

those who are Braves fans, to support House Resolution 660.

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Randy Johnson on his perfect game. Throughout his long career, Mr. Johnson has been a fierce opponent with his vicious change-up and scorching fastball. On May 18, Mr. Johnson achieved perfection. At the age of 40, and after being awarded the Cy Young award in both the American and National Leagues, Randy Johnson threw a perfect game. He is the oldest pitcher to achieve this athletic triumph.

With this achievement, Mr. Johnson joins an elite class of pitchers that spans the history of America's game and include baseball legends Cy Young, Don Larsen, Sandy Koufax, and Catfish Hunter.

Mr. Johnson has been one of the pre-eminent pitchers in baseball over a career that has spanned 17 years. We congratulate Randy Johnson for pitching a perfect game and recognize him for a brilliant pitching career.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG).

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 660 and to congratulate and honor Randy Johnson of the Arizona Diamondbacks, more affectionately known to us in Arizona as "The Big Unit." As I think everyone knows, on May 18 of this year in an extraordinary feat against the Atlanta Braves, Randy Johnson became only the 17th pitcher in the history of major league baseball to throw a perfect game. That is right. Twenty-seven Atlanta Brave hitters came to the plate, and 27 Atlanta Brave hitters went down.

Now, many of us strive for perfection in many aspects of our lives, but it is rarely achieved; but not only did Randy Johnson do this on May 18, but he was at the time 40 years old, making him the oldest pitcher in Major League Baseball to throw a perfect game.

Now, prior to that, Cy Young, in whose name a famous award is given each year, at the age of 37 had been the oldest pitcher to throw a perfect game, having done it 100 years ago in 1904.

Randy Johnson is also only the fifth pitcher in major league history to throw no-hitters in both the American and the National Leagues. In fact, Johnson's previous no-hitter came in 1990 while pitching for the Seattle Mariners.

Johnson grew up in Livermore, California, where his father, Bud, was a police officer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. As a young boy, Randy would practice pitching against his garage door, pretending to be in the big leagues. Even at 8 years old, John-

son threw the ball so hard it would pop nails loose from the wood siding. After he was done, his father would proudly come up to him and hand him a hammer and tell him to go put the nails back into the wall.

Standing 6 feet 10 inches and with a 38-inch arm, Johnson is one of the most intimidating pitchers in all of the game of baseball; and it has earned him, as I indicated, the nickname "The Big Unit."

Randy Johnson's perfect game will certainly fit nicely within his already very, very impressive list of accomplishments.

Throughout his 21 years in Major League Baseball, Randy Johnson has won a World Series, beating the New York Yankees in 2001; during his tenure, he has been named World Series co-MVP, along with former Diamondback pitcher Curt Schilling; thrown no-hitters in both the American and National leagues; as I mentioned, won the Cy Young Awards in both the American and National Leagues; and set multiple strikeout records, trailing only Nolan Ryan, Roger Clemens, and Steve Carlton on the all-time strikeout leaders list.

By pitching a perfect game, Randy Johnson joins an elite class of pitchers that spans the ages and includes some of the all-time baseball greatest. In his quest for perfection, Randy Johnson threw only 117 pitches, 87 of which were strikes. He struck out the first 13 of 27 hitters he faced, utilizing his blistering fastball and devastating slider to perfection, and went to a three-ball count on just one Braves hitter.

To understand just how perfect "The Big Unit" was on this night, we need only look at the radar gun on his very last pitch. Randy Johnson's 117th pitch of that night, his final pitch, was clocked at a shocking 98 miles an hour.

Randy Johnson is considered one of the best pitchers in Major League Baseball today and has set a course that will lead him straight to Coopers-town. I am very proud to honor him in this effort.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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 Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 660.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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 H. Res. 660, the resolution just considered.

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

There was no objection.

#### CONGRATULATING DETROIT PISTONS ON WINNING THE 2004 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 679) congratulating the Detroit Pistons on winning the 2004 National Basketball Association championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Res. 679

Whereas on June 15, 2004, the Detroit Pistons defeated the Los Angeles Lakers to win the 2004 National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship;

Whereas the Pistons defeated the Milwaukee Bucks four games to one in the first round of the playoffs;

Whereas the Pistons defeated the defending Eastern Conference Champion New Jersey Nets four games to three in the hard fought Eastern Conference Semifinals;

Whereas the Pistons defeated the Indiana Pacers, the number one seeded team in the Eastern Conference, four games to two in the Eastern Conference Finals;

Whereas the Pistons defeated the Lakers four games to one in the NBA Finals, winning their first NBA Championship since 1990 and becoming the first Eastern Conference team to win the championship since 1998;

Whereas the gritty offense of the Pistons was lead by Richard Hamilton, who averaged more than 21.5 points and 4.2 per assists per game throughout the NBA playoffs;

Whereas Rasheed Wallace overcame a foot injury to provide 26 points and 13 rebounds in the crucial game four victory;

Whereas Ben Wallace, a two-time NBA defensive player of the year and three-time member of the NBA All-Defensive First Team, brought the working-class mind-set to the Pistons and symbolizes the Pistons stifling defense;

Whereas Tayshaun Prince played tenacious defense and prevented Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant from being an effective scorer against the Pistons;

Whereas Chauncey Billups was voted the Most Valuable Player of the Finals for his outstanding performance throughout the NBA playoffs, averaging 21 points and 5.2 assists while only committing 2.6 turnovers per game;

Whereas Head Coach Larry Brown did an outstanding job preparing the Pistons for victory over an exceptional Lakers team and became the first head coach to win both the NBA and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Basketball Championships;

Whereas former Piston and current President of Basketball Operations Joe Dumars, Coach Brown, and assistant coaches John Kuester, Mike Woodson, Dave Hanners, Herb Brown, and Igor Stefan Kokoskov have provided strong leadership and solid coaching, resulting in a basketball team in which teamwork and hard work are the rule and not the exception;

Whereas Pistons fans have shown undying support for their team, leading the league in attendance in a year where attendance records were broken throughout the NBA;

Whereas the Pistons exemplify what can be achieved by a talented group of players working together for a common goal;

Whereas the Pistons have shown that basketball remains a team sport and have reminded fans that the game is still a team game with fundamentals at its heart and soul;

Whereas sportswriter Eric Neel wrote of the Pistons, "Once upon a time, there was a shared ball on offense and a shared responsibility on defense. In their Game 5 victory, as in the previous four games, it was that time all over again. We've got retro jerseys and throwback sneakers, now we've got a world champion from back in the day, to go with them.";

Whereas the success of the Pistons is a result of contributions from the entire roster of players, including Chauncey Billups, Elden Campbell, Darvin Ham, Richard Hamilton, Lindsey Hunter, Mike James, Darko Milicic, Mehmet Okur, Tayshaun Prince, Ben Wallace, Rasheed Wallace, and Corliss Williamson; and

Whereas the Pistons displayed tremendous strength, ability, and perseverance during the 2003-2004 season, attributes that are reflective of the hardworking people of the metropolitan Detroit region and the State of Michigan, and have epitomized the team slogan "Goin' to work. Every night.": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Detroit Pistons for winning the 2004 National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship and for their outstanding performance during the entire 2003-2004 season; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and staff of the Pistons, who were instrumental in helping the Pistons win a third NBA Championship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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 resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

June 15, 2004, is a date to be remembered throughout the metropolitan Detroit area and the entire great State of Michigan. On this Tuesday night, the underdog Detroit Pistons ended a phenomenal season by defeating the Los Angeles Lakers 100-87 to win the 2004 NBA championship four games to one.

Heading into the series, the Lakers were the overwhelming favorites to defeat the Pistons, but the Pistons possessed one defining characteristic which did not show up on paper: they

were a group of dedicated teammates working toward a common goal.

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This team, under the great leadership of Coach Larry Brown, showed unprecedented teamwork and desire. And it was a beautiful thing to watch.

The Pistons are really fitting representatives for the people of Southeast Michigan. They might not be media superstars. They might not have the Hollywood elite watching them from their courtside, but they have a blue-collar work ethic and they thrive on great teamwork. And when everything is working against them and their backs are up against the wall, they rise to the occasion. The Pistons proved that strong defense and selfless play can deliver overwhelming victory.

Mr. Speaker, the "Bad Boys" of Detroit are back; and the people of Michigan are proud to call this team our own. The Pistons motto is "Going to work." Their spirit and their desire is a reflection of Michigan. This attitude is not pretty. It is not flashy. It is grit. It leads to scraped elbows, bloody noses. But most importantly, it conceives a desire to get the job done.

Team president Joe Dumars, a great champion as a Pistons player himself, took control of the team when a championship was really only a dream. He brought in players who display the same work ethic as he was known for as a player. He hired coaches who understand the role of individuals within a team and who could get these players to perform to their full potential, and despite the critics, the results speak for themselves. Well done Joey D.

Mr. Speaker, prior to the championship series, people around the Nation were not giving the Detroit Pistons a chance. But as the series progressed, it became apparent who was the best team in the NBA.

Finals MVP Chauncey Billups was scoring and passing with the heart of a champion. Rip Hamilton ran circles around defenders. Ben Wallace defended and rebounded like a man possessed. Fear the 'fro, NBA. Rasheed Wallace provided veteran leadership and intimidation like no one else. Tayshaun Prince scored and defended with an elegance that seemed effortless.

And when the Detroit bench was called to duty, the players answered the call. Each and every player knew that as a team, they would be successful, they knew that the work would not be done until the final buzzer.

Mr. Speaker, the entire team showed what teamwork and hard work can do, and Larry Brown was the perfect coach. No coach in sports is more respected than Larry Brown, and I can speak for all Pistons fans in hoping that he will call himself a Detroit Piston for many years to come.

And, finally, Mr. Speaker, we cannot honor the Pistons without mentioning their owner, Bill Davidson. He is a great man who is renowned for his gen-

erosity in his charitable works, not just in Michigan or in Southeast Michigan, but throughout our entire Nation and, in fact, the world. His players are a reflection of him, hard working, selfless, and they care about their communities. I congratulate and thank Mr. Davidson.

So, Mr. Speaker, the House solutes the Detroit Pistons for winning the 2004 NBA championship, and after the fireworks have gone off and the parades are over, one team stands above all the rest, the Detroit Pistons.

I encourage all Members to agree to House Resolution 679.

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take the time today to congratulate the Detroit Pistons on their inspiring run through the NBA season and playoffs and on their first NBA as championship since 1990.

Behind the leadership of the legendary Head Coach Larry Brown, the Pistons displayed a sense of purpose and energy often missing in the NBA game today.

On the court a trio of stars and an excellent supporting cast led the team brilliantly. Despite suffering a broken bone in his face, Richard Hamilton led the Pistons offensively all season and played his best basketball of the season in the playoffs, when he averaged 21.5 points per game.

The Pistons' vaunted defense was led all season by two-time NBA defensive player of the year, winner Ben Wallace, who brought a no-nonsense style to the Pistons.

Though one of the league's best teams last year, team finally came into championship form in mid-season this year when a trade brought forward Rasheed Wallace to the team. Mr. Wallace's veteran experience was the final piece needed as the Pistons stormed through the regular season and the playoffs.

In the finals, the Pistons were regarded as the heavy underdog to the Los Angeles Lakers. However, once again, the Pistons bucked these seemingly insurmountable odds and won the championship series in games. This was basketball at its best.

In closing, I join my colleague. I too want to congratulate the Pistons for their spectacular season, and I look forward to watching them bring the same sort of excitement to basketball again next year. It was basketball, good basketball, wonderful basketball.

I have a lot of relatives living in Detroit, and they were rooting for the Pistons, and I was rooting with them for the Pistons. Go Pistons, go.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Unfortunately, I missed the last game because we were here voting, but

I was at game 4, where I had my thundersticks. Go Pistons.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the Detroit Pistons on winning this year's National Basketball Association championship. It has been 14 long years since the Pistons last brought the Larry O'Brien championship trophy home, but their hard won victory of defeating the Lakers is the epitome of the teamwork at its absolute best. If ever a championship fits the personality of a community, this one does.

The Pistons entered this year's NBA tournament as the definitive dark horse. While Detroit's stifling defense was universally acknowledged, few outside of the Detroit Metro area and the Piston fan diaspora thought the Pistons' gritty offense and stifling defense could beat the defending Eastern Conference Champion New Jersey Nets. However, the Pistons, like they did all year, proved their critics wrong. Demonstrating the strength and determination that would become their hallmark in the series against the Lakers, the Pistons came back to win the series against the Nets after a triple overtime loss in Game 5 as well as a heart breaking loss to the Lakers in game 2 of the Finals. Indeed, the Pistons' ability to rebound after stunning losses have gained the admiration of America.

This team was about true sportsmanship and selflessness. Every Piston could vie for the Most Valuable Player award because each of them played with remarkable fortitude and consistence. Whether Detroit won because of the stepped up play of Richard "Rip" Hamilton (averaging over 21.5 points and 4.2 assists per game throughout the post-season), Ben Wallace's season-long hard nosed defensive leadership (averaging a double-double in points scored, with 10.3 per game, and rebounds, with 14.3 per game), Chauncey Billups's post-season play against the Lakers (averaging 21 points and 5.2 assists for the Pistons despite being guarded by two future Hall of Famers, Gary Payton and Kobe Bryant), or the tremendous Pistons bench. They are a true model of what can be achieved with team work: success.

I am particularly excited that the city of Detroit won this championship at this time. Mr. Speaker, during the past few years the Metro Detroit area has lost tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs, some of which will never come back to this great city. The Detroit Pistons winning this championship has brought back hope and a sense of optimism that Detroit desperately needs. Specifically, the team's motto, "Goin' to work. Every night," exemplifies the strength and tenacity both of the Pistons and of the great citizens of Detroit.

The moral of this championship is that you never know what you can achieve until you try. Go Pistons.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Detroit Pistons. Tuesday night, playing at the Palace of Auburn Hills in my district, the Pistons defeated the Los Angeles Lakers to win the 2004 NBA championship.

From top to bottom, the Pistons were a model of teamwork and dedication. Owner Bill Davidson provided the foundation for the Pistons' championship and has been a positive member of the Detroit and southeast Michigan community for years. President of Basketball Operations Joe Dumars built this team and coach Larry Brown molded the Piston players into a cohesive, team-first group.

This has been a very exciting season for the people of Michigan. They have embraced the Pistons, as millions outside of Michigan have. Fans identified with this team. The Pistons represented core American values of hard work, persevering through difficult times, and sharing both success and failures with family and loved ones.

I want to thank the Pistons and everyone in their organization for giving us from Michigan a team to be proud of.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to join my Michigan colleagues in congratulating the Detroit Pistons on winning the 2004 National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship. This is truly a remarkable achievement and the entire city of Detroit and the State of Michigan are very proud. I have had the pleasure of representing the city of Auburn Hills, location of The Palace, home of the Detroit Pistons. I have also been lucky enough to see firsthand the Detroit Pistons in action there.

On June 15, 2004, the Pistons defeated the Los Angeles Lakers to win the title. This amazing accomplishment came from a great team comprised of players Chauncey Billups, Elden Campbell, Darvin Ham, Richard Hamilton, Lindsey Hunter, Mike James, Darko Milicic, Mehmet Okur, Tayshaun Prince, Ben Wallace, Rasheed Wallace, and Corliss Williamson.

I am especially proud of Pistons Forward Darvin Ham who is a Saginaw, Michigan native. His mother is Wilmer Jones-Ham, the mayor of Saginaw. Darvin played high school basketball at and graduated from Saginaw High School. He went on to play college basketball at Texas Tech University where he helped lead the Red Raiders to a 1996 NCAA Sweet 16 appearance. Darvin played an integral role with the team and is highly deserving of the championship ring he will now wear.

Darvin and the rest of the Pistons who many had said could not compete with the Lakers are truly representative of Saginaw and the entire State of Michigan. Their hard work and never-say-die attitude will hopefully bring them more championships in the very near future. Once again, I congratulate the Detroit Pistons for winning the 2004 NBA Championship.

[From the Saginaw (MI) News, June 16, 2004]

"MAMA HAM" CHEERS DARVIN

(By Greg Mancina)

"Mama Ham" was doing a jig early this morning while waiting for her World Champion son, Darvin, to come back out of the Detroit Pistons locker room in The Palace of Auburn Hills.

"I'm trying to keep my composure, but it's hard," admitted Wilmer Jones Ham, called "Mama Ham" by the Pistons players.

"The winning spirit of victory is in the air."

That winning spirit came from a 100-87 shellacking of Shaquille O'Neal's Los Angeles Lakers Tuesday that gave the Pistons their third NBA title and Darvin Ham his first championship ring after what many national pundits are calling the biggest upset in NBA Finals history.

The Pistons were low-down underdogs to the powerful L.A. Lakers, and its star-studded roster, bench and crowd. But something happened on the way to their coronation—a better team showed up, one that included Saginaw's Darvin Ham.

"I'm just trying to soak it all in," said Ham, who finally emerged from the locker

room and popped into the team's post-game dinner in an upstairs dining room at the Palace at about 2:30 a.m. "We did it, baby!"

And Darvin Ham knew it all along.

"I knew back in February we had a championship quality ballclub," he said.

Now the rest of the world knows it, too.

"Don't nobody play D like this, never, ever, not for the long periods of time that we keep our defensive pressure consistent at that high of a level," Ham explained. "It is nothing like anything that's come along in the NBA."

"Larry Brown preached defense, rebound, share the ball, defense, rebound, share the ball, defense, rebound, share the ball, and it rings true. That's why he won a championship in college and in the NBA.

"It's not rocket science, it's a simple formula, but I wish I could bottle it up and create a championship wine cellar so I can pop it open whenever I want."

Adding to Ham's championship experience was sharing it with his family, his mother, and the more than 250 extended family members who somehow found a way into the Palace for Game 5.

"God allowed me to give birth to a World Championship basketball player," Wilmer Jones Ham said. "Isn't that something?"

Wilmer Jones Ham, the mayor of Saginaw who Darvin says "has a bigger name than I do," attended her first basketball game in its entirety since a fainting spell during a City Council meeting last month.

The mayor went to Game 4 of the NBA Finals on Sunday, but could only stay until halftime "by doctor's orders."

But Tuesday was different. Tuesday was close-out day for the Pistons and there was no way Ham was going to miss what turned into the title-clinching victory.

"Guess what? I stayed the whole time and I'm wringing with sweat," Wilmer Jones Ham said. "My heart has been beating, it's never stopped fluttering."

"I would sit down and put a cold rag to my head, saying to myself 'exhale, inhale, exhale, inhale.'"

The mayor sat in the first row along the baseline by a basket and near enough to the Pistons' bench that they kept asking "You alright Mama Ham? You alright?"

"She got to see the important (game)," Darvin Ham said. "It's been incredible."

The family atmosphere also permeates the team, said Darvin Ham, who said that in all of his NBA stops he's never experienced anything like the camaraderie he's had with this team.

"Joe Dumars created an environment where it's easy to come to work, and you look forward to seeing your teammates," Darvin Ham said.

And right on cue, the Palace turned into a hug-fest after the victory.

"Everybody is holding onto Darvin, hugging him," Wilmer Jones Ham said.

"This just shows you that hard work pays off," she explained. "They can be an example for all young people—you don't give up, you don't throw in the towel."

Darvin Ham is practically the poster child of not throwing in the towel.

A reserve player on his Saginaw High School basketball team, Ham worked through junior college to latch onto a scholarship at Texas Tech.

Then he turned his reputation as a defender and "banger" into a profession, first playing in one of basketball's minor leagues before signing an NBA free agent contract with the Denver Nuggets.

He played for five more teams before finally landing in Detroit in September of last year.

Darvin Ham came to the Pistons as a defensive specialist and used his work ethic

and infectious personality to catch the attention of coach Larry Brown, who also gave Mama Ham a hug after the final horn.

Ham earned extended playing time in early-season games, and two starting assignments, based on his work ethic and defense in practice, an attitude Brown was trying to instill in the rest of his team.

"I earned my minutes and recognition through the practice floor," he said.

"Darv is such a good-hearted person and they told me he is the joy of the team," Mama Ham said. "He's the mover and the shaker, 'Hey, we can do it. We can work through it.'"

In 370 career NBA games, Ham's averaged 3.0 points and 2.5 rebounds in 13.3 minutes per game, and he's had to bang a lot of bodies in practice to earn those minutes. In Detroit this season, he averaged 1.8 points and 1.7 rebounds in 54 games.

"It's just being focused and competing," Darwin Ham said. "Everybody matters. We all pushed . . . Darko (Milicic) pushed our big guys every day in practice. That's stuff not written about in the papers and people don't get to see it. The thing I love the most is they recognize that around here."

The fans will recognize that over the next few days when Ham and his teammates have a slate of parties, parades and rallies planned beginning Thursday morning.

"I'm not sleeping until Labor Day," Darwin Ham said.

Greg Mancina is a sports writer for The Saginaw News. You may contact him at 776-9670.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the Detroit Pistons and their Coach, Larry Brown, for winning the 2004 National Basketball Association Championship, defeating the Los Angeles Lakers, four games to one.

Congratulations for Most Valuable Player Chauncey Billups, Richard "Rip" Hamilton who was the high scorer for the Pistons in game five with 21 points, leading rebounder Ben "Fear the Fro" Wallace with 22 rebounds, Tayshaun Prince with his great defense against Kobe Bryant, and Rasheed Wallace who helped neutralize Shaquille O'Neal and scored 11 points.

The Detroit team displayed unstoppable teamwork, determination and perseverance to bring this championship to Detroit. I credit former Detroit "Bad Boy" and President of the Detroit Pistons' organization, Joe Dumars for assembling this team. He traded Grant Hill for Ben Wallace and acquired Rasheed Wallace in a trade in February. Dumars was on the Detroit Pistons' Championship teams in 1989 and 1990.

The Las Vegas betting lines had the Pistons the 6-1 underdogs going into the finals against the Lakers. I suppose a lot of people lost a lot of money after this team pulled off the biggest upset in NBA finals history.

This is a great year for Pistons' owner Bill Davidson whose Detroit Shock won the WNBA Championship last season, Tampa Bay Lightning won the Stanley Cup this season and now the Detroit Pistons winning the NBA Championship.

This team believed in themselves and the Detroit fans knew they could win it all. Go Pistons—National Basketball Association World Champions 2004.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Detroit Pistons on winning the 2004 National Basketball Association Championship. After only five games, the Detroit Pistons won their third NBA title June 15, with

a 100-87 victory over the heavily favored Los Angeles Lakers. The Pistons showed great strength under pressure and proved that desire, perseverance and teamwork could triumph over talent, experience and individual play. I applaud their hard work and their championship.

I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Chauncey Billups, Ben Wallace, Mike James, Darvin Ham, Lindsey Hunter, Mehmet Okur, Tayshaun Prince, Rasheed Wallace, Darko Milicic, Richard Hamilton, Corliss Williamson and Elden Campbell.

Furthermore, I also want to congratulate Pistons owner William Davidson, team executives Tom Wilson and Joe Dumars and Coach Larry Brown. Their vision has once again returned the Larry O' Brien Trophy home to Detroit where it rightfully belongs.

The Detroit Pistons has made Metro Detroit and the State of Michigan proud. Their teamwork has taught Michiganders that you do not need stars to win a championship, you need unity. Once again, I congratulate the Detroit Pistons and their leaders on winning the 2004 NBA Championship.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 679 congratulating the Detroit Pistons on winning the 2004 National Basketball Association championship on June 15, 2004. We must always recognize honor where honor is due. The Pistons' win against the Lakers in the 5th game of the series this year is admirable and therefore, must be honored.

This commemoration will go a long way. In celebrating this win, we congratulate the players. They are more than just athletes, but they are also role models, fathers, brothers, sons, and husbands. Under the leadership of Coach Larry Brown these players came together to form the most outstanding team of 2004.

Indeed, the Pistons are outstanding off the court as well. We must acknowledge the Pistons' work in the Detroit community. From establishing 4 reading and learning centers, holding an essay contest, and running book drives and clothing drives for needy children in the winter, the team shows that it is committed to giving back to the community that gives so much to them.

And certainly the citizens of Detroit must be commended for their support of the Pistons. At Pistons' games, the love of team abounds. Families, friends, and fans pack bleachers at every game and show the Pistons what love is all about. This year the Pistons and the citizens of Detroit are reaping the rewards of hard work. In Texas, we recognize when hard work pays off. Today, we ask that Washington do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 679.

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.

## WESTERN SHOSHONE CLAIMS DISTRIBUTION ACT

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 884) to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Western Shoshone identifiable group under Indian Claims Commission Docket Numbers 326-A-1, 326-A-3, and 326-K, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 884

*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 "Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act".

### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMITTEE.—The term "Committee" means the administrative committee established under section 4(c)(1).

(2) WESTERN SHOSHONE JOINT JUDGMENT FUNDS.—The term "Western Shoshone joint judgment funds" means—

(A) the funds appropriated in satisfaction of the judgment awards granted to the Western Shoshone Indians in Docket Numbers 326-A-1 and 326-A-3 before the United States Court of Claims; and

(B) all interest earned on those funds.

(3) WESTERN SHOSHONE JUDGMENT FUNDS.—The term "Western Shoshone judgment funds" means—

(A) the funds appropriated in satisfaction of the judgment award granted to the Western Shoshone Indians in Docket Number 326-K before the Indian Claims Commission; and

(B) all interest earned on those funds.

(4) JUDGMENT ROLL.—The term "judgment roll" means the Western Shoshone judgment roll established by the Secretary under section 3(b)(1).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) TRUST FUND.—The term "Trust Fund" means the Western Shoshone Educational Trust Fund established under section 4(b)(1).

(7) WESTERN SHOSHONE MEMBER.—The term "Western Shoshone member" means an individual who—

(A)(i) appears on the judgment roll; or

(ii) is the lineal descendant of an individual appearing on the roll; and

(B)(i) satisfies all eligibility criteria established by the Committee under section 4(c)(4)(D)(iii);

(ii) meets any application requirements established by the Committee; and

(iii) agrees to use funds distributed in accordance with section 4(b)(2)(B) for educational purposes approved by the Committee.

### SEC. 3. DISTRIBUTION OF WESTERN SHOSHONE JUDGMENT FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Western Shoshone judgment funds shall be distributed in accordance with this section.

(b) JUDGMENT ROLL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a Western Shoshone judgment roll consisting of all individuals who—

(A) have at least ¼ degree of Western Shoshone blood;

(B) are citizens of the United States; and

(C) are living on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) INELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—Any individual that is certified by the Secretary to be eligible to receive a per capita payment from any other judgment fund based on an aboriginal land claim awarded by the Indian Claims Commission, the United States