

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 501

Whereas Craig Biggio has reached 3,000 base hits as a Major League Baseball player and all while playing for the Houston Astros with an unmatched hustle and work ethic;

Whereas Craig Biggio is only the 27th player in Major League Baseball history to reach this historic milestone, joining such baseball greats as Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Tony Gwynn, Cal Ripken Jr., and Ty Cobb;

Whereas Craig Biggio is not only a member of the exclusive 3,000 hit club, but also holds the Major League record for most games played with one team at 2,768 and counting over the past 20 seasons;

Whereas Craig Biggio is 7th all-time in Major League Baseball with 653 doubles and should move into 5th place by the end of the current season;

Whereas Craig Biggio holds the Astros career records for games played, at-bats, runs scored, hits, doubles, and extra-base hits;

Whereas Craig Biggio is a tireless leader in the community for charitable causes, serving for the last decade as lead spokesperson for Sunshine Kids, which is an organization that supports children fighting cancer and their families;

Whereas Craig Biggio and his wife Patti have helped to raise nearly \$2,000,000 for Sunshine Kids and have impacted numerous cancer-stricken families throughout the Houston area by leading fun activities like attending Houston Astros, Rockets, and Texan games and The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo;

Whereas Houston Astros owner Drayton McLane, Jr. recently stated, 'No one has meant more to our community development than Craig and Patti Biggio.'; and

Whereas Craig Biggio has been honored with many awards to recognize his distinguished contributions to the sport of baseball and to the community, including the Hutch Award in 2005 for resilience and always showing a fighting competitive spirit, and being named one of Sporting News' Good Guys in 2004 for all his community service work off the field; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends Craig Biggio of the Houston Astros for reaching 3,000 base hits as a Major League Baseball player;

(2) recognizes his outstanding service to the community through his charitable work and dedication to the Houston Astros organization; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to Craig Biggio of the Houston Astros and to Astros team owner Mr. Drayton McLane, Jr. for appropriate display.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on June 28, 2007, Mr. Craig Biggio is the 27th professional baseball player in major league history to make 3,000 base hits. He is the ninth to do so while playing all of his games with one team.

In 1988, Mr. Biggio began his distinguished career with the Houston Astros as a catcher. In 1992, hoping to extend his career, the team moved him to various positions, first to the outfield, then to second base, where he is currently playing. He is the only player to be named an All-star as both catcher and second baseman. After playing baseball for 20 years, he has announced his retirement at the end of this season.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative KEVIN BRADY for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DOLPH S. BRISCOE, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2688) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 South Getty Street in Uvalde, Texas, as the "Dolph S. Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 2688

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

SECTION 1. DOLPH S. BRISCOE, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 South Getty Street in Uvalde, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Dolph S. Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Dolph S. Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building".

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. DOLPH BRISCOE, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 South Getty Street in Uvalde, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Dolph Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Dolph Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building".

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dolph Briscoe was born on April 23, 1923 in Uvalde, Texas. He graduated from the University of Texas in 1942 and then served in the Army during World War II. After he returned from the war, he served in the Texas legislature from 1949 through 1957. He then left politics to manage his family's ranching and business interests.

In 1974, Mr. Briscoe was elected governor of Texas as a conservative, pro-business Democrat. He was one of the few governors to enact a balanced budget without raising or creating new taxes.

Currently, Mr. Briscoe continues to be active in the agricultural community as a rancher in Uvalde and serves his community as the Senior Chairman of the First State Bank of Uvalde.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative CIRO RODRIGUEZ for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 South Getty Street in Uvalde, Texas, as the 'Dolph Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building'.".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1230

ACKNOWLEDGING PROGRESS TO REBUILD GULF COAST REGION AFTER HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 551) acknowledging the progress made and yet to be made to rebuild the Gulf Coast region after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 551

Whereas Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the lives of 4.5 million people through loss of life and personal injury; destroyed homes, businesses, and public property; displaced people; and damaged cultural assets and economies across the Gulf Coast of the United States;

Whereas Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed nearly every home and business in Orleans Parish, St. Bernard Parish, Plaquemines Parish, and Cameron Parish; and thousands of homes in Calcasieu Parish and other coastal parishes also suffered flood damage;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina displayed winds peaking at 175 miles per hour;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina made landfall in the Gulf Coast region on August 29, 2005, as a powerful category 3 storm and the third strongest land-falling hurricane ever recorded in the United States;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina destroyed 275,000 homes, 18,750 businesses, and 875 schools in Louisiana, and is blamed for the deaths of 1,577 residents in Louisiana;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina caused four levees to breach, including the 17th Avenue Canal, the Industrial Canal, and the London Avenue Canal, resulting in flooding of the city of New Orleans and the parishes of St. Bernard and Plaquemines; and nearly two years later, work on those levees is still unfinished;

Whereas, because of an insufficient levee protection system, approximately 80 percent

of New Orleans was submerged for nearly one month in deadly flood waters;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina devastated institutions of higher education, including Delgado Community College, Dillard University, Loyola University New Orleans, Southern University at New Orleans, Tulane University, the University of New Orleans, and Xavier University of Louisiana;

Whereas nearly two years later, all colleges and universities in New Orleans have reopened, but enrollment is lagging, major infrastructure has not yet been rebuilt, many public schools remain closed, and private and public schools that have reopened are struggling to recover;

Whereas prior to Hurricane Katrina, the population of New Orleans was 484,674; but nearly two years after Hurricane Katrina, little more than half of New Orleans residents have been able to return to their homes;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina overwhelmed the capabilities of State and local governments and Congress appropriated billions of dollars for emergency response needs, such as evacuations, repairs, deployment of personnel, and other immediate relief efforts;

Whereas nearly two years after Hurricane Katrina, disaster relief efforts continue to be needed, especially for hundreds of thousands of displaced citizens;

Whereas Hurricane Rita made landfall along the border of Louisiana and Texas on September 24, 2005, as the fourth most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded, causing \$9.4 billion in property damage;

Whereas Hurricane Rita completely destroyed several towns in Southwest Louisiana along the border of Texas and washed tons of potentially hazardous debris into the area's marshes, causing severe economic loss, detrimental health effects, and deaths;

Whereas Congress has responded to the devastation of the Gulf Coast region by providing billions of dollars in assistance, including tax relief efforts such as the Gulf Opportunity Zone, student aid, and disability services to victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and nearly two years later, Congress continues to provide assistance to expedite economic recovery in the region; and

Whereas the people of the United States have been extremely generous in their support for the Gulf Coast region, in addition to the outpouring of assistance from the international community, which continues to support the recovery efforts in the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of the Gulf Coast region to the economy of the United States;

(2) recognizes the importance of the cultural contributions of the people of the Gulf Coast to the United States; and

(3) expresses its support for all individuals still affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita two years after these terrible natural disasters struck.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina made a devastating impact on Florida and the Gulf Coast states in the last days of August 2005, followed within weeks by Hurricanes Rita and Wilma. These disasters will long be remembered for disrupting families, changing and ending lives, and forcing Americans to rethink about our preparedness and ability to respond effectively to disasters. Unfortunately, these hurricanes served as a catalyst for changes in federal policy and government management within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA).

Most of those changes were included in Title VI of the DHS appropriations legislation for FY2007. It established new leadership positions and requirements within FEMA. Additionally, it brought new missions into FEMA and enhanced the agency's authority by directing the FEMA Administrator to undertake a broad range of activities before and after disasters.

Although, Congress has responded to the devastation of the Gulf Coast region by providing billions of dollars in assistance, more resources are needed to expedite the economic recovery in this region.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative William Jefferson for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE 2007 NBA CHAMPION SAN ANTONIO SPURS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 490) honoring the 2007 NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 490

Whereas on June 14, 2007, the San Antonio Spurs won the 2007 National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship with a victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers;

Whereas the Spurs' win results in their fourth NBA Championship in the last 9 years;

Whereas the Spurs, after sweeping the Cavaliers to decisively win the Finals 4-0, are widely recognized as a modern-day basketball dynasty;

Whereas San Antonio's four-game sweep was only the eighth sweep since the finals began in 1947;

Whereas the Spurs' .727 winning percentage is the highest in finals history;

Whereas under the leadership and instruction of Coach Gregg Popovich, the Spurs' Tony Parker, Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, Robert Horry, Bruce Bowen, Michael Finley, Fabricio Oberto, Francisco Elson, Jacque Vaughn, and Brent Barry played together as a team with determination and resolve to bring the NBA trophy back home to the Alamo City;

Whereas Tony Parker was named the Finals Most Valuable Player after using his speed and quickness to average 24.5 points and an amazing 57 percent from the field during the Finals, becoming the first European-born player to be honored as MVP;

Whereas Tim Duncan and Bruce Bowen anchored the Spurs with stifling defense throughout the NBA Finals;

Whereas Manu Ginobili used his pinpoint three-point shooting and strong drives to the basket to lead the Spurs to victory in Game 4 with 27 points;

Whereas Coach Gregg Popovich is recognized as one of the greatest coaches of all

time after winning his fourth NBA Championship; and

Whereas San Antonio has the best fans in the league and the Alamo City is the perfect setting for a championship celebration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the San Antonio Spurs and Coach Gregg Popovich for winning the 2007 National Basketball Association Championship.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on June 14, 2007, the San Antonio Spurs won the 2007 National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship with a victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers. This was the Spurs fourth NBA Championship in the last 9 years.

I join all my colleagues in congratulating the San Antonio Spurs and Coach Gregg Popovich for winning the 2007 National Basketball Association Championship.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE DETROIT TIGERS FOR WINNING THE 2006 AMERICAN LEAGUE PENNANT

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 488) congratulating the Detroit Tigers for winning the 2006 American League Pennant and for bringing the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan their first trip to the World Series in 22 years, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 488

Whereas this is the 10th American League Pennant won by the Detroit Tigers;

Whereas Manager Jim Leyland is a 3 time Manager of the Year and 1 of 7 managers in the history of baseball to win the pennant in both the National and American Leagues;

Whereas the manager and coaching staff have done a remarkable job guiding this team to victory;

Whereas General Manager Dave Dombrowski and Owner Mike Ilitch have assembled and led a team that has revitalized the Tigers franchise;

Whereas all 25 players on the playoff squad contributed to their remarkable postseason victories over the New York Yankees and the Oakland Athletics, including American League Rookie of the Year Justin Verlander, as well as Magglio Ordóñez, Iván Rodríguez, Jeremy Bonderman, Kenny Rogers, Sean Casey, Carlos Guillén, Alexis Gómez, Omar Infante, Plácido Polanco, Brandon Inge, Craig Monroe, Marcus Thames, Curtis Granderson, Ramón Santiago, Neifi Pérez, Nate Robertson, Todd Jones, Jason Grilli, Zach Miner, Wilfredo Ledezma, Fernando Rodney, Joel Zumaya, Jamie Walker, and Vance Wilson;

Whereas the Detroit Tigers have a history of great players and managers, including Ty Cobb, Al Kaline, Hank Greenberg, and Sparky Anderson;