

wish President and Mrs. Reagan the very best.

Ronald Reagan is one of those figures in American history about whom it is very difficult to talk for only a short time. I will simply close by commending the distinguished Senator from Montana for his bill and giving this House the opportunity to remember the national leadership of President Ronald Reagan.

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, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of S. 867, legislation naming a postal facility after Ronald Reagan. S. 867, which was introduced by Senator CONRAD BURNS on April 10, 2003, was approved by voice vote in the Committee on Government Reform on July 10, 2003.

Ronald Reagan was the 40th President of the United States. He served as President from January 1981 to January 1989. At 73, he was the oldest man ever elected President. He was well-known as Dutch, the Gipper, and the Great Communicator. An actor by profession, President Reagan served as Governor of California from 1966 to 1974. During his Presidency, his economic policies came to be known as "Reaganomics."

In 1994, former President Reagan announced that he was afflicted with Alzheimer's. And although a number of facilities have been named after him, schools, streets, highways, a postal facility in West Melbourne, Florida, and even the Washington, D.C. National Airport, a crowning achievement was when President William Clinton dedicated the Ronald Reagan Building in 1998. That building, located in the District of Columbia, houses an international trade center, international cultural activities, the Agency for International Development, and many other entities.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed appropriate that we remember those who have led our country, and naming this postal facility after former President Ronald Reagan fits that description. I would urge swift passage of this bill.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and state again my strong support of Senate bill 867, which names a post office in Billings, Montana, after our illustrious President Ronald Reagan.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 867.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT ALTHEA GIBSON BE RECOGNIZED FOR HER GROUND BREAKING ACHIEVEMENTS IN ATHLETICS AND HER COMMITMENT TO ENDING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND PREJUDICE WITHIN THE WORLD OF SPORTS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 69) expressing the sense of Congress that Althea Gibson should be recognized for her ground breaking achievements in athletics and her commitment to ending racial discrimination and prejudice within the world of sports.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 69

Whereas Althea Gibson was born on August 25, 1927, and lived with her family in Harlem during the 1930's and 1940's;

Whereas Althea Gibson was first introduced to tennis on the Harlem River Tennis Courts and went on to dominate the all-black American Tennis Association tournaments throughout the early 1940's, when racism and segregation prevented her from participating in tournaments sponsored by the American Lawn Tennis Association;

Whereas Althea Gibson graduated from Florida A&M University in 1953, and was an athletic instructor at the Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri;

Whereas Althea Gibson was the first African-American player, either male or female, to be allowed to enter the Forrester Hills, New York, Championship in 1950, after her talents and celebrity forced the American Lawn Tennis Association to reevaluate its policy;

Whereas Althea Gibson was the first African-American invited to Wimbledon in 1951, eventually winning both the women's singles and doubles in 1957, after which she was greeted by New York City with a ticker tape parade;

Whereas Althea Gibson was the first African-American woman to win the championship at the French Open, in 1956;

Whereas Althea Gibson after finishing her amateur tennis career became a professional golfer in 1959 and won the women's tennis professional singles in 1960;

Whereas Althea Gibson was Athletic Commissioner for the State of New Jersey from 1975 to 1977; and

Whereas Althea Gibson was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1971, and to the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame in 1980: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That it is the sense of Congress that Althea Gibson should be recognized for her ground breaking athletic achievements and for continuing to serve as a role model for the Nation's youth.

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 in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 69, the concurrent resolution now 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, House Concurrent Resolution 69 celebrates the remarkable life of Althea Gibson. She was the first African American player to compete at Wimbledon and the U.S. championships. She ultimately won both titles in 1957 and 1958, becoming the first African American to win both tournaments.

Mr. Speaker, more important than her victories has been her presence at these tournaments at which black players had never before competed. She is rightfully known as the "Jackie Robinson of women's tennis," and her courage has had the same incredible impact on her sport that Jackie Robinson had on baseball.

As a young woman, she won 10 straight of the all-black American Tennis Association tournaments beginning in 1948. Her success led her to become quite a celebrity, and the public pressure finally forced the all-white American Lawn Tennis Association to invite her to compete at the U.S. championships in 1950. By the next year, in 1951, Wimbledon invited her to play. Well, not only did she play, Mr. Speaker, but she won both tournaments in 1957, and she won both again the next year. Her skill on the court and her class off the court during this difficult period in American history paved the way for future stars like Serena Williams, Venus Williams, James Blake, Zina Garrison, Arthur Ashe, and others to excel playing the game they love.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly a worthwhile resolution, and I commend the gentleman from New York for working with the Committee on Government Reform for bringing this resolution to the floor. I hope this resolution serves to honor Althea Gibson, for, as the resolution states, her groundbreaking athletic achievements, and for continuing to serve as a role model for the Nation's youth. Althea Gibson's athletic career and her courageous personality are vital threads in the fabric of our Nation's history, and I am pleased that the House is acting on this resolution that pays tribute to her tonight.

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, Althea Gibson overcame unbelievable odds to achieve international acclaim and success. Her journey from Harlem to Wimbledon reveals her strength of character and her

remarkable composure in the face of racial prejudice. She built the foundation on which Venus and Serena Williams and Tiger Woods now stand.

The life of Althea Gibson is much more than a story about a successful tennis champion. It is a story about education, opportunity, hope, perseverance, and the responsibility we all have for helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Althea Gibson was born on August 25, 1927, in the small town of Silver, South Carolina. Her family moved to Harlem in New York City when she was 3. Her family was on welfare. She was a client of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. She had trouble in school and was often truant. She ran away from home frequently.

Tennis, which first came to the United States in the late 19th century, by the middle of the 20th Century had become part of a culture of health and fitness. Public programs brought tennis to children in poor neighborhoods, though those children could not dream of playing in the elite tennis clubs.

Althea played paddle tennis in public recreation programs and became quite proficient. Musician Buddy Walker noticed her playing table tennis and took her to the Harlem River Tennis Courts, where she learned the game and excelled. By 1942, Gibson had won the girls' singles event at the American Tennis Association's New York State tournament, an all-black organization. She won again in 1944 and 1945.

In 1946, two tennis-playing doctors who were active in the black tennis community, Hubert Eaton of North Carolina and Robert Johnson of Virginia, took in Althea Gibson, Eaton during the school year and Johnson during the summer. Gibson, who had dropped out of high school, was made to finish high school and eventually graduated from Florida A&M University in 1953.

In 1950, when Gibson was 23 years old, she was permitted to play at the U.S. Nationals, becoming the first black to compete in the tournament. In 1956, Althea Gibson made history by becoming the first black person to win the French championships. The next year she made history by winning Wimbledon and the U.S. Nationals, the first black to win either. Althea won six out of a total of 11 Grand Slam events, including six doubles titles, on her way to the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame.

Althea Gibson is quoted as saying, "I always wanted to be somebody. If I made it, it's half because I was game enough to take a lot of punishment along the way and half because there were a lot of people who cared enough to help me."

Though Arthur Ashe and the Williams sisters have met their own challenges, Althea Gibson was the first black person of either sex to break the color barrier in national and international tournament tennis at a time

when prejudice and racism were far more pervasive in society and in sports. Althea Gibson was not only somebody, she was someone special.

So we celebrate the life of Althea Gibson by ensuring that our policies and laws lift up and assist the less fortunate among us so that they too may fulfill their dreams and their potential as Althea Gibson did. I commend the gentleman from New York for introducing this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 69.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTORSPORTS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 320) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of motorsports.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 320

Whereas on March 26, 1903, a century of motorsports was inaugurated at an automobile race held on a beach in Volusia County, Florida;

Whereas motorsports are now the fastest growing sports in the United States;

Whereas races are conducted at numerous motorsports facilities located in every State;

Whereas racing fans are able to enjoy a wide variety of motorsports sanctioned by organizations that include Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART), Grand American Road Racing (Grand Am), Indy Racing League (IRL), International Motor Sports Association (IMSA), National Association for Stock Car Automobile Racing (NASCAR), National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), and United States Auto Club (USAC);

Whereas the research and development of vehicles used in motorsports competition directly contributes to improvements of safety and technology in automobiles and other motor vehicles used by millions of Americans;

Whereas 13,000,000 fans will attend NASCAR races alone in 2003;

Whereas fans of all ages spend a substantial amount of time at motorsports facilities participating in a variety of interactive theme and amusement activities surrounding the races;

Whereas motorsports facilities that provide these theme and amusement activities contribute millions of dollars to local and State economies as well as the national economy; and

Whereas tens of millions of Americans enjoy the excitement and speed of motorsports every week; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That Congress recognizes the importance of motorsports and its evolution over the past century and honors those who have helped create and build this great American pastime.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). 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 concurrent 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, Americans have loved speed since anyone can remember, and that is why I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 320 that expresses the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of motorsports.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY).

(Mr. FEENEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), who is a great friend of mine, for yielding me this time.

House Concurrent Resolution 320 expresses the sense of Congress regarding the importance of motorsports in America. If we think about this, it is going to be a great 100-year centennial celebration. I also thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD), who is my cosponsor on this resolution and also helped me to introduce this resolution to honor the 100-year anniversary, which is very important to Americans.

Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago the first sanctioned automobile race was held in Ormond Beach, Florida, on the beach, just slightly north of my district, in the district currently represented by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA). We have come a long way in automobile racing and automobiles in the United States of America since then.

In 1903, automobiles were mostly for the well-off, the rich. These races were sponsored by the Ormond Hotel Association. It was a seasonal gathering place for wealthy northerners down on the beach in Florida, which is a great place to vacation no matter what decade or year or century it happens to be.