

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 978 is a great step towards reasonably assisting Federal employees.

This legislation temporarily doubles the usual Federal employees' retirement system direct benefit of 1 percent of an employee's pay during a period of disability. The added percentage point offsets the reductions in Social Security and the Thrift Savings Plan that would result from an employee's discontinuation of contributions while temporarily disabled.

The Department of Labor, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Personnel Management support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the inspiration of this bill is Mrs. Louise Kurtz, a U.S. Army civilian employee who works at the Pentagon. Mrs. Kurtz was tragically injured when terrorists crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the west side of the Pentagon. Mrs. Kurtz was at work at the Pentagon that day, and she was so severely injured that she remains in rehabilitation today for the burns that affected more than 70 percent of her body. Current law prohibits Mrs. Kurtz from contributing to her retirement program while she recovers and receives workers compensation disability payments. This reality will significantly delay the point at which she will be able to retire. H.R. 978 will allow Federal employees who are injured or otherwise unable to work for extended periods of time to retire on schedule.

Mr. Speaker, the work of Federal employees has become even more critical in the 2 years since September 11. Each and every day, Federal employees protect our homeland, deliver our mail, teach our children, respond to emergencies, and perform countless other essential tasks. H.R. 978 is an opportunity for this House to effectively protect our hard-working Federal employees by addressing an inadequate component of the FERS system. Therefore, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 978.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, introduced by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Chairwoman JO ANN DAVIS), will go a long way to help Federal employees injured on the job and receiving workers compensation. More specifically, this legislation will help Mrs. Louise Kurtz, a Federal employee from Virginia, who was severely injured in the September 11 attack on the Pentagon. She suffered burns over 70 percent of her body and lost all of her fingers. Mrs. Kurtz is going through rehabilitation and would like to return to work some day.

Current law, however, does not allow Mrs. Kurtz to contribute to her retirement program while she is

recuperating and receiving workers compensation disability payments. As a result, after returning to work and eventually retiring, she will find herself inadequately prepared and unable to afford to retire because of the lack of contributions during her recuperation. Federal employees like Mrs. Kurtz under the Federal Employees Retirement System who have sustained an on-the-job injury and are receiving disability compensation from the Department of Labor's office of Workers Compensation Programs are unable to make contributions or payments into Social Security or the Thrift Savings Plan. Therefore, their future retirement benefits from both sources are reduced.

This legislation offsets the reductions in Social Security and Thrift Savings Plan retirement benefits by increasing the Federal Employees Retirement System direct benefit calculation by 1 percentage point for extended periods of disability. The passage of this bill ensures that the pensions of hard-working Federal employees will be kept whole through their injury and recuperation period. I strongly support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers at this time. I urge all Members to support the passage of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 978.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING RAFAEL PALMEIRO OF THE TEXAS RANGERS FOR HITTING 500 MAJOR LEAGUE HOME RUNS AND THANKING HIM FOR BEING A ROLE MODEL FOR THE CUBAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND FOR ALL AMERICANS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 315) congratulating Rafael Palmeiro of the Texas Rangers for hitting 500 major league home runs and thanking him for being a role model for the Cuban American community, as well as for all Americans.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 315

Whereas Rafael Palmeiro hit the 500th home run of his career on May 11, 2003 at The Ballpark in Arlington, Texas, becoming only the 19th player in baseball history to accomplish such an achievement;

Whereas Rafael Palmeiro's achievement places him in the company of baseball's elite, including Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, and Ted Williams;

Whereas Rafael Palmeiro's power swing has been consistent over his 17 years in the major league and this consummate quiet professional is still going strong;

Whereas, with eight consecutive seasons with at least 38 home runs, Rafael Palmeiro has established himself as one of the game's great power hitters;

Whereas, in addition, Rafael Palmeiro has mastered the intricacies of playing his position, first base, becoming a four-time All Star and earning three consecutive Gold Gloves from 1997 to 1999;

Whereas, through dedication and hardwork, Rafael Palmeiro has become one of the superstars of baseball and a future Hall of Famer;

Whereas Rafael Palmeiro is the personification of hard work and determination, and is an inspiration for Cuban Americans, having fled Havana, Cuba with his family in 1971;

Whereas Rafael Palmeiro has become a role model for people of all ages, taking time to work with foster children at the Lena Pope Home in Ft. Worth, Texas, including raising more than \$160,000 for supporting foster children and for encouraging foster parenting; and

Whereas, in addition to all of Rafael Palmeiro's other endeavors, he dedicates time to his wife Lynne and his two children, thirteen-year-old Patrick Ryne and eight-year-old Preston Connor: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives congratulates Rafael Palmeiro of the Texas Rangers for hitting 500 major league home runs and thanks him for being a role model for the Cuban American community, and all Americans, and for inspiring all Americans to persevere and work hard to achieve their dreams.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) 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 currently 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 Resolution 315, introduced by my distinguished colleague from the State of Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), congratulates Rafael Palmeiro of the Texas Rangers for becoming the 19th player in major league baseball history to hit 500 home runs and thanking him for being a role model for the Cuban American community and, indeed, for all Americans.

On May 11, the Texas Rangers beat the Cleveland Indians in a seemingly ordinary early season major league baseball contest. During the game, he

hit his 10th home run of the year. But this home run, Mr. Speaker, the 500th of his career, forever placed Rafael Palmeiro in a select class among baseball's greatest sluggers of all time.

In surpassing the 500 home run milestone, he affords this House a chance to recognize not only his exploits on the field, but also his selfless community-conscious conduct off the field. Mr. Speaker, Rafael Palmeiro was born on September 24, 1964, in Havana, Cuba. He left Cuba as a young boy in 1971 and moved to Miami with his mother and two of his three brothers in pursuit of political freedom. He attended Mississippi State University where he played baseball. Upon his graduation in 1985, Rafael was first selected by the Chicago Cubs in the first round of the amateur baseball draft. Within a year of being drafted, he was also selected and played in the majors where he has remained ever since.

In addition to the Cubs, Rafael played for the Texas Rangers and the Baltimore Orioles. Rafael has hit 523 home runs and batted in 1,676 runs during his outstanding 18-year career.

In between his big hits on the diamond, Rafael hits home runs off the field by staying involved in the lives of children in his community. Rafael makes regular appearances with children through programs such as Make-a-Wish Foundation of North Texas, an organization that makes individuals' wishes come true for children with life-threatening illnesses. Rafael also works with the Lena Pope Home in Fort Worth, Texas, which has educated, counseled, sheltered, and improved the lives of literally thousands of children each year. Rafael and his wife, Lynne, have donated generously to the Lena Pope Home and have helped the organization recruit foster parents.

In addition, this past spring, Rafael orchestrated a 2-week reading challenge for students in the Dallas area. Over 15,000 people participated in the 2-week program, and those students who read at least 500 minutes during the contest were entered into a drawing to attend the Rangers June 14 game, after which Rafael was honored for hitting 500 home runs.

Mr. Speaker, only 18 other players in major league baseball history have hit as many home runs as Rafael Palmeiro, and that alone is worthy of commendation by this House. But this resolution particularly honors Rafael's selfless service to his community.

Today, the House of Representatives, and indeed the entire Nation, salutes Rafael Palmeiro for his success, for living the American Dream, and for helping so many children to achieve their own dreams. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House resolution 315 that honors both the athletic, as well as the philanthropic, achievements of Rafael Palmeiro.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) for introducing this worthwhile measure.

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I congratulate my colleagues from Texas for putting forward this important resolution.

□ 1115

Mr. Speaker, Rafael Palmeiro continues to climb the all-time home run list. On Tuesday, Aug 26, Palmeiro hit his 521st career home run, tying him for 13th place on the list with Willie McCovey and Ted Williams. Palmeiro has 31 home runs this season and is the sixth player in major league history with 30 or more home runs in nine consecutive seasons.

Born on Thursday, September 24, 1964, Palmeiro began his major league baseball career on September 8, 1986, with the Chicago Cubs. However, Palmeiro did not start out as a power hitter. He hit just 25 homers in 258 games for the Cubs before being traded to the Texas Rangers after the 1988 season. In his first season in Texas, Palmeiro hit 8 homers in 156 games and then led the American league with 191 hits with just 14 homers in 1990. Palmeiro had 203 hits, a league-high 49 doubles and 26 homers in 1991.

As he got stronger, Palmeiro learned to pull the ball and the numbers started to build. He had 37 homers and 105 RBI's in 1993. He then left Texas as a free agent for Baltimore. Palmeiro had 182 homers and 553 RBI's in 742 games over 5 seasons in Baltimore before returning to the Texas Rangers. Along with his homers, Palmeiro also has 3 Gold Gloves at first base. He has never been on the disabled list, averaging 157 games a year since 1988.

Rafael Palmeiro is also very active in the community and has hosted the Raffy Readers reading program and is helping to build a youth baseball field in Colleyville, Texas.

I congratulate Mr. Palmeiro for his contributions to the game of baseball and the community.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the sponsor and author of this resolution. Play ball.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) who, as a proud Cuban-American, is also a member of the Republican baseball team, a person who enjoys not only supporting other Cuban-Americans but also our baseball team, and to be joined by my good friend, the gentleman from the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), also a Cuban-American.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I come to the floor this morning to speak on H. Res. 315, honoring Texas Ranger first baseman Rafael Palmeiro for his amazing feat of hitting his 500th career home run. This resolution hon-

ors not only Rafael's accomplishments in major league baseball which are numerous, but also his many off-field contributions which are just as important.

Rafael is the epitome of hard work and professionalism, and I am proud to honor him today, this individual who puts his family, his team and his community before himself.

On May 11, 2003, Rafael Palmeiro hit his 500th home run at the ball park in Arlington Texas, becoming only the 19th player in baseball history to do so. With his 500th home run, Palmeiro joined the company of baseball's elites like Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, and Ted Williams. In fact, since May 11 when he accomplished this feat, Palmeiro has now moved to 13th on this exclusive list of 500 home run hitters.

Mr. Speaker, beyond the statistics and the numbers, however, Rafael Palmeiro has done significant work by making a difference in his community. Whether it is encouraging foster parents through his hard work at the Lena Pope Home in Ft. Worth, Texas or encouraging kids to read with his Raffy's Readers program, Palmeiro is an ardent spokesman for children's causes.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a sampling of Rafael Palmeiro's actions in giving back to his community. This, on top of spending time with his lovely wife, Lynne, and their two sons, Patrick Ryne who is 13, and Preston Connor who is 8. Rafael Palmeiro has become a role model for people of all ages with his on- and off-the-field accomplishments.

I am proud to be the lead co-sponsor of this bill honoring a fine man who is a shining example of the things that a kind and good person can achieve in their life.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), one of the co-sponsors and authors of this resolution and an important leader in this body.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the leaders on the bill. I am pleased to join my colleagues from Texas this morning in honoring Rafael Palmeiro of the Texas Rangers, a major league baseball team, for his accomplishment in reaching the 500 home run marker in May.

Along with his honors, he also has numerous other hitting records, 3 Gold Gloves at first base and he has never been on the disabled list. But it is not just his excellence on the field that explains why he has legions of fans across Texas and the country. He is a man of outstanding character. He is humble even though he is distinguished and destined for the Hall of Fame.

It is his humility that he takes out into our community, contributing to so many important causes in the Dallas, Ft. Worth area, the Lena Pope Home in Ft. Worth, Shoes for Orphan Souls, and his own organization, Raffy's 500 Club.

Throughout his career, he has spent his time encouraging foster parenting, actively participating in the Make a Wish Foundation, encouraging our youth to read, and raising money for numerous disease research foundations.

He is an inspiration to all of people of all ages and he means so much to us in the Dallas, Ft. Worth metroplex. I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of this bill. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) for highlighting the hard work and dedication of Rafael Palmeiro.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), who will be batting clean-up for our team. The gentleman is a good Cuban-American, a baseball fan who follows the Florida Marlins, the Yankees, and now I know, the Texas Rangers.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is very appropriate that the Texas delegation is united behind this resolution. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) brought it forward. I recall I have had the privilege of meeting Rafael Palmeiro. He is an extraordinary human being, a man of great decency. He had made it clear, by the way, that when he was playing up here, in a team near here, that he wanted to return to Texas because he is a proud Texan and he loves that State very much and its people. So that is why I think it is important for the Texas Delegation to be leading this effort today, and it is the right thing to do for this Congress to honor this man.

He is not only an extraordinary athlete but, as I said before, a very decent human being. A loving family man, he is extremely generous with his family, compassionate, as he is with his community. He is also a patriot and that is another reason why I admire him so much. I know of his love for freedom.

For example, he refused to go back to Cuba. He says he will not do it as long as the dictatorship is in power. As a matter of fact, when he was playing for the Orioles here and the owner of that team was recruited by this campaign that wants to open relations with Castro and help the dictatorship and the team was sent to Cuba, he refused, Rafael Palmeiro. So he stands up for his principles. He is a man of principle, a man of decency.

He has a wonderful family and he helps his community in Texas in an extraordinary fashion. So for so many reasons we are very, very proud of him. Obviously, the entire island of Cuba looks to him as an idol, but really the entire American nation also. This great United States of America admires him because of his extraordinary accomplishments. And so to that human being, we, the Congress of the United States, today sends not only our esteem but our admiration.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Texas

delegation who have brought forward this resolution for doing so. It is a privilege for me to be able to stand today on behalf of this resolution honoring this great man and extraordinary athlete, Rafael Palmeiro.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), who, along with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), is the lead author and sponsor of this important resolution.

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rafael Palmeiro of the Texas Rangers for hitting 500 home runs and to thank him for his outstanding contributions to the local community.

Known both for his powerful swing and golden glove at first base, Raffy, as he is known to many fans, joined an elite club on May 11 when he became only the 19th player in baseball history to hit 500 major league home runs.

Mr. Speaker, Rafael Palmeiro has been a constant example of hard work and quiet dedication to his sport. He is a four-time All-Star and was awarded three consecutive Gold Glove awards from 1997 to 1999. Known for his rock solid dependability, he has never spent a day on the disability list and has missed astoundingly few games each season. With the exception of the strike-shortened 1994 season, he has played an average of 157 games in each 162-game season of his career.

He is currently three home runs short of tying Jimmie Foxx's record of 9 straight years with 35 or more home runs. Since 1993, only Barry Bonds and Sammy Sosa have hit more home runs.

Mr. Speaker, Rafael Palmeiro has become a role model for people of all ages. Having fled Cuba with his family in 1991, he remains a hero within the Cuban-American community. Additionally, his dedication to the local community, as we have already heard, for his work with foster children and families in Ft. Worth has made him a leader both on and off the field. My wife, Kathy, and I just recently attended a reception at the ball park sponsored by Raffy on his Shoes for Orphans program, a program that he has spent a great deal of his time on recent years.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the honor of watching Rafael Palmeiro play at the ball park in Arlington in my congressional district. He deserves special recognition for his tremendous achievement and I look forward to the day when he will join the likes of Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron and Roberto Clemente in Cooperstown at the baseball Hall of Fame. I know my colleagues will join me today in congratulating him and in wishing him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

I would like to add and note to the management of the Texas Rangers ball

club. I hope that the management of our great club will find a way to extend Raffy's contract when it runs out at the end of this year so that he may finish his career as a Texas Ranger.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), an important leader, not only on this resolution, but in this body.

(Mr. SERRANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, I come to join today in celebrating what is a fabulous career and a fabulous human being. Just think of it, over 15,000 people, men have played professional major league baseball and only 19 have hit over 500 home runs. And Rafael Palmeiro has done it, and this is my personal opinion, in a way that is really unique. He is not 6'-5". He is not 250. He is not muscular, but he has one of the prettiest swings you will ever want to see on the baseball field.

□ 1130

Every time he connects, somebody my size wonders how is that ball going to take off, and it always manages to take off; but I also come for a special reason.

Through a dear friend of mine, Juan Gonzalez, the Texas Rangers outfielder, I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Palmeiro this summer and sit with him a couple of hours and speak with him about baseball and other things; but I was amazed at how warm and strong he was in dealing with everybody around him, especially when you are sitting somewhere in public and every fan comes over for an autograph, every fan comes over to talk to you; and he took the time to speak to every child, and he took the time to speak to every fan that came over. That meant a lot to me, but a lot of folks just do not want to be bothered when they play ball, and they take the money. So I wanted to come and join this tribute.

Rafael Palmeiro is without a doubt a future Hall of Famer and he has done it in typically following the American Dream, coming from Cuba looking for a better way, a better life for his family, for himself, as a child, graduating from college, being drafted and playing day after day after day. I am always amazed also at the fact that this man does not ever seem to get hurt. He just continues to play and play and play.

I, like so many other Americans, so many people throughout the world, love the game of baseball. It is part of who I am as a person; and to have him play it the way that he does is just absolutely great, and because I got to know him, I got to even enjoy his baseball even more.

So I want to thank the sponsors on both sides of this resolution. This gentleman really deserves this tribute. He is one of the all-time greats. Baseball

is still, in my opinion, the best game and certainly our greatest export throughout the world and Latin America; and I come to celebrate Mr. Palmeiro today on his career and what would certainly be induction into the Hall of Fame very soon.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I also have no other speakers.

Again, I congratulate the gentleman from Texas for introducing this legislation, and I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 315.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 315.

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.

#### COMMENDING CLEMSON UNIVERSITY TIGERS MEN'S GOLF TEAM FOR WINNING 2003 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I MEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 266) commending the Clemson University Tigers men's golf team for winning the 2003 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Golf Championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 266

Whereas on Friday, May 30, 2003, the Clemson University Tigers men's golf team won the 2003 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championship, the first National Championship for the Clemson men's golf team;

Whereas the Tigers finished the Championship with a four-round total of 1191 strokes, for 39 shots over par, beating the second place Oklahoma State University Cowboys by two strokes;

Whereas the Tigers won the National Championship on the home course of Oklahoma State University, one of the most decorated golf schools in the Nation;

Whereas the Clemson golf team was the first in NCAA history to win its conference championship, a NCAA regional title, and the National Championship in the same year;

Whereas the Tigers started the year and ended the year as the number one ranked team in the Nation;

Whereas the Tigers finished the season with a 128-8-3 record against opponents ranked in the top 25 teams in the country, which amounts to an incredible winning percentage of 93 percent, by far the best in the Nation and the best in Clemson history;

Whereas all of the Tigers players who participated in the NCAA Championship are native-born South Carolinians;

Whereas players D.J. Trahan, Jack Ferguson, and Matt Hendrix were honored as All-Americans for the 2002-03 season;

Whereas Head Coach Larry Penley won the Golf Coaches Association of America's Dave Williams Award as the National Coach of the Year;

Whereas the Clemson University men's golf team has displayed outstanding dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the season in achieving collegiate golf's highest honor; and

Whereas the Tigers have brought pride and honor to the State of South Carolina: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Clemson University Tigers for winning the 2003 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Golf Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the team's players, coaches, and staff and invites them to the United States Capitol Building to be honored in an appropriate manner;

(3) requests that the President recognize the team's accomplishments and invite the team to the White House for a ceremony in honor of their National Championship; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Clemson University for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to each coach and member of the 2003 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championship team from Clemson University.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 266.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 266. I would like to thank my hardworking colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT), for bringing this resolution forward.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes the achievement of the Clemson University men's golf team, the Tigers, for their NCAA Division I national collegiate championship. Clemson became the first school in NCAA history to win its conference championship, gain the NCAA regional title and the national championship all in 1 year.

The national championship Tigers deserve recognition for winning the title by just two shots over host school Oklahoma State University after starting the day just one stroke apart. Clemson finished with a 72-hole team total of 1,191, 39 strikes over par. The championship Tigers will enter the 2003-2004 season with a streak of 18 consecutive top three finishes, a Clemson record. In addition to inspiring the team victory, three players distin-

guished themselves from the field by being named to the All-America teams at the conclusion of the season.

Coach Larry Penley was named National Coach of the Year by the Golf Coaches Association and was the first Clemson coach in any sport to win a National Coach of the Year in over 10 years.

The distinction earned by these individuals and the remarkable repeat victories of the team reflect the dedication of each player, the leadership of Coach Larry Penley, and the support of family, friends, and fans.

I extend my congratulations to each of the hardworking players on this successful Tiger team, to Coach Penley, President Jim Barker, and to student body president Fletcher Anderson and all the students of Clemson University. I am happy to join my colleagues in honoring the accomplishments of this team and to wish them continued success.

I would like to pause briefly now to relay the news I learned this morning of the death of a real institution in South Carolina. According to the Associated Press, Jim Phillips, whose voice carried the dreams and disappointments of Clemson fans for 36 years, died yesterday at age 69. Jim Phillips, the voice of the Tigers, did the play-by-play for Clemson baseball, football, and men and women's basketball. He will be missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution, and I particularly am happy to be presenting this today in that my family has association with Clemson University. My son is a senior, Julian, who has been an intern here in Congress. I am very proud of his association, following in the footsteps of his late grandfather, Julian Dusenbury, who was a Clemson graduate.

I am also pleased that the communications director of the second district congressional office, Wesley Denton, is a Clemson graduate and also the health care legislative assistant, Micki Howard.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

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

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

I rise in support of this resolution, and I commend and congratulate the gentlemen from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT), (Mr. SPRATT), (Mr. CLYBURN), (Mr. DEMINT), (Mr. BROWN), and my friend (Mr. WILSON) for their authorship and sponsorship of this resolution. I can understand why the South Carolina delegation is so justifiably proud of the young men who have achieved so much on the links.

Among the very most important classrooms, teaching places in our system of our higher education, is the field of athletic competition. There is a reason why we want to encourage colleges and universities around our country to continue educating young men