

Boston Celtics in game six of the NBA Playoffs, I will remind my colleague from Massachusetts. From that moment, the storied franchise made a commitment to redeem themselves and immediately began the long, arduous process of working their way back to championship glory. One year later, this long and difficult journey culminated with victory and established themselves as the standard against which every franchise in the NBA will be measured.

While the entire Lakers organization can be proud of this team's accomplishments, the season saw some amazing individual milestones.

Coach Phil Jackson cemented his status as one of the winningest coaches, not just in the NBA but in all of professional sports, capturing an unprecedented 11th championship ring. Truly amazing.

Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers, who came to the season as the league's reigning MVP, coming off a summer in which he helped lead Team USA to the gold in Beijing, won his fourth NBA title and his first NBA Finals MVP.

Pau Gasol of the Lakers was selected to his second All-Star appearance, his first as a Laker, and was the first Spaniard to be on an NBA title team.

Individual accomplishments aside, there is no question that this team was just, indeed, that, a team, receiving significant contributions from a host of role players that made winning this championship possible.

Shannon Brown, acquired as a throw-in in a midseason trade, played his way into the playoff rotation and made a number of significant three-pointers in key playoff games.

Derek Fisher, one of my personal favorites, the old veteran guard who was slumping his way through the playoffs, emerged in game 4 of the NBA Finals to hit a game-tying three with 4.6 seconds remaining to push the game into overtime. He followed it up with a go-ahead 27-footer that would give the Lakers the lead and the game.

Collectively, this team all season long maintained their commitment to excellence and mental toughness. They were a reflection of the entire organization—owner, Jerry Buss; general manager, Mitch Kupchak; Hall of Fame coach, Phil Jackson—and are a model of excellence; in other words, they are truly champions.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, at this time it gives me great pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the lead sponsor of this resolution, Ms. MAXINE WATERS.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I am very appreciative of my colleague from Massachusetts and his leadership on this issue and for recognizing me to stand as a proud Los Angeleno, joined by 50 other of my colleagues to congratulate the extraordinary Los Angeles Lakers for their 2009 NBA cham-

pionship. This resolution, H. Res. 566, commemorates the Los Angeles Lakers' 15th National Basketball Association championship.

Prior to the 2008–2009 season, the Lakers won 14 National Basketball Association championships with a cast of Hall of Famers and coaches, which included NBA greats such as Jerry West, Wilt Chamberlain, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Shaquille O'Neal, Pat Riley, and current Head Coach Phil Jackson.

This season, Kobe Bryant, Lamar Odom, Derek Fisher, Pau Gasol, and Trevor Ariza led the 2008–2009 Lakers to a 65–17 regular season record and the number one spot in the Western Conference Playoffs. Not only did Trevor Ariza help to bring another championship to Los Angeles, he also attended Westchester High School in my district.

The Lakers entered the NBA Playoffs with home court advantage as a result of the team's regular season performance, and in the first round of the playoffs, the Lakers defeated the Utah Jazz in five games to advance to the Western Conference Semifinals.

The Lakers then faced the Houston Rockets in the Western Conference Semifinals, winning seven games, and advanced to the Western Conference Finals where they faced the Denver Nuggets. The Lakers clinched the Western Conference Finals in six games, thanks to the outstanding play by Pau Gasol and Kobe Bryant, which closed out the series.

In the NBA Finals, the Lakers matched up with the Orlando Magic, led by Dwight Howard. The Lakers won the first two games of the Finals in Los Angeles, including a hard-fought game 2, during which Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol combined for 53 points, propelling the Lakers to a 101–96 victory. The Lakers lost game 3 in Orlando by a score of 108–104; however, Lakers guard Kobe Bryant scored 31 points and played all but 8 minutes of the game.

The Lakers followed their loss in game 3 by winning the next two games in Orlando to win the 2009 NBA championship. For his outstanding play during the NBA Finals, Lakers' guard Kobe Bryant was presented with the Bill Russell NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Award and his fourth NBA championship. Lakers Head Coach Phil Jackson won his 10th NBA championship as a head coach and his 12th NBA championship overall.

Congratulations to the Lakers players, coaches, and staff on winning the 2008–2009 NBA championship.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I am confident the Utah Jazz will be back at some point, but for now, congratulations to the Los Angeles Lakers. I, too, will be supporting H. Res. 566. Congratulations.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I, as well, want to congratulate the Lakers and the gentelady from California. I

congratulate her on her resolution and for the victory that it represents.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 566.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam 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.

□ 1930

HONORING THE LIFE OF HARRY KALAS

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 350) honoring the life and accomplishments of Harry Kalas for his invaluable contributions to the national past-time of baseball, the community, and the Nation.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 350

Whereas Harry Kalas, an iconic and beloved sports broadcaster passed away on April 13, 2009;

Whereas Harry Kalas was born on March 26, 1936, in Naperville, Illinois;

Whereas Harry Kalas is a 1959 graduate of the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech, Radio, and Television;

Whereas immediately following graduation, Harry Kalas served in the United States Army for two years in Hawaii;

Whereas following his service, Harry Kalas began his broadcasting career with KGU Radio broadcasting games for the University of Hawaii and the Hawaii Islanders of the AAA Pacific Coast League;

Whereas Harry Kalas was a member of the original Houston Astros broadcast team in 1965;

Whereas Harry Kalas joined the Philadelphia Phillies broadcast team in 1971, calling their games for the past 38 years, including 26 years with his great friend and Hall of Famer Richie Ashburn;

Whereas Harry Kalas had diverse talents, calling University of Houston football, Southwest Conference basketball, Big Five basketball, University of Notre Dame football, and NFL games, throughout his illustrious career as well as providing voice-overs for NFL films and numerous commercials;

Whereas Harry Kalas broadcast the opening of the Astrodome, Veterans Stadium, and Citizen Bank Ballpark;

Whereas in 2002, Harry Kalas was the Ford C. Frick Award Winner, named after the former National League President and Major League Baseball Commissioner, which is annually bestowed by the National Baseball Hall of Fame to a broadcaster for "major contributions to baseball";

Whereas Harry Kalas called 7 National League Championship Series and 3 World Series, being the voice of the 2008 World Champions;

Whereas Harry Kalas called all of Hall of Famer Steve Carlton's starts as a Phillie, as well as all of Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt's 548 homeruns, making the phrase, "outta here", an often imitated but never duplicated signature home run call well known in Philadelphia and the rest of the baseball world;

Whereas Harry Kalas was named Pennsylvania Sportscaster of the year 18 times and was inducted into the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association Hall of Fame in 2008;

Whereas Harry Kalas was a remarkable husband to his wife, Eileen, and father to his three sons, Todd, Brad, and Kane;

Whereas his son Todd followed him into the field of sports broadcasting; and

Whereas Harry Kalas, not just as a voice, but also as a husband, father, friend, and veteran, will be sorely missed in both the Philadelphia region and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the life and accomplishments of Harry Kalas for his invaluable contributions to the national past-time of baseball, the community, and the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHRADER). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to present House Resolution 350 for consideration. This resolution honors the life and accomplishment of Harry Kalas.

House Resolution 350 was introduced by my colleague, Representative JOE SESTAK, on April 21, 2009, and was favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee by unanimous consent on June 18, 2009. Additionally, House Resolution 350 enjoys the support of over 50 Members of Congress.

Born on March 26, 1936 in Naperville, Illinois, Harry Kalas graduated from Naperville High School in 1954 and from the University of Iowa in 1959, after receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech, Radio and Television.

Following his graduation, Mr. Kalas served in the United States Army for 2 years, after which he began his distinguished career in broadcasting by calling baseball games for the University of Hawaii, as well as the Hawaii Islanders of the Triple-A Pacific Coast League.

In 1965, Mr. Kalas made his major league baseball debut as a sportscaster

with the Houston Astros. Six years later he embarked on what would become a 39-year Hall of Fame career as a sports broadcaster with the Philadelphia Phillies, where he was ultimately paired with his good friend and Phillies' Hall of Famer, center fielder Richie Ashburn.

Nicknamed "Harry the K" by Phillies fans, Mr. Kalas originated his now-famous "Outta Here" home run call in the mid-1970s and, as the nearly 40-year voice of the Phillies, called a number of memorable Philadelphia and Major League Baseball moments. Among them were the first games played at the Houston Astrodome, Veterans Stadium and Citizens Bank Park, also Mike Schmidt's 500th home run, and every one of Steve Carlton's starts from 1972 to 1986, and, of course, the Phillies' two World Series championships in 1980 and in 2008.

In recognition of his distinguished career, Mr. Kalas received the Ford C. Frick Award in 2002 from the National Baseball Hall of Fame, which actually bestows the award to broadcasters who have made major contributions to the game of baseball.

However, Mr. Kalas' career was not limited to baseball. In addition to his work with the Phillies, Mr. Kalas called a variety of notable sports events over the course of his nearly 50-year career and served as the longtime voice of NFL films, as featured on the HBO program "Inside the NFL." Mr. Kalas also lent his voice to a number of well-known commercials and television specials. But most importantly, Mr. Kalas will be equally remembered as a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Eileen, and father to his three sons, Todd, Brad, and Kane.

Regrettably, Harry Kalas passed away on April 13, 2009. In honor of their beloved friend and colleague, the 2009 Philadelphia Phillies can be seen wearing a black "H.K." patch over the heart of their jerseys, and Mr. Kalas' famous home run call can currently be heard playing in Citizens Bank Park after every Phillies homer.

Additionally, the Phillies have renamed their TV broadcast booth the Harry Kalas Broadcast Booth.

Mr. Speaker, let us further honor this distinguished American through the passage of this commemorative resolution to honor his life and achievements.

I urge my colleagues to do so and support House Resolution 350.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague and friend from the State of Florida, Mr. ROONEY.

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, you know, I wasn't planning on speaking tonight, but earlier this evening Mr. CHAFFETZ informed me that you were commemorating the life of Harry Kalas. And even though I represent the 16th district of Florida, as many Floridians, I came from somewhere else. I

was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and my entire childhood could probably be summed up as being a diehard Phillies fan. And I can remember clearly going down to the Jersey Shore in the summer times, as so many Philadelphians did. And after being put to bed at night by my parents, sneaking out behind the couch there was a table, and I stored an AM radio there, and night after night listening for hours to the voice of Harry Kalas, the mellow, laid back voice that so many Phillies fans just came to admire and love. And how many people listened to that voice for so many hours in the City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia region.

He truly will be missed. And you know, I always told people that I wanted to grow up and be a baseball announcer, and it was because of Harry Kalas. And somewhere I went off track. But I wanted to take the time here on the House floor to commemorate the life of Harry Kalas. And someday I hope to be a baseball announcer and I hope to be as good as Harry Kalas was.

Mr. LYNCH. I thank the gentleman from Florida for his remarks and adding that personal touch.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I will reserve.

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 350 honoring the voice of the Philadelphia Phillies legendary broadcaster, Harry Kalas, for his contributions to the national pastime of baseball, to the greater Philadelphia community, and to this Nation.

Mr. Kalas graduated from the University of Iowa in 1959 with a degree in Speech, Radio and Television. Upon graduation he was drafted into the United States Army, and when discharged he began working as a broadcaster.

He began his 44-year career as a Major League Baseball broadcaster with the Houston Astros in 1965. Kalas called the first game at Houston's famed Astrodome.

In advance of the 1971 season, he was hired by the Philadelphia Phillies. There he would remain for the next 39 seasons, 27 of which Kalas was paired in the booth with Richie "Whitey" Ashburn.

Harry Kalas made many memorable calls while broadcasting for the Phillies, including every start of Hall of Fame pitcher Steve Carlton's Phillies career, and Mike Schmidt's 500th home run on April 18, 1987. Of course, when Harry called the dramatic Schmidt home run, he intoned the player's full name, Michael Jack Schmidt.

His most memorable call, however, came last October 29 at the culmination of the Phillies championship run. As the pitcher struck out the last batter, Kalas' golden voice erupted: "The Philadelphia Phillies are the 2008 world champions of baseball."

He had a number of signature calls, but none was more famous than "That ball is outta here!" home run call.

Mr. Kalas' contribution to baseball did not go unrecognized during his years as a broadcaster. He was inducted into the broadcaster's wing of the baseball Hall of Fame in 2002, and was named Pennsylvania Sportscaster of the Year 18 times.

In addition to his work with the Phillies, Kalas was also the voice of NFL films and called various sporting events over his career, including Notre Dame football.

Sadly, Mr. Kalas passed away here in Washington, D.C. at Nationals Park in the visiting team's broadcast booth on the afternoon of April 13, 2009, while doing what he loved, preparing to cover a Phillies game.

I ask my fellow Members to join with me in honoring Harry Kalas for his exceptional contributions to baseball and, through that, for his contributions to the community and to the Nation and people like Mr. Rooney, who grew up hearing his voice and coming to enjoy that.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, having no further speakers, I do want to ask all of our colleagues to join with the lead sponsor of this resolution, Mr. SESTAK, in supporting his resolution honoring Mr. Kalas.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 350.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. 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.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE DAUGHTERS OF IRAN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the women of Iran are standing shoulder to shoulder in the streets protesting against the rigged, corrupt Iranian elections. At least that's how it began. Now these legions of women, mostly wearing black, full-length Islamic dress, stand in defiance of their government's treatment of women. These

women have shed their blood, suffered the same beatings and imprisonment as men. Some have sacrificed their very lives.

In America our hearts ache as we watched the video of Neda Agha Soltan. She was shot by her own government henchmen as she walked through the streets. She bled to death in that street, a martyr for democracy in Iran. Neda was only 26 years old, but her voice still cries from the grave: "that the people of Iran demand human rights, equality and freedom from tyranny."

Young women like a girl named Parsia told reporters, and I quote, "This regime is against all humanity, more specifically, against all women." She continues, "Lots of girls and women in these demonstrations. They're all angry, ready to explode, scream out and let the world hear their voices. I want the world to know that as a woman in this country, I have no freedom."

The women of Iran have a rich history of fighting for freedom. In the early 1900s, in Persia, later called Iran, Britain and Russia tried to rule Persia through a puppet government.

□ 1945

In 1906, the Persian people fought the shah, and became a constitutional republic. They had a Congress called the Majlis to make their laws.

American economic expert Morgan Shuster was appointed to that democratic government in 1911 to organize Persia's finances. At that time, members of the Majlis were threatened or were bribed by Russia, with support from Great Britain, to disband that constitutional government. Shuster wrote in his memoirs about Persian women who armed themselves and who marched on the Congress.

He writes about those bold, brave women, "Out from their walled courtyards and harems marched 300 women with the flush of undying determination in their cheeks. They were clad in their plain black robes with the white nets of their veils drooped over their faces. Many held pistols under their skirts or in the folds of their sleeves. Straight to the Congress they went."

These "Persian mothers, wives and daughters" dropped their veils and waved their pistols, saying they had decided to "kill their own husbands and sons and leave behind their own dead bodies" if the Congress "wavered in their duty to uphold the liberty and dignity of the Persian people and nation."

Because of these courageous women 100 years ago, the Persian Congress stood firm in their struggle for liberty and freedom for the people. However, Russian Cossacks marched into Tehran a week later, disbanding the government by force and executing every constitutionalist they could find.

History speaks to the courage and bravery of Iranian women, which goes back for centuries. It is no surprise

they are again at the forefront of the struggle for human rights and dignity in Iran. The women of Iran are not the property of the government, and should not be punished because they demand equality with men. These women present a great challenge for the hard-line government. They are a force to be reckoned with, and the government knows it.

My grandmother used to tell me that there's nothing more powerful than a woman who has made up her mind. Let me tell you something, Mr. Speaker: The women of Iran have made up their minds. They are not going to take it anymore. Like their sisters in freedom 100 years ago, they are not going to give into the black-booted thugs who are trying to steal freedom and human dignity from them. Iran is their country. These women are no longer going to be treated as second-class people. Woe be to those who try to stop them. The daughters of Iran have inspired the world with their bravery. Their cause is righteous. Their actions are just. May the almighty who rules the universe make them strong and courageous.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AFGHANISTAN BUILD-UP

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, I read a column in the Raleigh News and Observer, entitled "From Vietnam 1959 to Afghanistan 2009." The column was written by Joseph Galloway, a military journalist and co-author of a book on Vietnam called, "We Were Soldiers Once and Young."

[From the News & Observer, July 19, 2009]

FROM VIETNAM 1959 TO AFGHANISTAN 2009

(By Joseph L. Galloway, McClatchy-Tribune Information Services)

BAYSIDE, Texas.—It was just about half a century ago, on the night of July 8, 1959, that the first two American soldiers to die in the Vietnam War were slain when guerrillas surrounded and shot up a small mess hall where half a dozen advisers were watching a movie after dinner.

Master Sgt. Chester Ovnand of Copperas Cove, Texas, and Maj. Dale Buis of Imperial Beach, Calif., would become the first two names chiseled on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial—the first of 58,220 Americans who died in Vietnam during the next 16 years.

The deaths of Ovnand and Buis went largely unnoticed at the time, simply a small beginning of what would become a huge national tragedy.

Presidents from Harry Truman to Dwight Eisenhower to John F. Kennedy to Lyndon B. Johnson to Richard M. Nixon to Gerald R. Ford made decisions—some small and incremental, some large and disastrous—in building us so costly and tragic a war.