

The prayers of a grateful Nation and a grateful Congress go out to all the families that have lost a loved one in defense of America's freedom. I ask that the House honor the memory of Illinois' lost son, Marine Captain Ryan Beaupre, by passing H.R. 3538, renaming the Saint Anne, Illinois, post office after our fallen hero of the war against terror.

I especially want to thank my two distinguished colleagues, the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, for joining me on the floor today to help with this legislation and also thanks to my colleagues as well as ask unanimous support for this legislation.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members support the passage of this important legislation, and 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 pass the bill, H.R. 3538.

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 DETROIT SHOCK FOR WINNING 2003 WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 392) congratulating the Detroit Shock for winning the 2003 Women's National Basketball Association championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 392

Whereas on September 16, 2003, the Detroit Shock won the 2003 Women's National Basketball Association championship, defeating the 2-time defending champion Los Angeles Sparks;

Whereas the Shock finished at the top of the Eastern Conference with an outstanding 25-win season;

Whereas the Shock defeated the Cleveland Rockers 2 games to 1 in the first round of the playoffs;

Whereas the Shock defeated the Connecticut Sun 2 games to none in the Eastern Conference finals;

Whereas in the finals against the Sparks the Shock won 2 straight games after losing the opening game;

Whereas Ruth Riley scored a career-high 27 points in the final game;

Whereas in the final game Deanna Nolan nailed a 3-pointer with 53 seconds remaining, and made 4 out of 4 free throws down the stretch;

Whereas 22,076 attended the final game, setting a new attendance record for the WNBA;

Whereas the Shock made an unprecedented turnaround in the 2003 season under the leadership of their coach, the former Detroit Pistons and NBA champion Bill Laimbeer, who was named 2003 WNBA Coach of the Year;

Whereas Coach Laimbeer and his staff of Laurie Byrd, Pamela McGee, and Korie Hlede provided strong leadership and solid coaching, resulting in a basketball team which has been undeniably dominant in regular and postseason play;

Whereas many other individuals have contributed to the Shock's success, including athletic trainer Laura Ramus;

Whereas the Shock's success resulted from contributions from the entire roster of players, including Swin Cash, Allison Curtin, Barbara Farris, Cheryl Ford, Kedra Holland-Corn, Sheila Lambert, Astou Ndiaye-Diatla, Deanna Nolan, Elaine Powell, Ruth Riley, Stacey Thomas, Petra Ujhelyi, and Ayana Walker;

Whereas 3 Shock players, Cheryl Ford, Swin Cash, and Deanna Nolan, were named to the all-WNBA second team;

Whereas Cheryl Ford was named 2003 WNBA rookie of the year, receiving 49 out of 54 possible votes;

Whereas Ruth Riley was named Most Valuable Player of the 2003 WNBA Finals MVP;

Whereas the WNBA and the Shock exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship and success, and help to encourage the participation of women in professional sports; and

Whereas the Shock have displayed great strength, ability, and perseverance this season, which are all reflective of the hard-working people of the metropolitan Detroit region and the great State of Michigan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Detroit Shock for winning the 2003 Women's National Basketball Association championship and for their outstanding performance during the entire 2003 season, and congratulates all of the 8 WNBA teams who played in the postseason;

(2) salutes the achievements of all of the players, coaches, and staff of the Shock, who worked hard and who were instrumental in bringing the City of Detroit its first WNBA championship;

(3) commends the Los Angeles Sparks for a valiant performance during the playoff finals and for displaying their strength and skill as a team; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Shock players, Head Coach Bill Laimbeer, and President and team owner William Davidson.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) 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 on H. Res. 392, 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 as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 392 congratulates the Detroit Shock for winning the 2003 Women's National Basketball Association championship; and first of

all, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for introducing this resolution, and I also want to thank all of my fellow colleagues from the Michigan delegation who have joined me in cosponsoring H. Res. 392.

Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 2003, the Detroit Shock defeated the 2-time defending champion Los Angeles Sparks to win their first WNBA championship. The Shock team is comprised of a wonderful group of women who continue the strong tradition of professional basketball in Michigan. In fact, the Shock are coached by one of the leaders of the 2-time NBA champion Detroit Pistons, the ultimate bad boy, the baddest of the bad boys, Bill Laimbeer.

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Under the leadership of Coach Bill Laimbeer and of his staff of Laurie Byrd, Pamela McGee, and Korie Hlede, the Detroit Shocks made an unbelievable turnaround during the 2003 season to become champions. The team won 25 games last summer, after winning only nine games the year previously.

In an era where some athletes are embroiled in steroid scandals, salary contract negotiations, and legal battles, the women of the Detroit Shocks, and I think the entire WNBA serve as a valuable role model to millions of young girls. I applaud every member of the Shock roster for their dedication and for their hard work, and I thank them for their commitment to our community. Even though they are champions on the court, each member of the team is a champion in her own right off the court as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Detroit Shocks have made the metropolitan Detroit area and the great State of Michigan proud. In fact, 22,076 fans attended the final game of the season, which was a new attendance record for the WNBA. Three of their players, Cheryl Ford, Swin Cash, and Deanna Nolan were named to the all-WNBA second team; and Ruth Riley 2003 WNBA finals MVP. But unlike many professional teams in sports today, there are no individuals on this team. They are simply the Detroit Shocks, and they are champions.

Mr. Speaker, I support House Resolution 392.

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

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

The Detroit Shocks proved they were the best team in the league last September when they came from behind and knocked out the two-time defending champions the Los Angeles Sparks before the league's largest crowd in history, with a score of 83 to 78.

The Shocks started the game with a 14-point lead, but the Sparks kept coming back. With less than a minute left in the game, Deanna Nolan nailed a three-pointer from the corner and gave the Shocks a 75-73 lead. Then Cheryl Ford hit three free throws and it was a four-point lead with 43 seconds left.

Just when you thought the Shocks had it all wrapped up, the Sparks made a comeback, twice. But the Shocks pulled out a win, and a franchise that was down and out a year before was accepting the Women's National Basketball Association championship.

Head Coach Bill Laimbeer and his staff of Laurie Byrd, Pamela McGee, and Korie Hlede provided strong leadership and solid coaching. This has resulted in a basketball team that is hard working and dominates on the basketball court.

The Women's National Basketball Association and the Detroit Shocks exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship and success, and as such, have encouraged girls and women across the country to participate in professional sports. I congratulate them on a well-deserved win and urge the passage of this resolution.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the women of the Detroit Shock Women's National Basketball Association team. On September 16, 2003, the ladies of the Detroit Shock made history with their first ever Women's National Basketball Association championship, defeating the 2-time defending champion Los Angeles Sparks. Through the leadership of Rookie of the Year Cheryl Ford, Playoff MVP Ruth Riley, and Coach Bill Laimbeer, the Shocks displayed strength, resolve and the highest standard of sportsmanship.

It is fitting that H. Res. 392 will be passed today, just one day after International Women's Day and during National Women's Month. This month we are celebrating the great strides women have made in society, and must recognize and highlight the advancements women have made in professional sports. Since the passage of Title IX, which mandates gender equity in school sports, we have seen women's athletics flourish as a tool for empowering young girls. College basketball programs across the country have produced some of the most dynamic athletes of our time—including Cheryl Ford and Ruth Riley of the Shock, as well as Diana Taurasi of the University of Connecticut. These young women are clear examples to the younger generation of girls that the pursuit of athletic excellence can produce the highest rewards for women and men alike.

The Detroit Shock team has made metropolitan Detroit and greater Michigan proud by displaying the trademark Michigan values of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. We honor these women for their strength and resolve, and for being leaders of the next generation of women in sports. We look forward to another win this year!

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

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I urge all Members to support the adoption of H. Res. 392, 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. 392.

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.

CONGRATULATING THE SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES FOR WINNING THE 2003 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER CUP

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 475) congratulating the San Jose Earthquakes for winning the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 475

Whereas on November 23, 2003, the San Jose Earthquakes defeated the Chicago Fire to win the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup;

Whereas the Earthquakes achieved a 14-7-9 regular season record to finish 1st in the Major League Soccer Western Conference;

Whereas the San Jose Earthquakes finished an extraordinary season by overcoming injuries, adversity, and multiple-goal deficits to reach the Major League Soccer Cup championship match;

Whereas in the championship match, the San Jose Earthquakes and the Chicago Fire scored 6 goals combined, breaking the Major League Soccer Cup championship match scoring record;

Whereas the Earthquakes' Head Coach Frank Yallop led the team to victory;

Whereas the Earthquakes' team of world-class players, including Jeff Agoos, Arturo Alvarez, Brian Ching, Jon Conway, Ramiro Corrales, Troy Dayak, Dwayne De Rosario, Landon Donovan, Todd Dunivant, Ronnie Ekelund, Rodrigo Faria, Manny Lagos, Roger Levesque, Brain Mullan, Richard Mulrooney, Pat Onstad, Eddie Robinson, Chris Roner, Ian Russell, Josh Saunders, Craig Waibel, and Jamil Walker contributed extraordinary performances throughout the regular season, playoffs and Major League Soccer Cup;

Whereas San Jose midfielder Ronnie Ekelund scored in the 5th minute of play, tying Eduardo Hurtado for the fastest goal scored in a Major League Soccer Cup championship match;

Whereas with the victory, San Jose captain Jeff Agoos won his 2nd Major League Soccer Cup for the San Jose Earthquakes and his 5th Major League Soccer Cup overall;

Whereas San Jose forward Landon Donovan, who has been named United States National Team Player of the Year twice, scored 2 goals on 2 shots in the championship match, earning the Honda Major League Soccer Cup Most Valuable Player Award;

Whereas by winning the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup, the San Jose Earthquakes join DC United to become the 2nd team in Major League Soccer history to win the Major League Soccer Cup more than once;

Whereas the Earthquakes have brought great pride to the City of San Jose and to the State of California;

Whereas Major League Soccer has become extremely popular in only 8 seasons; and

Whereas the success of Major League Soccer has contributed to the growing popu-

larity of soccer in the United States in recent years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the San Jose Earthquakes for winning the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup;

(2) recognizes the achievement of the San Jose Earthquakes' players, coaches, staff, and supporters in bringing the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup to San Jose;

(3) commends the San Jose community for its enthusiastic support of the Earthquakes; and

(4) expresses the hope that Major League Soccer will continue to inspire fans and young players in the United States and around the world by producing teams of San Jose's high caliber.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) 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 to include extraneous material on H. Res. 475.

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.

Mr. Speaker, last November, in the championship match of the 2003 Major League Soccer season, the San Jose Earthquakes defeated the Chicago Fire 4 to 2. The win clinched the Earthquakes' second MLS title in three seasons. House Resolution 475 deservedly congratulates the San Jose Earthquakes for winning the Major League Soccer Cup. With this championship, San Jose became only the second team in MLS history to win two Cups.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the long soccer season, the steady leadership of Coach Frank Yallop guided the Earthquakes to 14 wins. And after winning the MLS Western Conference crown during the regular season, the Earthquakes rallied from behind in both the Conference Semifinals and the Conference Championship matches to reach the Championship. In the final match, the Earthquakes outlasted the Chicago Fire in the highest scoring MLS Cup final ever, winning 4 to 2.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Yallop earned his second MLS Cup with the victory, and he became the second coach in league history to lead two championship teams. Also noteworthy, the Earthquakes' star forward Landon Donovan became the first player to score two goals in an MLS Cup final match. He earned the MLS Cup's Most Valuable Player award for his performance.

Mr. Speaker, the 2003 season was certainly one to remember for the San Jose Earthquakes' players, for their coaches, for their support staff, and