

The Fry Scholarship provides GI bill benefits to surviving spouses and children of servicemembers who have died in the line of duty since 9/11. However, when Congress extended the benefit to spouses in the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, a 15-year limitation was put on these benefits. Captain Twine passed away in 2002, meaning that now, as his wife tries to go back to school to pursue her master's degree, she and so many other surviving spouses don't have the time to use this benefit. This bill will fix that and give veterans' families the opportunity to further their education.

In addition to expanding the Fry Scholarship, the bill will expand the VA's Yellow Ribbon Program to help students with out-of-pocket tuition and fees and to include all spouses and children of servicemembers who gave their lives fighting for our country. The bill also incorporates legislation I helped to introduce to restore GI benefits of veterans who lost credit or training time because their school permanently closed. We have heard too many stories of shady, for-profit colleges that close abruptly, leaving students and many veterans in limbo. This ensures the veterans don't lose their GI benefits.

We know that, shamefully, too many veterans don't have a roof over their heads or a place to call home. The legislation incorporates elements of the Veteran Housing Stability Act, which would increase veterans' access to permanent housing options.

This is an issue that we have been working on for years. Last year, I visited organizations around Ohio that are doing terrific work to give veterans the support they need to get back on their feet and find permanent homes. With this bill we will give veterans the support they need. Even one veteran on the streets means Congress isn't doing nearly enough to tackle this problem.

The legislation also helps ensure whistleblowers at the VA can disclose concerns relating to veterans care without fearing retaliation.

It expands a critical program to support veteran caregivers.

As a country, we made a promise to care for veterans in return for their service to this country. Far too often people in this body are willing to vote billions of dollars for defense but then not do what we should with veterans. This bill helps to change that. Right now, 9/11 veterans and their families already take advantage of this critical support. This bill will make the same support available to families and veterans of all generations.

I urge my colleagues to move quickly in this important legislation to protect and honor our Nation's heroes.

CONGRATULATING THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS FOR WINNING THE 2016 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION FINALS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I know I will be joined in a few moments by my colleague from Ohio, Senator PORTMAN.

I rise to make some remarks on a resolution Senator PORTMAN has submitted with me.

Mr. President, journalists and sports fans like to describe victories as "historic," and often that is a bit of hyperbole. But in the case of the Cleveland Cavaliers' NBA championship win on Sunday, the word "historic" is warranted.

Today, several hundred thousand people gathered in downtown Cleveland. Senator PORTMAN and I talked about how we would have liked to have joined in. But we have these day jobs, and we just figured we couldn't really go back. Today, literally hundreds of thousands of people are in downtown Cleveland. Some estimates were as high as almost all the adult population of Cuyahoga County. The numbers are pretty spectacular. The word "historic" is warranted in this Cavaliers victory on Sunday night.

No other team in NBA history has come from a 3-to-1 series deficit in the finals, until now. No other major American city has gone so long as Cleveland has without winning a major league sports championship.

It is fitting for my city—my wife and I call Cleveland home—that this championship came down to game 7. The series played out like a metaphor for what this means in Cleveland—ever the underdog, down 3 games to 1.

To understand what this victory means for our Midwestern city on the lake, think about the last time we won a championship in a major sport. None of the pages sitting here were born. In fact, some of their parents might not have yet been born. It was 1964.

Lyndon Johnson was President. Martin Luther King, Jr., was in the middle of a very successful civil rights campaign. Robert Kennedy, who sat at this desk on the Senate floor, was still alive, campaigning for civil rights and economic justice. America was beginning to hear more and more about Vietnam on the evening news. We had no idea of the nightmare that it would become.

The Beatles had just come to America. We had three TV channels in Cleveland—channels 3, 5, and 8. The most popular shows were "Bonanza" and "Bewitched."

As a boy growing up in Mansfield—not far from Cleveland, about 70 miles—I watched with pride a little more than 2 years before that when Ohio's John Glenn orbited the Earth in *Friendship 7*. The moon was still a distant dream, and none of us had heard of astronaut Neil Armstrong.

The Cleveland Browns with Jim Brown brought home the NFL championship for us that December. It wasn't even called the Super Bowl back

then. That is how long ago this was. It was called the NFL championship. Little did any of us know that we wouldn't see another trophy for another half century.

I was 12 years old at the time.

The Cleveland Cavaliers did not exist. The NBA was much smaller. Three years earlier, the Indians had traded the beloved outfielder, the hero of all young fans, Rocco Colavito was traded away to Detroit. The Indians were in the midst of losing season after losing season. Within a year or 2, they put together a top-line four-person starting pitching staff—Sonny Siebert, Luis Tiant, Sam McDowell, Steve Hargan—but still the Cleveland Indians didn't win.

As a 10-year-old, a 12-year-old, and a 15-year-old, my dad would take us up old U.S. 42, often to see a double-header, back when they played those kinds of double-headers on Sunday.

My dad would never take us to see the New York Yankees, a team he despised, because he knew that 15 or 20 cents of our ticket price would go to Mickey Mantle or Roger Maris and Yogi Berra and other Yankees.

Every year I was naive to think the Indians would win the pennant. Never in those years would they even get close. By July, or certainly by August, it was clear even to this 12-year-old boy that the Indians were not going to win the pennant.

For the next 52 years after the 1964 Browns championship, we were challenged in the city of Cleveland. The manufacturing economy that sustained Northeast Ohio eroded with decades of policy choices that closed factories and shipped jobs overseas. Too often there was bad trade policy and bad tax policy. The population of the city shrank to almost half its population from my boyhood, from my early years.

Beginning in 1995, Ohio had 14 years of consecutive foreclosure increases, each year more than the year before.

But today, downtown Cleveland is coming back, not just because hundreds of thousands of people are in downtown Cleveland celebrating this first NBA championship, but it is coming back. My wife and I moved into the city 3 years ago. We wanted to be a part of this renaissance, and we have seen the city beginning to return to its glory.

Nothing has embodied the hope and the determination and the grit of our city like this team. We know that sports teams are far more than the sum of their parts. They are a point of connection for people in every walk of life in the city. There is a reason we have begun to call it Believeland.

On Monday, a native Clevelander who had to move away from his hometown posted this on Facebook:

We draw so much from our teams. It's wound up in our identity—a token of the pride we have for the local tribe from which we came.

My wife Connie reposted the man's words that night, and hundreds chimed

in to explain the connection they felt to the Cavaliers and their fellow Clevelanders. One woman said Cleveland sports were her connection to her family—her grandfather, her parents, aunts and uncles, cousins, some of whom have scattered across the State and across the country.

Our faith had been tested for decades. For the past decade, the hopes of this city—at least in sports—rested on the shoulders of one talented young man. I watched LeBron James play in high school. His best friend's mother worked with me in Akron. LeBron played for St. Vincent-St. Mary, a Catholic school. I saw him at the University of Akron arena, where the team played its home games because LeBron was so in demand that people all over Northeast Ohio came to see him in high school. I saw him play at Barberton High School in the State tournament.

We knew he was a star. You didn't have to know much about basketball to know that. We were heartbroken when he went to Miami. But like families do, we welcomed him back with opened arms in 2014, and pretty much forgot that he had ever left—once an Ohioan, always an Ohioan.

For the next 2 years, he carried the weight of our city's championship dreams. He was all in, his city was all in, and this year, he and his team delivered. King James will go down in the history books as perhaps the NBA's greatest basketball player. I will debate that, if anybody would like. Certainly, he is one of the greatest athletes of all time.

He was unanimously named the 2016 NBA Finals MVP. He led all players in points, rebounds, assists, steals, and blocked shots. Nobody has ever come close to doing that in any championship series. His leadership was important, but the victory was surely was a team effort.

Kyrie Irving scored 26 points in the final game and scored a crucial 3-pointer with less than 1 minute left. It was decisive. Coach Tyronn Lue and his coaching staff worked to put the team in a position to win. With the hopes and dreams of a city riding on them, win is what they did, ending that 52-year championship drought and restoring faith to Cleveland.

I wish I could have been on East 9th Street this morning for the parade. My wife left home at 7 a.m. for what normally should only have been a 20-minute drive to downtown. We live in the city, only 5 miles from downtown. She knew it would take at least an hour because of the crowds gathered.

I am heading back to my office in a few moments to meet my colleague from the Golden State, Senator BOXER. She owes Ohioans some beer. We bet Cleveland-brewed beer against Bay Area-brewed beer. She will be sporting a LeBron James jersey to make the delivery. I had to do that last year. Turn-around is fair play.

On behalf of my colleague Senator PORTMAN, who attended a number of

the games and is as excited as I am about this, congratulations to the Cavaliers, congratulations to the city of Cleveland, and congratulations to the fans scattered far and wide across this country who never gave up, and now, on to next season.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 509, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 509) congratulating the Cleveland Cavaliers for winning the 2016 National Basketball Association Finals.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 509) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I yield to my friend from Ohio, Senator PORTMAN.

Mr. PORTMAN. I thank my colleague, and I thank the Presiding Officer.

Wow, what an incredible week for Cleveland. While we are talking today, there are several hundred thousand fans walking down the streets in Cleveland in an awesome parade. As much as I appreciate being in the Senate doing my constitutional duty in my day job, I wish I were there. I know Senator BROWN feels the same way. Because we cannot be there, we wanted to provide the resolution today at the time of the parade and be sure that all of our colleagues know how proud we are of the Cavs and get them on record.

We are trying not to rub it in too much with our California colleagues, although I will now say I have a case of Great Lakes beer in my refrigerator that otherwise would have gone to one of my Senate colleagues, Senator FEINSTEIN. Instead, I get a case of California wine. That is nice because last year it was the other way around.

What an amazing season and incredible finals. I did get a chance to go to some of the games. I lived in Cleveland for a brief time when I was a kid. At that time, Cleveland was not known as a great sports town. Jimmy Brown and the Cleveland Browns were our last team to win a championship in 1964. Fifty-two years is a long time. The drought is over, and the Cavs did it in the Northeast way. Northeast Ohio is an area where, through grit and determination and perseverance, we are on the way back up. We are a comeback

region. Cleveland is a comeback city, and that is exactly what happened.

In many respects, the way we won the finals is the way we worked through the season with some of the challenges we had. We changed coaches in midstream, and every single player showed grit and determination. Whether it was Iman Shumpert or Kevin Love or certainly Kyrie Irving and that incredible 3-pointer in the seventh game, Tristan Thompson, and then, of course, the king—he really willed victory that night. Game 7—you saw the blocked shot at the end. You saw his layup at the end. He did get a triple-double that night. He not only got a triple-double, but throughout the entire series, he was a star in the sense that—and this has never happened in the finals before, ever. He did have more blocked shots, he did have more assists, he did have more points, he did have more rebounds, and he did have more steals than any player on either team. When you think about that, it is extraordinary. In my view, he is the greatest basketball player living today, and he will go down in history, because of this one series, as being the guy who really pulled Cleveland over the line.

I went to the fourth game. This was the game we lost in Cleveland. We were down 3 to 1. No one has ever come back to win a series being down 3 to 1 in the finals, ever. But the fans did not give up that night. More importantly, the players I talked about and the other players who came off the bench and did an awesome job never gave up. They never gave up because they had that grit and perseverance which characterizes Northeast Ohio and because they wanted to make good on the promise.

When LeBron James came back to Cleveland, what did he say? He said: I am going to bring my hometown, my home area, a championship. Born and raised in Akron, he was a high school player who was a phenomenon. He is a guy who loves his State, loves Northeast Ohio. I think he summed it all up when he came back and said: I am going to deliver a championship. I think he was very emotional after game 7, in part because his goal, his dream—not for himself but for Cleveland—was finally accomplished.

About Cleveland and Northeast Ohio, he says it is an area where you work hard and you earn it. He said that you don't get success just for your talent, just through showing up; you get your success by working hard and earning it. That is a great message. It is a message that he has imbued in the minds of young people all over Northeast Ohio, specifically in Akron, where so many young men and young women have been able to be more successful in life thanks to his efforts, his funding his foundation to help them get through high school and get into college. He has told them: This is about grit, perseverance, hard work, and discipline. You don't just get there because of your talent.

He is probably the most talented athlete I know, but, as we saw in game 7,

it wasn't just about talent, it was about perseverance, determination, and focus.

I am very proud of the Cavs. I am very proud of the way they won. I am proud of Cleveland.

As you know, the Republican convention is coming up in Cleveland. Someone asked me today: Do you think they will take down the Cavs posters?

I said: I hope not. This is all part of a big celebration.

It was great for Cleveland in terms of the hotels and restaurants being full, certainly great for the economy to have the finals, but more importantly, it is great for the spirit of Cleveland and consistent with the comeback city, consistent with this notion that, yes, we have had tough times before, we have had our share of challenges in Cleveland, and we still do, but we are Believeland, Cleveland. We believe. We believe that through hard work and perseverance, we can make progress and we can be successful, just as the Cavs were during this final series.

I also thank Dan Gilbert, the owner of the team. He is the guy who worked hard to get the team back together, to get the band back together. I am sure bringing together Kyrie Irving, Kevin Love, Tristan Thompson, and certainly the king, LeBron James—you know it is not easy to bring all those players together and make it all work and gel, but Gilbert believed. Gilbert believes in Cleveland. He is a Detroit guy, but he believes in Cleveland. He has made a big investment in Cleveland in other ways in the community and in the economic development there, and certainly what the Cavs just did assisted in that.

Ultimately, this is a celebration, not just because they won the finals, but because of the way they did it. It was a tough season. They switched coaches in midstream. They had some injuries back and forth. They did it the hard way—through perseverance, determination, and hard work.

I am proud of Cleveland. Senator BROWN and I are proud to have this resolution before the Senate today. We are pleased it passed with unanimous consent. That doesn't happen with everything in the U.S. Congress, as some of you may have noticed, but it certainly happens here because in this case the Cavaliers earned it. You earn it in Northeast Ohio, and that is what they did. I am proud of them.

Thank you for allowing us to present this resolution. And Go Cavs. We are all in.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—Continued

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to address the Senate as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I am here to speak on the FAA reauthorization and several things and stories that have arisen in the last few days which are very discouraging to me and troublesome to a cause I care a lot about.

I am an advocate for general aviation, and I was pleased the Senate was able to pass the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2016 by a vote of 95 to 3—95 to 3, this Senate approved legislation reauthorizing the FAA for the next 18 months. It is an unusual occurrence around here when anything passes 95 to 3.

I also would indicate our committee voted—I am a member of the Commerce Committee—unanimously to report that bill to the Senate in a favorable recommendation, again demonstrating overwhelmingly bipartisan support in regard to this aviation legislation.

Kansas is an aviation State. Wichita and South Central Kansas are known as the significant provider of airplanes—general aviation airplanes and parts. We have lots of subcontractors in that process. We are also a rural State. In fact, Wichita is known as the air capital of the world. In addition to the manufacturing sector, which is so important to our State's economy, so important to our ability to compete globally, we are a rural State, and airplanes and airports matter to us greatly.

So while we care a lot about the manufacturing of general aviation airplanes, we also care a lot about airports and their ability to take care of flights coming in and out of small communities across our State and certainly across the country. That general aviation airport is a connection to the rest of the world, and it allows for medical expertise to be flown into a community in lifesaving efforts, but just on a more day-to-day basis, it allows for us to have access to customers, to suppliers, to clients because we have manufacturing and other businesses in rural communities across Kansas whose connection with their customer base and suppliers is through that airport. In the absence of general aviation manufacturing, our State suffers greatly, but in the absence of general aviation airports, our State would suffer greatly as well.

What I am worried about is the House has not acted in any positive way on the passage of this bill, and the deadline of July 15 is rapidly approaching. If the House does not take up the Senate-passed version, what that would mean is the expectation—in fact, the

stated circumstance is the House would pass a short-term extension of the current FAA legislation and leave the Senate bill hanging.

Many of the folks in this Senate who have served longer than I have would recognize the history of this issue, where one extension after another was required because consensus was never developed, and the leadership was not provided to resolve the differences over the years on FAA reauthorization. The point I wish to make by being on the Senate floor and expressing my views to my colleagues is, do not allow us to get into this position again where we would have a series of extensions of the FAA legislation.

We need the House to act on the Senate bill that is pending in their committee, that is pending on the House side, and differences need to be resolved. At the moment, the House has not passed an FAA reauthorization bill. Time is short. On July 15, the current law expires. My plea to my colleagues in the House, where I formerly served, is to take up the Senate bill, address the issues you want as Members of the House, representing your constituency, and send the bill back to us so we can conference this issue and have a more long-term reauthorization bill.

Certainty matters. Certainty matters to the manufacturers in Kansas. Certainty matters to the airports and the pilots who utilize those airports. Do not allow us, once more, to be in this circumstance of an extension one time after another and the uncertainty that provides.

It is my view that it would be a shame if the important reforms included in the bill the Senate approved in such an overwhelming fashion were held up by the House, in large part because of a significant controversial proposal to privatize the national air traffic control system. It sharply divides Congress. Everything I have read publicly and everything I have heard from my friends and colleagues, former colleagues in the House, is that there are not the necessary votes present to pass that provision in the House. From my own experience in the Senate, those votes don't exist in the Senate Commerce Committee and they do not exist on the Senate floor.

So let's not tie up this bill over a proposal that does not have the votes to pass, and let's not lose the opportunity to take advantage of the reforms that were included in the Senate FAA reauthorization bill. We should not consider what would be called a clean extension of the FAA, when the authorization under our bill is the same length. The House is talking about sending us an 18-month extension. The Senate bill, as passed, is an 18-month extension. What would be missing are reforms we have worked so hard to include after significant amounts of testimony, after a number of hearings and conversations within