

only three people elected to Congress from two States.

Mr. Speaker, this is certainly a great deal of historic as well as patriotic value, and I would urge swift passage of H.R. 5245 which seeks to honor the life of a true American pioneer, Matthew Lyon.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5245, a bill I introduced to rename the Fair Haven, Vermont, post office in honor of Matthew Lyon, an American patriot and staunch defender of First Amendment rights.

I would like to thank Chairman DAVIS and Ranking Member WAXMAN for their help in moving this bill through the Government Reform Committee. I would also like to thank Jeffrey Schulz, the Fair Haven Town Manager, and the Fair Haven Select Board for supporting this legislation.

Matthew Lyon was born in Dublin, Ireland, on July 14, 1749, and immigrated to colonial America in 1765 as an indentured servant. In 1774 he purchased land in the area of the Hampshire Grants now known as Wallingford, Vermont, and soon after joined Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys militia where he led his own unit in defending their land from competing claimants as well from British attacks from the north. In Vermont, he was involved in encouraging the formation of citizen committees across the state to discuss national and state issues, meet with their elected officials, and ensure that their government was being operated in the best interest of all citizens.

In 1783, Matthew Lyon founded the town of Fair Haven. He served in the Vermont State Legislature for 14 years before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to serve as Vermont's Congressional representative from 1797–1801. Interestingly, he also represented the State of Kentucky in the U.S. House from 1803–1811.

Matthew Lyon, however, is perhaps best known for being the first person to stand trial and be convicted under the 1798 Sedition Act—sweeping legislation passed during a period when America was engaged in hostilities with France. As we're all aware, the purpose of the legislation was to curtail dissent from citizens and members of the press who opposed President John Adams' foreign policy toward France. The legislation was unquestionably a direct attack on rights explicitly protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

For violating provisions of the Sedition Act, Matthew Lyon was convicted and sentenced to four months in jail, required to pay the cost of his prosecution and a fine of \$1,000. His only crime was writing a letter to the editor critical of President John Adams' foreign policy toward France and submitting another person's similar writings to a local newspaper that published them. Although he was jailed, he continued to exercise his Constitutional rights by expressing his views and actively opposing the Sedition Act's anti-free speech provisions. He was even re-elected to Congress from prison in December of 1798.

Eventually, the Sedition Act was allowed to sunset according to its terms and President Thomas Jefferson pardoned those still serving in prison under the Act and remitted their fines. Decades later, Congress passed a law that reimbursed Matthew Lyon's heirs and representatives for the fines he was forced to pay under the Sedition Act.

This remarkable story is not only one that makes the citizens of my state proud but also represents an event of national historical significance. Too often today, we forget the struggles that many who came before us undertook to preserve freedom of speech, the press, and the right to assemble. This post office will serve as a reminder to Vermonters, the nation, and all those who visit Fair Haven, of the heroic efforts made in the past to protect the rights of all to speak freely, no matter what political viewpoint or ideas they may have.

At a time when we find ourselves struggling to balance the security of our nation with the liberties we cherish, I can think of no better time to honor one of our nation's champions of the First Amendment's right of free speech. Naming the Fair Haven Post Office in honor of Matthew Lyon would be a fitting tribute to him and his fight for liberty, and would serve as a reminder of Fair Haven's connection to this great American patriot.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill; to honor Matthew Lyon, a patriotic American who through his actions more than 200 years ago, reminds us of the importance of freedom of speech in our country.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption and yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5245.

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 ALBERT PUJOLS ON BEING NAMED THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER FOR THE NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE 2005 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SEASON

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 626) congratulating Albert Pujols on being named the Most Valuable Player for the National League for the 2005 Major League Baseball season.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 626

Whereas Albert Pujols of the St. Louis Cardinals was named the Most Valuable Player for the National League for the 2005 Major League Baseball season;

Whereas in 2005 Albert Pujols led the Cardinals with a batting average of .330, 41 home runs, 117 runs batted in, and 16 stolen bases;

Whereas Albert Pujols is the only player in the history of Major League Baseball to have a batting average higher than .300, hit 30 or more home runs, drive in 100 or more runs, and score 100 or more runs in each of his first five seasons in the major leagues;

Whereas Albert Pujols has already won the 2001 Rookie of the Year Award for the National League, the 2003 National League batting championship, and the Most Valuable Player Award for the 2004 National League Championship Series;

Whereas Albert Pujols exemplifies true sportsmanship and class; and

Whereas Albert Pujols is active in numerous St. Louis area charities and causes, most notably through his establishment of, and involvement in, the Pujols Family Foundation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates Albert Pujols on being named the Most Valuable Player for the National League for the 2005 Major League Baseball season.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. 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 materials on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the national pastime, obviously, is baseball and to honor the most valuable player of the 2005 season seems to be only appropriate. Certainly, there can be no more appropriate thing as we go into the heart of baseball season than to consider a resolution recognizing this amazingly great accomplishment and an amazing season in 2005. And so I urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, St. Louis Cardinal first baseman Jose Alberto Pujols is widely regarded as one of major league baseball's best offensive players because he hits consistently for average and power. On August 5, 2005, Pujols became the first player in major league history to hit 30 or more home runs in each of his first five seasons. On August 31, 2005, he became the first major league player since Ted Williams to have 100 runs batted in during each of his first five seasons.

Originally from the Dominican Republic, it was in the United States that Pujols developed his love for baseball and demonstrated his ability for the game. He batted over .500 during his first season of high school baseball. At Maple Woods Community College in the Kansas City area, Pujols showed off his talent by hitting a grand slam and recording an unassisted triple play during his first game and by batting .461 during his first season.

The St. Louis Cardinals drafted Pujols in the 13th round of the 1999 draft. He initially turned down a \$10,000 bonus and opted to play in the Jayhawk League in Kansas. By the end of the summer, the Cardinals had increased their bonus offer to \$60,000. Pujols signed with the Cardinals and was assigned to the minor leagues. By

the next year he was playing for Single A team the Peoria Chiefs where he was voted league Most Valuable Player. Pujols progressed quickly through the ranks of the St. Louis farm system and on to the major leagues.

The 2005 season saw Pujols establish career highs in walks and stolen bases while leading the St. Louis Cardinals in almost every offensive category. He finished with a .330 batting average, a .430 on-base percentage, and a .609 slugging percentage, 41 home runs, a grand slam, 117 RBIs, 97 walks and 16 stolen bases. The Cardinals were eliminated during the National League championship series, but only after Pujols hit a memorable home run in game five, a two-out, three-run blast in the top of the ninth inning off Houston Astro closer Brad Lidge. After the season, Pujols received his first National League Most Valuable Player award which underscored his critical role in keeping the injury-plagued Cardinals on track throughout the season.

Pujols should be commended for his work on the baseball field, for the foundation he and his wife, Diedre, have created and dedicated to the love, care and development of people with Downs Syndrome and their families, and for helping the poor in the Dominican Republic. For those and other reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 626, a tremendous athlete, but an even more tremendous humanitarian.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. I have no further speakers on this side, Mr. Speaker, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. It is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to that great St. Louis Cardinal fan and the sponsor of this legislation, Representative CARNAHAN from Missouri.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 626, congratulating Albert Pujols of the St. Louis Cardinals on being named the Most Valuable Player in the National League for the 2005 Major League Baseball season.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, we recently passed a companion resolution, House Resolution 627, congratulating his teammate, Chris Carpenter, for winning the National League Cy Young Award. This marks the first time since 1968 that the Cardinals have won both an MVP and Cy Young Award in the same year.

Albert Pujols came to spring training in 2001 as a 13th round draft choice. Not only did he make the St. Louis Cardinals opening day roster that year, but he won a starting job and went on to win the National League Rookie of the Year Award.

The first 5 years of his career rank among the best in baseball history. He has a career .332 batting average, 201 home runs and 621 runs batted in.

He is the only player in the history of the major leagues to have a batting average higher than .300, hit 30 or more home runs, drive in 100 or more runs,

and score 100 or more runs in each of his first five seasons.

During the 2005 season, Albert Pujols led the Cardinals with a batting average of .330, 41 home runs, 117 runs batted in, and 16 stolen bases. He was a major factor in the Cardinals' 100-win season and run to the National League championship series.

Albert Pujols is truly a champion on and off the field. He and his wife, Diedre, have three children, a son named Albert, Jr., a daughter named Sophia and a daughter Isabella who has Downs Syndrome.

In 2005 they started the Pujols Family Foundations which is dedicated to the love, care and development of people with Downs Syndrome and also reaches out to impoverished families in the Dominican Republic, Albert's native country.

As a lifelong Cardinals fan and St. Louis resident, it is an absolute joy to watch Albert Pujols on and off the field. He embodies the true spirit of Cardinal Nation, and I offer my most sincere congratulations on all that he has accomplished thus far, and wish him the best in the future, including recovering from his recent injuries.

Mr. Speaker, I think the spirit that he brings to baseball and that has captured this country is also reflected in the numerous Members of this Congress, not just from St. Louis, not just from the State of Missouri, but from around the country and both sides of the aisle that joined in sponsoring this resolution of congratulations.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption and yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 626.

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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PASSPORT MONTH

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 327) supporting the goals and ideals of National Passport Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 327

Whereas, through international travel, Americans can individually play a major role towards improving foreign relations by building bridges and making connections with citizens of other countries;

Whereas interacting with the global community inspires Americans to reflect on the diverse multi-cultural background that has defined the United States as a great country of cooperation and progress;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad creates connections with the global

community, supporting goodwill throughout the world;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad promotes understanding and goodwill throughout the world, opening the doors to increased peace, tolerance, and acceptance;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad opens up a preponderance of educational opportunities and experiences for Americans of all ages;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad enables Americans to see first-hand the effect of the United States on the world, including the tremendous amount of humanitarian aid given by the United States through both public and private sectors;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad reminds Americans that they are members of a global family and gives them opportunities to mend rifts around the world;

Whereas fewer than 23 percent of Americans have passports, thereby limiting their ability to travel outside the United States;

Whereas the more Americans travel outside the United States, the more they will experience opportunities to increase their understanding of the world and the place of the United States in it;

Whereas the creation and support of a National Passport Month signals to Americans the important role they can play as ambassadors for the United States by serving as agents of understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect; and

Whereas travel publishers along with travel editors from the most prestigious media outlets in the United States, student travel organizations, and book sellers have designated September as "National Passport Month" to educate the public about the importance of having a passport and the positive impact international travel has on individuals. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Passport Month; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today in the United States, fewer than 23 percent of Americans have an issued passport, meaning that millions of our citizens are unable to take advantage of the culturally enriching opportunities presented by international travel. International travel can help promote understanding, tolerance and mutual respect for other