

Since taking over the Heat a decade ago, owner Micky Arison has built the Heat into one of the NBA's marquee franchises. His steadfast leadership has now been rewarded with his first NBA championship.

I want to congratulate coach Pat Riley. As many of you know, Coach Riley returned to the Heat bench part way into the season and led his team to a successful regular season and to the NBA finals. He brought together a team of many different personalities, leading them as one cohesive unit.

I also want to recognize finalist MVP Dwyane Wade. Anyone watching could see that Mr. Wade elevated his game to another level during the finals. The Heat found themselves down two games to none and down by 13 points with only 6 minutes remaining in game three. This was when Mr. Wade took over and led the Heat to a roaring comeback before a cheering crowd at American Airlines Arena.

And we all know the Heat could not have done this without the outstanding effort and leadership of Shaquille O'Neal. When Mr. O'Neal was traded to the Heat in the summer of 2004, he promised he would bring a championship to Miami, and he held true to his promise.

I also feel special recognition is in order for veteran players Gary Payton and Alonzo Mourning. This is a well-deserved championship for Alonzo as he has battled back from kidney disease and a kidney transplant to win his first championship.

□ 1845

This is a remarkable feat of accomplishment for any human being, much less a player of which so much is demanded on the court.

I commend all the players and everyone involved with the Heat organization, including such fans as my local supporter, Richard Bernstein, who was here in D.C. and decided to fly home during the finals to his regular seat in the arena. He has been a passionate advocate for the Heat. He has never given up on them, no matter how dismal the season; and, of course, his loyalty and steadfast determination to sit by the Heat players as they went season to season has been amply rewarded by this outstanding victory.

South Florida is thrilled. We will cherish and remember this 2006 world championship. To all the fans who have given loyal support to the team, we thank them as well. All Florida celebrates the Miami Heat's championship.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Palm Beach for sharing those very thoughtful comments.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say how important this is not only for South Florida but also for the country. This team is a team of individuals that have been on NBA rosters for some time, and also some newcomers. Dwyane Wade was

not known by the rest of the country prior to this NBA championship and this series.

Just from a personal note, I took my two children to the game five; and it was one of the most enjoyable games I have ever witnessed in my entire life. Being there with my children and seeing so many other parents there with their children witnessing such a game between two great NBA teams was something I know they will never forget and something I will never forget.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can continue this. Like Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN has said, I hope this is just the first of several resolutions. I look forward to coming to the floor commending the Miami Heat and commending the fans.

But to my friends from Texas and from Dallas, I just want to let them know they have a great team, also; and we look forward to beating them, I mean playing with them, in the future as we move on.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my staff member, Eddy Acevedo, for his work in getting all of our Florida delegation united on this resolution.

As my good friend from Florida (Mr. MEEK) has pointed out, the Miami Heat players are not only tremendous athletes, outstanding people, but they also give back to the community so much. We thank them for their contribution to making South Florida a better place in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 887.

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 Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 887.

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.

REAUTHORIZING PERMANENTLY USE OF PENALTY AND FRANKED MAIL RELATING TO LOCATION AND RECOVERY OF MISSING CHILDREN

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4416) to reauthorize permanently the use of penalty and franked mail in efforts relating to the location and recovery of missing children.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4416

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO USE PENALTY AND FRANKED MAIL TO LOCATE AND RECOVER MISSING CHILDREN.

Public Law 99-87 is amended by striking section 5 (39 U.S.C. 3220 note).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4416, a bill which permanently reauthorizes the use of penalty and franked mail in efforts relating to the location and recovery of missing children. This bill was passed by the Government Reform Committee by a voice vote on June 8.

I would like to thank my colleague from California, Juanita Millender-McDonald, for sponsoring this very important bill.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, every day more than 2,100 children are reported missing somewhere in the United States. We are all familiar with the missing child notices that appear in the media, on government office bulletin boards, on advertising mail and, of course, on milk cartons. These notices provide immeasurable help in bringing missing children home. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, one out of every six children featured on these notices are recovered.

This bill will allow Members of Congress and Federal agencies to continue to assist in the recovery of missing children by authorizing them to include missing child notices on their official and franked mail envelopes. The wider these notices are disseminated, the greater the chances that someone will recognize a missing child and contact the proper authorities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 4416, legislation sponsored by Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD, which would permanently reauthorize the use of franking and penalty mail by Congress and Federal agencies and departments. This measure, which was unanimously reported from the Government Reform Committee on June 8,

would allow Members to assist in efforts to locate and to recover missing children.

First enacted in 1985, this program authorized the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice to prescribe guidelines under which the government and franked mail may be used to help find and recover missing children. The law also authorized the Senate Committee on Rules and the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards to establish guidelines for the use of franked mail in the House and Senate.

Although the law was reauthorized three times, the underlying statutory authority expired in 2002. H.R. 4416 would permanently reauthorize this very important effort. The placement of photos of missing children on government and congressional mail will greatly assist in locating and recovering children.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Ranking Member Millender-McDonald, for sponsoring this bill; and I urge my colleagues to include photos of missing children on their official and franked mail.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter from Congressman Vernon Ehlers, chairman of the Committee on House Administration, regarding the bill before us that is under consideration.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING,

Washington, DC, June 14, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I write concerning H.R. 4416, a bill to permanently reauthorize the use of penalty and franked mail in efforts relating to the location and recovery of missing children. H.R. 4416 was ordered reported by the Committee on Government Reform on June 8, 2006.

As you know, the Committee on House Administration received a joint referral on the bill because of the Committee's jurisdiction over matters concerning Congressional franking privileges. However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

Sincerely,

VERNON EHLERS,
Chairman.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time; and I hope that our colleagues support this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4416.

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.

UNITED STATES-OMAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-118)

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This FTA enhances our bilateral relationship with a strategic friend and ally in the Middle East region. The FTA will benefit the people of the United States and Oman, illustrating for other developing countries the advantages of open markets and increased trade.

In negotiating this FTA, my Administration was guided by the objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. Congressional approval of this FTA will mark another important step towards creating a Middle East Free Trade Area. Like our FTA with Bahrain that the Congress approved in December 2005, and our FTA with Morocco that was approved in July 2004, this FTA offers another important opportunity to encourage economic reform in a moderate Muslim nation. Oman is leading the pursuit of social and economic reforms in the region, including by selling state-owned businesses, encouraging foreign investment connected to broad-based development and providing better protection for women and workers. It is strongly in our national interest to embrace these reforms and do what we can to encourage them.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 26, 2006.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. SENSENBRENNER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 109-528) on the resolution (H. Res. 845) requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, documents relating to the termination of the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility's investigation of the involvement of Department of Justice personnel in the creation and administration of the National Security Agency's warrantless surveillance program, including documents relating to Office of

Professional Responsibility's request for and denial of security clearances, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 1900

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ILARIO PANTANO'S MEMOIR

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I might speak at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on April 5, 2005, I rose on the House floor in defense of former Marine Lieutenant Ilario Pantano, who had been accused of premeditated murder for his actions in April 2004 that resulted in the deaths of two suspected Iraqi insurgents.

At that time I encouraged my colleagues to support a resolution calling on the United States Government to dismiss all charges against Lieutenant Pantano who had defended the cause of freedom, democracy and liberty, while serving as a platoon commander in Iraq.

In an action of self-defense, Lieutenant Pantano made a split-second battlefield decision to shoot two suspected Iraqi insurgents who refused to follow his orders to stop their movement towards him. Lieutenant Pantano did his duty as any marine officer should when faced with the enemy.

Following a 5-day military hearing in May 2005, the truth of Lieutenant Pantano's innocence prevailed, and he was cleared of all charges. Lieutenant Pantano left the Marine Corps following the dismissal of the charges brought against him, as the media frenzy surrounding his case may have put him or other corps members at greater risk were he to return to duty.

As an outstanding leader and dedicated servant to the Marine Corps and our Nation, I believe Lieutenant Pantano's resignation was a great loss for the Marine Corps and a great loss for America. Mr. Speaker, I recall these events to draw attention to the recent release of a memoir by Lieutenant Pantano, coauthored by Malcolm McConnell, entitled: "Warlord, No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy."