marlins coaching and support staff, which included Pitching Coach Wayne Rosenthal, Bench Coach Doug Davis, Hitting Coach Bill Robinson, First Base and Infield Coach Perry Hill, Third Base Coach Ozzie Guillen, Bullpen Coaches Pierre Arsenault and Jeff Cox, Team Physician Dr. Daniel Kanell, Trainer Sean Cunningham, Assistant Trainer Mike Kozak, Equipment Manager John Silverman, Assistant Equipment Manager Mark Brown, Visiting Clubhouse Manager Bryan Greenberg, Clubhouse Attendant and Umpire's Room Assistant Michael Hughes, and Visiting Clubhouse Assistant Michael King, exhibited exemplary leadership and guidance to the team;

Whereas Jeffrey Loria purchased the Florida Marlins franchise on February 12, 2002, and stated: "Our goal is to restore the organization to championship form.";

Whereas Jeffrey Loria, Chairman, CEO, and Managing General Partner of the Florida Marlins, David Samson, President of the Florida Marlins, and Larry Beinfest, Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Florida Marlins, have shown a positive commitment to the Marlins franchise by successfully acquiring, assembling, and maintaining a team of high-quality, winning players;

Whereas the dedicated Marlins fans supported their team with joy and enthusiasm; and

Whereas the Marlins captivated the United States with their "never-say-die" playing style during this historic performance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Florida Marlins for winning the 2003 Major League Baseball World Series championship and for their outstanding performance during the 2003 Major League Baseball season; and

(B) Florida Marlins pitcher Josh Beckett for winning the 2003 World Series Most Valuable Player Award;

(2) recognizes and praises the achievements of the Marlins players, coaches, management, and support staff whose hard work, dedication, and resiliency proved instrumental throughout their World Series Championship Season;

(3) commends the Florida community and the Marlins fans for their dedication; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Marlins players;

(B) Marlins Manager Jack McKeon;

(C) Marlins Chairman, CEO, and Managing General Partner Jeffrey Loria;

(D) Marlins President David Samson;

(E) Marlins Senior Vice President and General Manager Larry Beinfest;

(F) the Marlins Coaches;

(G) The Honorable Shirley Gibson, Mayor of the City of Miami Gardens, Florida;

(H) The Honorable Manny Diaz, Mayor of the City of Miami, Florida;

(I) The Honorable Alex Penelas, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Florida; and

(J) The Honorable Jeb Bush, Governor of the State of Florida.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Florida Marlins are World Series champions, again. "The Fish," as they are affectionately known in our hometown, this low-budget baseball team that plays in a football stadium, amazed the sports world by defeating the New York Yankees in the World Series on Saturday night.

Who would have expected the Marlins, in only their 11th year of existence, after starting the year with only 19 wins in their first 48 games, after firing their manager in May, that they would rebound to win their second World Series in the last 7 years. But it was not easy. The Marlins' road to the championship was nearly as bumpy as it was unexpected.

When the Marlins struggled early in the season, many commentators speculated that the season was hopeless and that the team would soon unload many of their veteran players to save money

for the future. Instead, the Marlins did the opposite, aggressively acquiring key players midway through the summer who proved integral to their eventual championship run. Under the direction of new manager Jack McKeon, the Marlins turned it around and began winning. The Marlins finished the season with a relatively astonishing record of 91 wins and 71 losses, and earned the wild card berth in the National League.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Marlins were slated to take on the most feared slugger in baseball, Barry Bonds, and the defending National League champions, the San Francisco Giants. After dropping game one, the Marlins defeated the Giants in three straight games to win the series. Who could forget Jeff Conine's clutch throw from left field to catcher Ivan Rodriguez for the final out in game 4 that clinched the series.

In the League Championship Series, fate seemed to challenge the Marlins as much as their opponents, as the Marlins squared off against the Chicago Cubs. The red-hot Cubs, who had not even advanced to the World Series since 1945, seemed to have a date with destiny as they took a 3-games-to-1 lead on the Marlins in the best-of-7 series. Incredibly, the Marlins again bounced back to win three straight games and the last two in Chicago to defeat the Cubs in this unforgettable classic.

The unlikely Marlins advanced to the World Series to play the giants of baseball, the New York Yankees. Just like during the regular season, and the two previous playoff series as well, no one besides the Marlins themselves and their fans believed they had a chance. Once more, the Marlins fell behind in the series; this time the Yankees captured a 2-games-to-1 advantage. But remarkably, the Marlins were not to be denied. Paced by their pitching ace, World Series Most Valuable Player Josh Beckett, they triumphed in three consecutive games to win a series for the third time. The entire baseball world was stunned as the Florida Marlins became the World Series champions.

The standouts on this Marlins team were many during the season and through the playoffs, and it seemed like a different player excelled each game. Catcher Ivan Rodriguez seemed to always deliver timely hits and great defense. Pitchers Josh Beckett, Mark Redman, Dontrelle Willis, Carl Pavano, and Brad Penny provided underrated performances all year long, and 20-year-old Miguel Cabrera was called up from the minor leagues in mid-June and was one of the most valuable hitters down the stretch; and their double-play combination of Alex Gonzalez and Luis Castillo was perhaps the league's best.

And we must certainly recognize the manager, Jack McKeon, a man who took over the struggling team midway through the year and led them all the

way to a World Series crown. Jack kept the Marlins from unraveling early and motivated them to reach unthinkable heights.

Mr. Speaker, this was the Marlins' second world championship in their short history. It is important to note that the Marlins have never lost a playoff series, winning all six in which they have played.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of House Resolution 415, and I strongly support its speedy adoption. I commend both of my colleagues, the gentleman from Miami, Florida (Mr. MEEK), as well as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), for introducing this timely measure. I congratulate the Florida Marlins for their unforgettable season.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Chicago Bears, Bulls, White Sox and Black Hawks are all in my congressional district; but today, they take a back seat to the Marlins.

Inspiration is what we call this. That is the best way to describe the Florida Marlins, who rose from the ashes, going from 10 games under 500 on May 22 to winning the 2003 World Series.

□ 1515

The road to the World Series title was grueling and draining. The Marlins had to get by Barry Bonds and Company, the Giants, in the division series. Then after trailing 3-1 to the Cubs, again the Marlins came through, beating Mark Prior and Kerry Wood in back-to-back victories at Wrigley Field, sending Dusty Baker and the Cubs back into hibernation, saying wait until next year.

Then the Marlins, who captured the World Series in 1997, won the final three games against the Yankees. They kept their streak intact of never losing a series in the postseason with the help of a 23-year-old right-hander who dominated the playoffs. Josh Beckett threw a five-hit shutout, with nine strikeouts, to clinch the World Series with a 2-0 victory over the Yankees in Game 6. Beckett was subsequently named the series Most Valuable Player.

Marlin's manager Jack McKeon said of Beckett, "Whether it is 3 days or 4 days, guys have a tendency to lose a little, but this guy is special. This guy has got the guts of a burglar. He is mentally tough. I was not about to take him out. It is a spectacular job for a 23-year-old kid that has come on and matured in the postseason. And you are looking at a possible All-Star next year and a 20-game winner. This guy is going to be something special," end of quote.

In the 100th World Series game played at Yankee Stadium on the 100th anniversary of the first World Series, another team got to celebrate on the field other than the 26-time champions.

I am sure that that was not only an inspiration for all of the Marlins, but that was an inspiration to baseball lovers all over the country. That was a kind of rejuvenation, if you will, in many instances of the love of the game of baseball.

So we congratulate the Marlins.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), lead cosponsor of this resolution.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in celebrating the Marlins' win of the World Series. I think we have to recognize that Major League Baseball has perhaps provided the country and the world with the best postseason ever in this month that has just ended. It was an extraordinary series of games, series of series topped off by a wonderful and extraordinary World Series, won by a young and dynamic team that has earned the admiration of the entire world.

Obviously, in south Florida we are extremely proud of our Florida Marlins. They embody in many ways south Florida, from Jack McKeon, the manager, who at age 72 became the oldest manager to lead a team to the World Series, after being called just a few months earlier when he was, in fact, out of a job and many thought that he would never again manage in the Major Leagues, was asked by the front office of the Marlins to come and turn the team around, that they needed someone at the helm with the experience and leadership qualities of Jack McKeon. And what a job he did.

And I think for that job, he needs to be commended. And the front office starting with Jeffrey Loria, the chairman and CEO and managing general partner of the Marlins, and David Samson, the president of the Marlins, and Larry Beinfest, the senior vice president and general manager, what a job they did putting together this young team that faced and defeated a New York Yankees team with over three times the payroll. And, yet, because of the young talent in the Florida Marlins, the Marlins were able to prevail.

What can we say? We can pick example after example that really leaves us in awe. That cleanup hitter, 20-year-old cleanup hitter who just a few months earlier was in AA baseball, in the Minors, and he was called up because he showed such extraordinary talent and Miguel Cabrera became the first 20-year-old since Ty Cobb to bat in the cleanup position in the World Series. What a future he has.

As with so many others in the Florida Marlins, we can go down the roster and analyze and really celebrate the excitement that all of the players represent, from Juan Pierre, that dynamic and really exciting, extraordinarily exciting center fielder, to obviously Ivan

Rodriguez, the catcher, who electrified us all with his plays and his hitting day after day, what a World Series it was. So I am glad that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) have come forth with this resolution which I have joined.

And I think we not only should commend the Marlins for their extraordinary victory and share, obviously, in the celebration that all of south Florida is engaged in, but also remember that this is an opportunity for some tasks that remain undone to be finished.

First I think it is important, and I have full faith and confidence that the front office, the leadership of the Marlins, is not going to do what the ownership did after the last World Series, and that is to basically eliminate that great team, but rather it is our hope, and I am sure that we will see that the nucleus of this team will remain together so that the community can see that team again playing next year and winning, as I am sure that it will.

And we also have in south Florida a great task, which my brother, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART), was heavily involved in just a few years ago when he was in the State legislature in attempting to put together all the pieces that are required for a new stadium. And south Florida needs a new baseball stadium. And I hope that this impetus now that has been gained by this marvelous victory can serve for the community to come together and perhaps dust off the plan that almost succeeded just a few years ago that was a very good and interesting plan, and that a baseball stadium can be built because this team, this dynamic, wonderful team deserves it, and the community deserves it.

And so congratulations to that wonderful team, the Florida Marlins.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK), who himself was an outstanding athlete at Florida A&M, playing outside linebacker before he became an outstanding elected official.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for his very kind remarks as it relates to not only good sportsmanship but recognizing an outstanding team in the Florida Marlins.

We have had many conversations during the series of the Cubs and the Marlins, and he was quite honorable. He was a man of faith in his own team, but not only perseverance but a little magic moved the Marlins along.

I want to thank my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), also the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), who are very fine friends of mine, who are all Marlin fans in Miami-Dade County, including my colleague the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART.)

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to not only congratulate the Marlins, but con-

gratulate those individuals that live in south Florida and throughout the world that are fans of the Marlins, some old and some new. I think the Marlins' victory in the World Series was very good for the country, taking the lead from my good friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), when he was sharing with me that it would be good for the country if the Cubs in Boston would be able to make it to the World Series.

But watching those games, which I had the opportunity to witness some personally in south Florida, I cannot forget the experience not only that the Marlins experienced when we went to Yankee Stadium during the Series, not on Saturday night but the night before that, and we were there, and I ran into my good friend Armando Cadina and his wife Margerete and also his daughter Ann Marie, it was quite an experience because we seemed to be the only Marlins fans in the whole stadium.

Yankees fans, my hats are off to you. You are my future constituents in Florida, so I have to be nice to you. But I just want to say that it was quite an experience for the Marlins to actually win a victory, a 0-2 victory, an outstanding series, an outstanding game in New York on Saturday that I witnessed on television in low temperatures. We are used to 80-plus in south Florida. It was just outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I brought the Miami Herald that was thrown on my lawn on Sunday morning that just simply said "Amazing." And I must say that the Marlins' season was amazing.

Both of my colleagues referenced the manager of the Marlins. I must say that it is a story that I believe that Americans can buy into, that older Americans and wiser Americans still have a lot of contribute to this country. And I think it was his leadership that led this very young team to their second world championship.

And I must say being a young person myself and having great respect for wiser and older individuals, I think that we need to understand in this country, even through the love of baseball, that we need to put that love in our own life practices, making sure that we give those that have contributed in the past an opportunity to contribute again.

And I want to commend not only the Marlins leadership, the president, but also the vice president and managers that they hired Jack McKeon to be the manager of the Marlins once again.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to add that it is important that we continue to not only honor those individuals that won the World Series but also that they put it on behalf of Americans, at a time of war and a time of conflict overseas. It is always good for us to come together as Americans. It is always good for colleagues to come together in such a resolution as this.

This Resolution 415 is a resolution sponsored by every member of the Florida delegation, all 25 members. I

would like to commend them for doing so.

Once again, to the Florida Marlins, we appreciate you, we commend you. We like our New York fans, we like our Cubs fans, we like our Giants fans, but we love our Marlins fans. And the people of Miami had three celebrations, Mr. Speaker, for the Marlins yesterday, one down Flagler Street where they had an outstanding ceremony at the end of that, one in Little Havana, and another one in Ft. Lauderdale with a boat parade.

Marlins, you deserved what you received. I want to thank Mr. Beckett for being the MVP of the World Series. I wish him many, many more seasons.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to a very frustrated Cubs fan, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the resolution. I also want to commend the Florida Marlins. They are a terrific team. Their outfield speed, their pitching, their fans, their coach, is really outstanding. I think it is a pretty good deal.

I saw in the paper the other day that they are only a 15 to 1 team to repeat next year. I think that is a pretty good deal, by the way, particularly now that they signed, resigned Jack McKeon.

I just have one question, though, for the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). And I was a good loser. I helped participate with the Chicago folks in providing Chicago pizza and a few other things for the delegation. I want to ask if there is anything in this resolution, and I admit that I have not read it yet, that either praises that right fielder for the Giants that dropped that ball at the critical point in the play-offs, or Steve Bartman?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman yield?

I am sure that we will be glad to consider any further resolutions in the future, but right now we are just so very proud of the Fish. And I am sure that you would agree that there is always next year.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, there is always next year. We have been saying that for a lot of years, though.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any additional requests for time, but just simply the words of the Cubs: Wait until next year. And we congratulate the Marlins for an exciting year. We will see what happens in the future.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I want to congratulate again the Marlins manager Mr. McKeon, the Florida Marlins team, all the administrators, and everyone involved, including the fans, for the remarkable World Series championship.

I also want to congratulate my colleagues from Florida once again, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) for giving their

support to this resolution being considered by the House today. I urge its adoption. Go Fish.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2003 World Series Champions, the Florida Marlins. Earning the reputation of a team that does not quit or tire, the Marlins defeated the famed New York Yankees in a thrilling 6-game series. Having never lost a post season series, the Marlins defeated the San Francisco Giants in four games and the Chicago Cubs in an exciting seven game series.

The National League Championship Series garnered the excitement and thrill baseball fans have not witnessed in some time. Playing in famed Wrigley Field, the Marlins took Game 1 and headed home to the friendly confines of Pro Player Stadium with a split in the series. Games 3 and 4 went the way of the Cubs resulting in a 3 to 1 deficit that looked monumental to overcome. However, under the leadership of Manager Jack McKeon and behind the arm of pitcher Josh Beckett, the Marlins and Beckett gave baseball fans across the country an exciting two-hit, complete game shutout sending the series back to Chicago. Down 3 games to 2, the Marlins players were never swayed from their sheer competitive spirit and gamesmanship. With the undaunting task of facing Cubs' ace Mark Prior, the Marlins battled the Cubs the entire game. However, with one out in the top of the eighth inning, a World Series berth seemed out of reach. In a span of 10 minutes, the Marlins had turned Game 6 from being down 3-0, to leading 8-3 due to the solid hitting of men like Juan Pierre, Pudge Rodriguez, Miguel Cabrera, Jeff Conine, Derek Lee, and utility fielder Mike Mordecai. The thrilling series was now deadlocked 3 games apiece.

Game 7 is every fan's postseason dream. Two teams tied and playing with everything on the line with the chance of being crowned National League Champions and a trip to the fall classic. As we all know, the Marlins came out swinging against Cubs star pitcher Kerry Wood. Despite losing a lead, the Marlins continued their case of consistent and timely hitting. In the end, the Marlins once again shocked the baseball world. In just 10 short years, the Marlins were headed back to their second World Series—participating in Major League Baseball's 100th World Series.

Behind the outstanding leadership of Jack McKeon, the Marlins stole the show in Yankee stadium by defeating the Yankees in Game 1. Heading back to South Florida, Marlins fans packed Pro Player Stadium cheering this exciting young team on the home field. Battling past the hype of Roger Clemens' final start, the Marlins battled the Yankees winning Game 4 and in a thrilling 12 innings thanks to the game ending heroics of shortstop Alex Gonzalez. Last Thursday, the Marlins, behind stellar pitching by Carl Pavano, sent the Series back to Yankee Stadium leading 3 games to 2. With the stage set for Game 6, Jack McKeon decided on the arm of Josh Beckett to deliver the championship to South Florida. Beckett pitched a gem. A nine-inning complete game, shut out by holding Yankee hitters to five hits in a 2-0 win. What a performance!

Mr. Speaker, this Marlins fan congratulates Chairman and CEO Jeffrey Loria, Skipper Jack McKeon, the Marlins coaching staff, MVP Josh Beckett, each player and the entire Marlins organization and fans on an exciting 2003 World Series.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise today and join my colleagues from the Florida Delegation in commending the World Champion Florida Marlins. It was your classic Cinderella story in which the Marlins knocked out the heavily favored Yankees in a comeback season not soon to be forgotten. Led by skipper Jack McKeon, the Marlins, dealing with the adversity of a coaching change, rebounded from a 16-22 record to finish 91-71, making them only the ninth team in Major League history to rally from at least 10 games under .500 to reach the playoffs. In Game 6 in front of a hostile crowd, McKeon's Marlins, aided by the stout pitching of Josh Beckett, took the World Series title, four games to two. With their second title in the franchise's 11 years, I believe the Marlins are in good hands. Jack McKeon who turns 73 next month, is the oldest coach in any major U.S. professional sport to lead his team to a championship, and I surely hope that he will agree to return for a run at it again in 2004.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Florida Marlins on winning the 2003 World Series. The team is a great source of pride for my home state and proved, against the odds, exactly what it was capable of.

The Marlins certainly had to work hard for their second championship. Their opponent, the New York Yankees, had won four of the last eight World Series. This Florida team surprised many with its victory, but they deserve every bit of praise. Even changing the team's management, mid-season, did not keep them from obtaining baseball's top award.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 2003 World Series Champions, and I congratulate the Florida Marlins on a fantastic season. Your Congress is proud of what you have accomplished.

□ 1530

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 415.

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.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN TO UNITED STATES

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 302) expressing the sense of Congress welcoming President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan to the United States on October 31, 2003.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 302

Whereas for more than 50 years an iron-clad relationship has existed between the United States and Taiwan which has been of enormous economic, cultural, and strategic benefit to both nations;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan share common ideals and a clear vision for