

2004. He was 35 years old. His loss was made more tragic because it came just 2 days before he was due to return home with his comrades in the 351st Military Police Company, based in Ocala, Florida. He is survived by his loving wife, Jennifer, and his two loving children, Marisa and Reese.

Nothing could be more appropriate or fitting than to name this post office after Sergeant Mastrapa. Mastrapa was a Reservist and a postal letter carrier who worked full time at this post office on Montgomery Road in Altamonte Springs. I hope and pray that the dedication of this facility in Altamonte Springs will be a meaningful reminder of Arthur's life and service to his family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors. The Mastrapa family needs to know that the heartfelt thoughts and prayers of all the Members of the House of Representatives are with them. We join them in mourning their loss.

The United States of America owes its security and freedom to people like Arthur Mastrapa. Sergeant Mastrapa and our Armed Forces have helped to prevent another attack against America since September 11, 2001, by taking the war on terror straight to where our enemies live and plot. Certainly, the wonderful democratic election in Iraq on January 30 was in no small part possible to Sergeant Mastrapa's heroism.

I know the Iraqi people, like all Americans, would thank Arthur if they could.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the House leadership for selecting this bill for floor consideration, and I greatly thank my distinguished colleague from Florida for working on H.R. 324. I urge all Members to support this honor for Sergeant Arthur Mastrapa.

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 H.R. 324, legislation naming the postal facility in Altamonte Springs, Florida, after Arthur Stacey Mastrapa. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) on January 25, 2005, and unanimously reported by our committee on February 9, 2005, enjoys the support and co-sponsorship of the entire Florida delegation.

Mr. Mastrapa was a city letter carrier at the Arthur Springs Post Office who served in the United States Army Military Police in Iraq when he was killed in action on June 16, 2004. He was 35 years old and due to return home the week that he was killed.

Arthur Stacey Mastrapa joined the U.S. Army in 1992 and served at the Redstone Arsenal in Alabama and later in Germany. He left active duty in 1998 and joined the U.S. Army Reserve. He became a letter carrier casual in Altamonte Springs and soon earned a career appointment.

Sergeant Mastrapa was called back to active duty in 2003 to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom. During his military service, he earned medals for good conduct and service in the national defense. He received two Army Achievement medals and ribbons for service in military law enforcement.

Sergeant Mastrapa was a loving family man. He left behind a wife and two children and many, many relatives in the central Florida area, Cuba, Michigan, and Australia. He was also loved and respected by his co-workers at the post office.

Designating the post office in Altamonte Springs, Florida, is an excellent way to honor the memory of Arthur Stacey Mastrapa.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for sponsoring this measure. I urge swift passage of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY), my distinguished colleague, the sponsor of H.R. 324.

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends from Pennsylvania and Illinois who did a great job describing the sacrifice that Mr. Mastrapa gave to his country on behalf of the citizens of Iraq and, actually, freedom throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor a man who honored us and dedicated his life to serving others. I thought I would take a few minutes to share some of the hometown effects of the loss of Sergeant Mastrapa.

Arthur Stacey Mastrapa put country and others above self. He possessed a unique calling for both service and optimism that left a mark on the lives of all he met.

His sister-in-law, Tracy Mastrapa, described this calling: "He dedicated his life to public service, first in active duty as a military police officer, then as a postal worker, and finally as a Reserve MP. He was called to serve his country, which he did proudly with the utmost integrity."

His calling led him to join the Army in 1992 and then as he left the Army, to reenlist in the Army Reserves after his active duty years ended.

His career outside the Reserve was also in service of his fellow citizens, this time in central Florida. As a postal worker in Altamonte Springs, Florida, he earned the respect of those around him. One of his colleagues said of his work, "I respected him for his positive outlook and his level head. Also, his customers remarked how much they liked him and appreciated his dedication. He was a hard worker and good family man."

Two years ago, Sergeant Mastrapa answered the call to serve for what turned out to be the final time. He and his Reserve unit, the 351st Military Police, were deployed to Iraq. Last June in Iraq, Sergeant Mastrapa made the ultimate sacrifice.

All human beings strive to occupy a valued place. One observer has offered this definition for this desire: "You occupy a valued place if other people would miss you if you were gone."

Mr. Speaker, Arthur Mastrapa occupied a valued place. He left behind a wife, Jennifer, and two children Marisa and Reese. They, along with the rest of his family, miss him terribly.

His co-workers miss him as well. One described Sergeant Mastrapa as a man who "loved his job, loved his family, loved his country."

Another said, "I only knew him a short time but it was long enough to know what a great guy he was. Arthur was a family man. He loved his kids and wanted them with him all of the time."

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So in an attempt to honor a man who occupied a valued place, his coworkers requested that a special place be named for him, the post office in Altamonte Springs, Florida, the very place Sergeant Mastrapa worked prior to leaving for Iraq for what turned out to be his final journey.

Today, we are here to carry out his colleagues' wish so they are reminded of Arthur Mastrapa when they arrive for work each new day, and so his wife, his children, his family and his friends can come to see his name and remember his service, his sacrifice and his decency.

In closing, I would like to borrow from the words of President Harry Truman who said, "We know that helping others is the best way, probably the only way to achieve a better future for ourselves."

Arthur Stacey Mastrapa's desire to help others and serve his country has made the future a better place to live. I urge my colleagues to approve H. Res. 324 and create a lasting memorial to Sergeant Mastrapa's name.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H. Res. 324, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 324.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. DENT. 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 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS FOR WINNING SUPER BOWL XXXIX

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 86) congratulating the

New England Patriots for winning Super Bowl XXXIX.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 86

Whereas on February 6, 2005, in Jacksonville, Florida, the New England Patriots defeated the Philadelphia Eagles by a score of 24 to 21 in Super Bowl XXXIX to win the National Football League (NFL) Championship;

Whereas the Patriots' victory in Super Bowl XXXIX resulted in their third championship in the last four years, the first being a 20 to 17 victory over the St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI and the second being a 32 to 29 victory over the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl XXXVIII;

Whereas the Patriots' victory over the Eagles clinched back-to-back championships for the first time in franchise history;

Whereas in winning Super Bowl XXXIX, the Patriots became only the second franchise in NFL history to win three Super Bowls in four years;

Whereas beginning during the 2003 season and stretching into the 2004 season, the Patriots won 21 consecutive games, 18 during the regular season and 3 during the post-season, setting franchise and league records for consecutive victories;

Whereas owner Robert Kraft, through sound management and by instilling a team-first philosophy, has made the Patriots the model NFL franchise;

Whereas Head Coach Bill Belichick, Offensive Coordinator Charlie Weis, and Defensive Coordinator Romeo Crennel, stressing teamwork and determination, led the Patriots to their ninth straight playoff victory by winning Super Bowl XXXIX and to their second consecutive 14 win regular season, advancing to the Super Bowl by defeating the record-setting Indianapolis Colts and the number one seeded Pittsburgh Steelers in the American Football Conference (AFC) playoffs;

Whereas the Patriots' ability to win despite serious injuries is a testament to the coaching staff and the desire of the team to defend their title and win another Super Bowl;

Whereas wide-receiver Deion Branch, who had a record-tying 11 catches for 133 yards, was selected as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Super Bowl for the first time, joining two-time Super Bowl MVP quarterback Tom Brady as the only Patriots in NFL history chosen to receive this prestigious award; and

Whereas all of New England is proud of the accomplishments of the entire Patriots organization and the dedication of the faithful New England fans throughout the 2004-05 NFL season: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives congratulates the National Football League Champion New England Patriots on their extraordinary victory in Super Bowl XXXIX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. 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. 86, the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to be a new Member of the House. I look forward with great anticipation to this body's numerous deliberations on consequential issues in the months and years ahead. Engaging in debate for this resolution, however, is unfortunately not one that I have looked forward to.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 86 congratulates the New England Patriots on winning Super Bowl XXXIX over the Philadelphia Eagles 24 to 21 on February 6, Super Bowl Sunday. As a big Eagles' fan myself, I know the rules of the House preclude me from wearing this hat, but I thought I would just show it to our audience. I am a dear and devoted Eagles' fan, but I had a very tough day, as did millions of other Eagles' fans across the country.

With this Super Bowl title, their third in the last four seasons, the Patriots have indeed earned their place atop the football world, and they deserve this honor from the House.

On behalf of all Members, I salute the Patriots for solidifying their place as one of the most successful dynasties in NFL history.

In this era of great parity in the NFL, the Patriots' recent success may not soon be replicated. Their three Super Bowls put New England in a class with other great franchises in pro-football history, like the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1970s, the San Francisco 49ers in the 1980s, and the Dallas Cowboys in the 1990s.

This was the Patriots' ninth straight win in the playoffs over the past 4 years, which equals the great run of Vince Lombardi's Green Bay Packers during the 1960s as the best pro-season stretch of all time. Led by their infallible coach Bill Belichick, quarterback Tom Brady, safety Rodney Harrison and Super Bowl MVP Deion Branch, the Patriots continued to do whatever it takes to win big games, and the Brady branch connection proved too much for the Eagles. They have won each of their three Super Bowls by just three points, but Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize our Philadelphia Eagles for their outstanding season as well.

The Eagles went 13-3 during the regular season and reached the Super Bowl for the first time since 1981 and the second time in team history. Quarterback Donovan McNabb has been their catalyst all season. He threw for a whopping 357 yards and three touchdowns on Super Bowl Sunday, and wide receiver Terrell Owens, who broke his leg and tore a knee ligament just 7 weeks before the Super Bowl, returned for the first time and remarkably caught nine passes for 122 yards.

Over 130 million Americans are estimated to have watched at least part of the Super Bowl, nearly half of all residents. Super Bowl Sunday has become an unofficial holiday in this country,

and for the third time in 4 years, the New England Patriots, and the Brady branch connection in particular, proved to all of us that they are indeed the champions of football.

Mr. Speaker, while I am indeed heartbroken and crestfallen in the wake of the Eagles' loss, I want to sincerely congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) both for the success of his Patriots and for moving forward this resolution on the team's behalf.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), a son of New England and a very proud Patriots fan.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for the time.

I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for asking for this time for a resolution to honor our great New England Patriots who now go down into history as one of the greatest football teams of all time, and in honor of that, I have a very brief poem that I thought I would read to honor this great family and great team.

To the New England Patriots:

The New England Patriots we proudly honor today, they've won three Super Bowls in 4 years with their remarkable play.

From top to bottom, the Patriots have clearly shown why in football's history books they will be known.

For their great example both on and off the field the principles of hard work and team play they never yield.

It starts with Bob Kraft, Myra and kin, whose motto is simple, with class we shall win.

Belichick and Pioli then constructed their teams about which others could only have dreams.

Because the coaching is so great on both defense and offense the outcomes of Pats games are almost never in suspense.

But on the field, it's the players who win each big game and every one of them belongs in a winner's Hall of Fame.

Quarterback Tom Brady is a football legend in the making. He's never lost a playoff game, leaving opponents with heads shaking.

Corey Dillon in the backfield, Deion Branch the Super Bowl MVP; and how about Troy Brown playing not just one way but three?

Rodney Harrison at safety, Teddy Brewski linebacker inside and veterans McGinest and Vinatieri playing with great pride.

So after a season with 14 victories, the playoffs were ready to begin. Peyton's Colts came calling first, but Romeo's "D" made their heads spin.

The next stop was Pittsburgh for an appointment with Big Ben, but the rookie was no match for the Pats. They won by two scores and then.

They faced off against the Eagles in Super Bowl XXXIX and victory, sweet victory, was theirs for a third time.

Discipline and focus, a new standard for teamwork has been set with Kraft and Belichick at the helm, more trophies they are sure to get.

Now one thing is for certain, fans and experts all agree, the New England Patriots are football's newest world-class dynasty.

We honor Bob Kraft and his wife Myra, his son Jonathan, his entire family, the coaches, the players and the greatest fans in the world, the New England fans, for the incredible season that just culminated with great anticipation for the one that will begin again this fall.

I thank again the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for this resolution, and I thank the gentleman from Illinois for recognizing me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Mr. FRANK's resolution and join with the entire New England delegation in honoring the remarkable achievements of the Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots. In the interest of good sportsmanship, I also want to commend the Philadelphia Eagles and their owner Jeffrey Lurie for a terrific season.

Mr. Speaker, the New England Patriots have redefined teamwork. Even as individual accomplishments are recognized and rewarded at every turn in professional sports, the New England Patriots have demonstrated that winning championships is all about teamwork. Without question the Patriots are a team filled with extremely talented football players, but each puts the team ahead of his own statistics and accolades.

This philosophy, and this incredible record of winning with class, is a tribute to Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots, and the organization he has built. His son Jonathan has been there every step of the way as this team has traversed the path to greatness.

The team is fortunate to have Bill Belichick, who brings an outstanding work ethic and knack for teaching football to this enterprise. And Scott Pioli continues to be a player personnel phenom. As every fan in New England knows, Bill is a coaching genius, and a man who now finds himself in the elite company of the legendary Vince Lombardi. What's more, he assembled an outstanding staff of assistants, notably Defensive Coordinator Romeo Crennel and Offensive Coordinator Charlie Weis. The coaches' game day schemes kept opponents guessing all through this past season as the Patriots won 14 games, through the playoffs in blowout victories over Indianapolis and Pittsburgh, and right on into the Super Bowl match-up and win against the Philadelphia Eagles.

So the Patriots have a great owner and great coaches—and they have certainly demonstrated that they also have great players—guys who put the team first—and guys who can win championships. Led by the amazing Tom Brady who has never lost a playoff game—he can beat you with his heart or his head. The team has an outstanding offensive line and receiver corps—Deion Branch tied a Super Bowl record for receptions and was named the game's Most Valuable Player. In the backfield, the combination of Corey Dillon and Kevin Faulk wore down defenses and

racked up yards. On defense, everyone contributed—Tedy Bruschi, Mike Vrabel, Ted Johnson, Richard Seymour, Roosevelt Colvin—the secondary led by Rodney Harrison, and the omnipotent Willie McGinest, the wily veteran who hasn't lost a step. And then you have the extraordinary Troy Brown. He exemplifies how Patriot players put the team first. Troy is a receiver and returns punts ordinarily, but when injuries began piling up in the Patriots secondary—Troy learned to play in the defensive backfield.

Mr. Speaker, the New England Patriots have left an indelible mark in the football history books, clearly establishing themselves as the first sports dynasty of the 21st Century. They represent the very best of New England and have earned the adoration of their fans—Patriot Nation. I congratulate Bob, Myra and Jonathan Kraft, Coach Belichick and all of the coaching staff and each and every player for an exciting season, and a fantastic post-season, and for winning their third world championship in four years.

I thank Mr. FRANK for introducing this resolution.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for the time, and I would like to thank my distinguished colleague for such a gracious introduction to this resolution, especially from Pennsylvania, which not only saw the Patriots beat one Pennsylvania team but two Pennsylvania teams. So I thank him for that very gracious recognition.

The New England Patriots have a motto. It is always team first and team above everything else, and when we talk about the New England Patriots, we talk about the full roster of 53 people and how from 1 to 53 they play as a unit, and they subvert all of their individual goals to that of the team winning and the team winning playoff games.

It begins with the ownership of the team, the Kraft family, who have shown vision and determination in building a new stadium and bringing a top-quality product to all of us in New England.

It then goes through the coaching staff with Coach Belichick, who has shown tenacity, creativity, hard work and planning for every eventuality that has made the Patriots just a little cut above its competitors in record fashion, winning three Super Bowls in the last 3 years, a 21-game winning streak, winning 34 of the last 36 games.

As we talk about the Patriots' success, though, it is also important to pay tribute to worthy opponents, in particular, in the playoffs, the Indianapolis Colts, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia teams, all of whom played tremendously well, had great seasons and, in particular, Philadelphia who came so close in that game.

For those of us from New England, we saw a hero in Curt Schilling in the World Series that brought the Red Sox

for the first time in 86 years to the World Series and knew from the Eagles' point of view how another hero, Terrell Owens, who is not only able to talk the talk as we all know, but in the Super Bowl he clearly walked the walk; and from all of us from New England who appreciate heroes, Terrell Owens certainly earned his stripes in that game.

But if there is one person on the Patriots that we would pay tribute to, it would be a person who has been an offensive player for all of his 12 years for the Patriots, that being Troy Brown. This year, with injuries in the depleted secondary, Troy Brown was asked to play defense, and he had to go to team meetings on both the offensive side of the ball and the defensive side of the ball, as well as continuing with his punt return duties.

Troy Brown epitomized what it means to be a Patriot. Yes, he clearly probably would have preferred to be a pass receiver, but when duty called, he did what it took to help the Patriots win their third Super Bowl in a row. Troy Brown epitomizes the spirit of the Patriots.

We hope for a successful year next year, and we know that there are 31 other teams, including two from Pennsylvania, who would like to knock off the Patriots next year, and we cannot wait for the next season of football.

I ask for my colleagues' support for H. Res. 86.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for the time, and Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my other New England colleagues in congratulating the world champion New England Patriots for their victory from Super Bowl XXXIX.

Over the past few years, the Patriots have put the rhetoric of teamwork into practice on the field. They work hard without show-boating or glory-seeking to be the best football team possible.

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They deserve the mantle of dynasty, and we are proud of their success. I particularly want to congratulate owner Bob Kraft and head coach Bill Belichick for their hard work and dedication, not just to the game of football but also to our community. And of course I want to congratulate the magnificent players.

Mr. Speaker, all of us in Massachusetts, indeed all of us throughout New England, have been given an embarrassment of sports riches in the last year. First, our beloved Red Sox ended 86 years of misery, first by coming from behind to defeat the New York Yankees in the American League Championship Series, and then sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. And now the Patriots are once again world champions.

I hope that the rest of the country is patient with those of us in New England as we adapt to these new circumstances. After all, we have much more practice with frustration and heartbreak.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to congratulate the Patriots for their tremendous season, and I look forward to watching them continue their success in the years to come.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I have no other requests for time at the moment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close for our side.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 86, which pays tribute to the New England Patriots, their owner, Robert Kraft, their coach, Bill Belichick, and their dedicated fans for the team's historic achievement of winning Super Bowl XXXIX.

As an avid, patient, and optimistic Chicago Bears fan, I understand how having a great football team can lift the spirits of an entire community. The fans of New England have stood loyally with the Patriots in tough times since their inception in 1962. However, over the last 4 years their dedication has been rewarded with three Super Bowl victories.

In spite of their previous success, this season's Super Bowl championship did not come easily. Headed into the playoffs, the Patriots suffered two disappointing losses, and it was predicted by many that they would lose their first playoff game.

The Patriots had a different plan. They first shut down Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts in New England by a score of 20 to 3. The Patriots then headed to Pittsburgh to play their rivals, the Steelers, a team that had beaten them decisively earlier in the year.

Despite being dubbed the "team with no stars," the Patriots easily disposed of the Steelers by winning 41 to 27, and quieted their critics. Their final test would come in the Super Bowl. Technically favored to win the Super Bowl in Jacksonville, many people believed that Coach Belichick and his players would be outplayed by Donovan McNabb, Terrell Owens, and the rest of the Eagles' high-scoring attack.

Once the game was played, however, it was the Patriots who celebrated. After falling behind early in the game, the Patriots players displayed the hearts of champions by clawing their way back and ultimately winning the game by a score of 24 to 21.

By winning their third championship, the Patriots solidified their place as one of the National Football League's greatest teams.

Mr. Speaker, I take a moment to commend the efforts of the mastermind behind the operations, Coach Bill Belichick, who has solidified his standings as one of the great coaches in Na-

tional Football League history. With this win, Bill Belichick improves his playoff record to 10 and 1, the best playoff record of any coach with three Super Bowl wins. His record even eclipses that of the legendary coach, Vince Lombardi.

Congratulations to the New England Patriots and their fans and, once again, for a terrific year. I am sure that it will not be their last, and I know that the Chicago Bears have been waiting and watching and hoping to emulate their success.

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Eagles, and the Pittsburgh Steelers and all of their fans, I urge all Members of the House to support the adoption of House Resolution 86.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, at the risk of being as repetitive as the New England Patriots, I rise to extol one of San Mateo, California's favorite sons, the quarterback of the Patriots, Tom Brady. His continued success in the National Football League is a source of great pride for the city of San Mateo, which is located in my congressional district, and for the entire Bay Area as well.

After leading the New England Patriots to a spectacular 14-win regular season, Tom continued his winning ways in a post-season that culminated in the Patriots' third Super Bowl victory in four years. As we have come to expect, Tom Brady guided his team to victory with a near flawless performance. He completed 23 of the 33 passes he threw with zero interceptions, and finished with a higher quarterback rating than either of his previous Most Valuable Player performances.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Brady's extraordinary play in the Super Bowl is even more remarkable when one considers the great personal grief he had to overcome when his grandmother passed away just five days before the big game. Instead of allowing his loss to overwhelm him, Tom demonstrated his professionalism by remaining focused and played a great game. I am sure that even though she could no longer attend his games, Margaret Brady, known as Peggy to her friends and family, cheered her grandson on as he performed on one of the world's largest stages and proudly cheered him on as she had done since his school yard days.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to pay tribute to Tom Brady, who has been thrilling football fans since he was the quarterback at Junipero Serra High School, home of the Padres in San Mateo. By leading the New England Patriots to victory in Super Bowl XXXIX, Tom Brady joins Terry Bradshaw, Troy Aikman and his boyhood idol, Joe Montana, as the only quarterbacks to win at least three NFL titles. On behalf of the city of San Mateo and

football fans everywhere, I wish him continued success in his already remarkable career.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise in support of H. Res. 86, congratulating the New England Patriots on winning Super Bowl XXXIX. The Patriots's victory is indeed cause for celebration in my district as fans in Albany, GA, and throughout all of southwest Georgia watched with pride as our native son, Deion Branch led his team to victory as this year's most valuable player. We could not be more proud.

We salute the New England Patriots for their third Super Bowl Victory in 4 years. Only one other team has ever won the Lombardi Trophy so many times in so few years, yet no other receiver in history has put together back-to-back performances like Deion Branch. In Super Bowl XXXVIII, which the Patriots won 32-29 over the Carolina Panthers, Deion Branch caught 10 passes for 143 yards, including the game's first touchdown and the catch that set up the Patriot's winning field goal. He should have won MVP then, but this year he bested even himself, tying the Super Bowl record with 11 catches for a total of 133 yards.

From the days when he was deemed too small for middle school football, to his years on the Monroe High School team to the University of Louisville, to his historic career in professional football, Deion Branch has made up for what he lacks in size with a spirit and a talent that defines him as one of the best to ever play the game.

On behalf of the city of Albany, the 2nd Congressional District and football fans everywhere, I wish him continued success in his already remarkable career and strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 86 congratulating the New England Patriots on their outstanding achievement.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in enthusiastic support of H. Res. 86, congratulating our New England Patriots on winning their third Super Bowl in 4 years.

The word "dynasty" has become synonymous with the New England Patriots. And deservedly so. Only one other team has accomplished what the Patriots have done—the Dallas Cowboys of the early 1990s. I believe that these Patriots have staked a real claim on the moniker of "America's Team."

But when the history of this team is written, there is one word that seems most fitting: class.

Class means many things, especially in the world of sports.

Class means a head coach, such as Bill Belichick, who immediately after overtaking Vince Lombardi as the NFL coach with the best playoff winning percentage talks about "starting at the bottom of the mountain" next season. It also means a coach who deflects personal credit as adroitly as he outsmarts opposing coaches. Similarly, class seems suitable for a coach who should rather talk endlessly about his role models than about himself, even after he eclipses those role models in all measures of success.

Class also means a team that overcomes injuries to two key starters, Ty Law and Tyrone Poole, when unheralded players, such as Randall Gay and Asante Samuel, play like seasoned veterans in the most stressful situations imaginable, to the disbelief of all observers. It means a group of players whom many

outside New England don't recognize by name or face but only as part of a team. And class might also describe a team whose accomplishments are sometimes dismissed as "luck" even when, by definition, "luck" can't explain continuous triumph, game after game, season after season, at home and on the road, in close games and blowouts, in air-conditioned domes and Foxborough blizzards.

Class refers to players, such as Tom Brady and Deion Branch, who would rather credit their teammates than tout their own efforts. Class describes players such as Willie McGinest and Tedy Bruschi, who would rather win Super Bowls than All-Pro invitations, as well as players such as Corey Dillon and Rodney Harrison, who have silenced past critics with their on-field performance not their off-field remarks.

Class means owners who care as much about the team as does the most passionate fan. The Kraft family, longtime New Englanders and Patriots' season ticket holders, seem to fit that description to a tee. Like the rest of Patriots Nation in 1994, Robert and Myra Kraft were devastated to see the team on the verge of moving to St. Louis. So much so, in fact, that they spent \$200 million to prevent that from happening.

Class also means owners who view their role in the community with dignity and responsibility. Although the Kraft family builds championships and unrivaled proficiency, their off-field victories may be even more impressive. Through the Patriot Charitable Foundation, the Krafts have made charitable affairs an integral part of their community presence, and as important a goal as any Super Bowl victory.

And perhaps most importantly, class means never describing oneself as a "dynasty," because dynasties are never proclaimed, but only earned—something a team with class, like the New England Patriots, knows quite well.

I join my colleagues in saluting the unsurpassed accomplishments of the New England Patriots.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 86.

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.

#### RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 80) recognizing the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association on the occasion of its 75th anniversary and commending the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association for sponsoring annually the Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 80

Whereas every State in the United States has established a fire chiefs association;

Whereas fire chiefs associations provide comprehensive and integrated statewide public safety efforts, thereby enhancing the quality of life of American citizens by reducing the effects of fire, medical, and environmental emergencies;

Whereas all fire chiefs associations serve to provide educational resources to firefighters, facilitate information exchange and regional cooperation between firefighting entities, and provide professional development workshops and training to all statewide and regional firefighters;

Whereas the mission statements of all fire chiefs associations have continuously broadened beyond the original goals of working for the promotion of fire prevention and protection from and extinguishment of fires to keep pace with the new challenges and demands facing the 21st Century, working in conjunction with the Nation's efforts in securing the homeland;

Whereas to accommodate the homeland security needs facing the Nation, the mission statements of fire chiefs associations today include facilitating the exchange of regional and national information, organizing annual conferences and symposiums to discuss ways of improving life-saving procedures, assisting in research studies, assisting in the development of public education in fire prevention programs, and supporting and encouraging the delivery of prehospital emergency medical services by the fire service to relieve human suffering;

Whereas the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association serves as a fine example of such a State fire chiefs association, which has recognized the aforementioned needs and broadened its mission to serve not only statewide interests, but regional and national interests;

Whereas upon realizing the need for regional cooperation toward the advancement of fire service in the United States, the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association established the Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium, which annually draws from States within the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States and which serves to educate firefighters on new techniques; and

Whereas on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary, the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, will be once again hosting their annual Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium, on February 24, 2005; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives commends all fire chiefs associations on the outstanding service that they provide to the citizens of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. 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 gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 80, as amended, commends all State fire chiefs associations. Every State in the Union has a fire chiefs association.

These groups provide valuable leadership skills to career and volunteer

chiefs, chief fire officers and managers of emergency service organizations throughout the United States.

The members are literally on the front lines of the homeland security effort, ready to respond in a moment's notice to crisis situations anywhere in America. Fire chiefs are unquestionably the world's leaders in fire fighting, first response, emergency medical services, natural disasters, search and rescue, and many other areas of public safety. Their efforts largely go unnoticed, which is why I am so pleased that the House is taking time to recognize fire chiefs associations today.

Mr. Speaker, my thanks go to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE) for introducing this resolution. I urge the adoption.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume. Mr. Speaker, every year fires and other emergencies take thousands of lives and destroy property worth billions of dollars.

Fire fighters help protect the public against these dangers by rapidly responding to a variety of emergencies.

They are frequently the first emergency personnel at the scene of a traffic accident or medical emergency and may be called upon to put out a fire, treat injuries, or perform other vital functions. State fire chiefs associations serve to provide educational resources to fire fighters, to facilitate the exchange of information, to promote regional cooperation between firefighting entities and to provide professional development workshops and training to all state-wide and regional fire fighters.

These efforts in recent years have been broadened to include protecting the homeland. The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association is dedicated to promoting excellence in the fire service by providing the network of information sharing and opportunities for its diverse membership and associated partnerships through education, legislation, and technical means.

The fire chiefs associations help us do our jobs, which is to serve and protect the American public. I commend the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and all fire chief associations for their hard work and dedication. They function for all of us and in our best interest.

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

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 80, which recognizes the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association on the occasion of its 75th anniversary and commends the Virginia Fire Chief's Association for being an annual sponsor of the Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium.

Fire chiefs throughout the Nation provide decisive leadership that is key to the success of America's firefighters and first responders. The fire chief's associations in each State play a critical role in coordinating this important effort. Their members are literally on the front lines of the homeland security effort, ready to