

willingness to study hard and to work toward a difficult goal is an example from which all Americans can learn. He is indeed a rare and talented young person. Again, I extend to him my congratulations.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA).

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 684, a resolution honoring David Scott Tidmarsh, the 2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion. I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, for moving this resolution so quickly through his committee.

Mr. Speaker, 14-year-old David Tidmarsh is truly a remarkable young man. Having had the opportunity to meet him and witness his accomplishments, I think I can say that with great confidence.

This soon-to-be freshman at Adams High School in South Bend, Indiana, is no stranger to the national spelling bee contest. He finished tied for 16th place in last year's spelling bee, but this year he knew he could do better, and he set out on a plan to achieve that goal.

David Tidmarsh has four dictionaries that he calls his own in his personal collection, including one that is so well worn that, if you shook it, it would probably fall apart. He has read through that one cover to cover twice. In fact, he compiled a list of words he thought might be included in the contest and typed them into his family's home computer. He also studied word lists from prior competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is safe to say this is a very determined young man.

I was surprised to learn that in the 77-year history of the Scripps National Spelling Bee there has never been a winner from Indiana until this young man correctly spelled "autochthonous," which is hard enough to say, very hard to spell, in the 15th round.

Mr. Speaker, I know that people from all over the country were holding their breath, watching David spell that final word on ESPN. I also know that his school and his hometown of South Bend, Indiana, was overwhelmed with excitement when he claimed the championship.

In fact, he has had quite a whirlwind tour since winning. He won the trophy on Thursday, June 3. That very night, he and his family traveled to New York City, and the next morning he appeared on the CBS Early Show, ABC's Good Morning America, NBC's Today Show, and, after that, he appeared on Fox News and CNN as well.

After that, he came back here to Washington, D.C., to deliver the speech at the bee's banquet that evening; and then he finally went back home to South Bend, Indiana, on Saturday.

On Monday, he attended a rally in his honor at his school, Edison Inter-

mediate Center, hosted by the City of South Bend and the South Bend Community School Corporation. At the celebration, he was praised by Indiana's Governor, Joe Kernan, for the way he handled his victory. In fact, Governor Kernan was so impressed that he awarded David the State of Indiana's highest honor, the Sagamore of the Wabash Award.

But that was only the beginning of the accolades. South Bend Mayor Steve Luecke presented David with the key to the city and declared June 7, 2004, David Scott Tidmarsh Day. In St. Joseph County, Commissioner Cindy Bodle presented David with a key to the county.

Since that time in early June, David has thrown out his first pitch at a South Bend Silverhawks game, and I might say it was a strike, I was there to witness it, and he has appeared in numerous local parades and even had the opportunity to visit with the President of the United States in the Oval Office.

Everyone, including his very proud parents, his classmates, his extended Hoosier family, the Indiana Congressional Delegation and myself, are all extremely proud of David's accomplishments.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support House Resolution 684, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 684.

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.

#### HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD ON HIS 91ST BIRTHDAY

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 702) honoring former President Gerald R. Ford on the occasion of his 91st birthday and extending the best wishes of the House of Representatives to former President Ford and his family.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 702

Whereas Gerald Rudolph Ford was born on July 14, 1913;

Whereas Gerald R. Ford is the only person from the State of Michigan to have served as President of the United States;

Whereas Gerald R. Ford graduated from the University of Michigan where he was a star center on the football team and later turned down offers to play in the National Football League;

Whereas Gerald R. Ford attended Yale University Law School and graduated in the top 25 percent of his class while also working as a football coach;

Whereas in 1942, Gerald R. Ford joined the United States Navy Reserves and served valiantly on the U.S.S. Monterey in the Philippines during World War II, surviving a heavy storm during which he came within inches of being swept overboard;

Whereas the U.S.S. Monterey earned 10 battle stars, awarded for participation in battle, while Gerald R. Ford served on the ship;

Whereas Gerald R. Ford was released to inactive duty in 1946 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander;

Whereas in 1948, Gerald R. Ford was elected to the House of Representatives where he served with integrity for 25 years;

Whereas in 1963, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Gerald R. Ford to the Warren Commission investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy;

Whereas from 1965 to 1973, Gerald R. Ford served as minority leader of the House of Representatives;

Whereas from 1974 to 1976, Gerald R. Ford served as the 38th President of the United States, taking office at a dark hour in the history of the United States and restoring the faith of the people of the United States in the Presidency through his wisdom, courage, and integrity;

Whereas in 1975, the United States signed the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, commonly known as the "Helsinki Agreement", which ratified post-World War II European borders and supported human rights;

Whereas since leaving the Presidency, Gerald R. Ford has been an international ambassador of American goodwill, a noted scholar and lecturer, and a strong supporter of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, which was named for the former President in 1999;

Whereas Gerald R. Ford was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999; and

Whereas on July 14, 2004, Gerald R. Ford will celebrate his 91st birthday: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives honors former President Gerald R. Ford on the occasion of his 91st birthday and extends its congratulations and best wishes to former President Ford and his family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is certainly a true pleasure today to rise in support of House Resolution 702. This is a resolution that wishes former President Gerald R. Ford a wonderfully happy 91st birthday on behalf

of the House of Representatives. President Ford certainly holds a unique place in American history. Within a 1-year period during the very destructive Watergate scandal, he held the positions of House minority leader, of Vice President, and President because he was such a respected national leader of unquestioned integrity and principle.

Mr. Speaker, Gerald Rudolph Ford was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on July 14, 1913; and then he moved to Grand Rapids in the great State of Michigan shortly after his birth. He was always an exceptional student and athlete and was very active in extracurricular activities, even attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

President Ford attended the University of Michigan to study economics and political science; and as a member of the U of M's football team, he won two national championships in 1932 and 1933. In 1934, he was named the team's most valuable player.

Rejecting offers to play professional football with either the Detroit Lions or the Green Bay Packers, Gerald Ford took a job at Yale University as a boxing coach and an assistant football coach, and he received his law degree then at Yale in 1941.

The war was on, and he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve during the war; and then he returned to Grand Rapids after the war, in 1946, to work as a lawyer. In 1948, he defeated the incumbent United States Representative in that district in the primary election and then won the general election by a very wide margin.

Mr. Speaker, Gerald Ford was a Member of this body from 1949 to 1973 and he served as House minority leader from 1965 to 1973.

□ 1445

In the Congress, Ford was an ardent proponent of strong national defense, and he realized the important role that the United States played in the global theater.

In October of 1973, as the Watergate scandal gradually unfolded, President Richard Nixon nominated Ford to succeed Spiro Agnew as Vice President of the United States. Ford became Vice President on December 6, 1973, and, in doing so, he also became the first Vice President to be appointed under the procedures of the 25th amendment.

Mr. Speaker, Gerald Ford's vice presidential tenure lasted less than a year. When Nixon resigned due to continued revelations of Watergate, Ford became President on August 9, 1974. In a move he deemed the best for the sake of the Nation, he issued a complete pardon to Nixon in an effort to end what he categorized as the Nation's long nightmare.

During his inauguration speech, President Carter paid immediate tribute to President Ford's role in helping America through such a difficult period saying, "For myself and for our Nation, I want to thank my predecessor for all he has done to heal our land."

On April 20, 1995, President Ford's boyhood home in Grand Rapids was designated as an historic site. I bring that up, Mr. Speaker, because at the time I was the Michigan Secretary of State, and one of my duties and responsibilities was serving as Michigan's official historian.

Certainly one of my fondest memories was hosting the President and his wonderful wife, his very gracious wife, Betty Ford, for the home's dedication. There was a huge crowd of family and friends and neighbors, and the President was standing on the front porch of his home telling everybody about some of his fond remembrances of living in that home in Grand Rapids and how he used to play baseball out in front of the house.

Gerald Ford is an extraordinary man and yet he grew up in an ordinary neighborhood, just like thousands of other neighborhoods all across our Nation. President Ford and his great accomplishments epitomize the greatness the American spirit, and I was truly honored to stand next to a living piece of American history that day.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Michigan, the dean of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for introducing this highly deserved tribute to our 38th President of the United States, Gerald Ford. Our entire Nation thanks him for his service, and we wish him a very happy 91st birthday.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the gentlewoman from Michigan in consideration of this resolution, and it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the author of this resolution and one of the most distinguished and longest-serving Members of this body, the dean of the institution and the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I thank my distinguished friend and colleague for yielding me time. I commend him for handling this legislation, as I do the gentlewoman from Michigan, who has done such a fine job of presenting the case for this legislation.

Today, we honor and congratulate a former President of the United States on his 91st birthday, and we extend to him and to his wife the best wishes of this body on this 91st birthday which he is celebrating Wednesday.

We are proud of his service, not only in this body, but elsewhere. He will be 91, as I mentioned, on July 14, which is Wednesday. He is married to a distinguished lady, Elizabeth "Betty" Ford, who is much loved in this body and much loved elsewhere.

He attended the University of Michigan, Yale University Law School, served with distinction in the United States Navy in the Philippines during

World War II. He served in the House of Representatives for 25 years and was appointed to and served with distinction on the Warren Commission by President Johnson.

He was minority leader of this body from 1965 to 1973 and Vice President from 1973 through 1974. He was sworn in as President on August 9, 1974, and served in this great capacity for 2 years.

The thing which I think we can best remember about Gerry Ford is not all of the distinguished actions which he took or the high offices which he held but, rather, the fact that in a very difficult time he brought this country together out of a period of ill will and misfortune, which I think is almost unique in the history of this country. With that healing leadership, he will be long remembered for what he has done for us. The University of Michigan School of Public Policy is named after him, and he is much loved also in our State.

I want to commend and thank my colleagues who have joined in the cosponsorship of this legislation: the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. Bono), who is at this time his Congresswoman; the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA); the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN); the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS); and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK).

We from the Michigan delegation have unanimously suggested that this is a good resolution for this body to adopt. We celebrate the accomplishments, the great humanity and decency of a wonderful citizen of our State and of the United States who served with distinction in the Presidency and in many other offices, and we do at this time wish him, through this resolution and in other ways, the best wishes of this body, of the House of Representatives and of all of us individually, and those many other American citizens who have had fine reason to love a great American who still serves his country with distinction.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 772, that extends 91st birthday wishes to President Gerald Ford.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues today to pay tribute to former President Gerald Ford on the occasion of his 91st birthday and to thank him for his service to our Nation. President Ford assumed the office of President under difficult circumstances and guided us with strength and steadiness that helped us to regain confidence that we had lost in our Nation's most important office.

Looking back on President Ford's life, it is easy to see that he would distinguish himself as a leader. At the University of Michigan, he excelled both at his studies and at football. He received a law degree from Yale University. When duty called, he enlisted in the Navy, where he earned the rank of lieutenant commander during World War II.

Following the war, President Ford returned to his home State of Michigan and was elected to the House of Representatives for his first of 13 terms. An innate ability to lead helped President Ford rise quickly through the ranks of Congress. He was soon assigned to the influential Committee on Appropriations and rose to become the ranking Republican on the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations.

In 1972, Gerald Ford was nominated as Vice President. He became President in 1974, following the resignation of President Richard Nixon. Faced with many challenges when he took office, President Ford worked to repair the damaged relationship between the American people and its government and the image of America with the rest of the world.

Two of his historic accomplishments were bringing an end to the Vietnam War and facilitating improved relations between Egypt and Israel. Improved relations between Israel and Egypt would lead to a peace pact between the two rival nations, an unprecedented step towards peace in the region.

On his inauguration day President Jimmy Carter began his speech by saying, "For myself and for our Nation, I want to thank my predecessor for all he has done to heal our land."

While we all may not agree with all of the decisions President Ford made during his political career, we can all concur that he carried himself with dignity at a time when our Nation needed it most.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank President Ford for his service. I commend the gentleman from Michigan for introducing this resolution.

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who holds a distinguished record of life-long public service to the United States. President Gerald R. Ford, the 38th President of the United States, celebrates his 91st birthday today. Since 1913, President Ford has been a diligent, humble steward of public service to our great country. He is a role model for all of us involved with public office, and I am fortunate to also call him a dear friend and constituent. It is with great pleasure that I con-

gratulate President Ford, and extend best wishes to his family on this day of celebration.

President Ford's public service began in high school, where he achieved the honor of Eagle Scout. He later earned ten battle stars as lieutenant commander in the Navy, served the State of Michigan in Congress for 12 terms, eventually served as House Minority Leader in 1965, and finally, he served our country as the 38th President. As President, he led America through the weakest economy of the post-World War II period, confronting tough issues as rising levels of both inflation and unemployment.

After completing his term as President, he returned to Rancho Mirage—a region of southern California that I have the privilege of representing. Now, even at the age of 91, he continues to invest time, energy, and experience into improving our community. His investments in the Rancho Mirage region helped to spark unprecedented levels of economic growth that began in 1983 and continue today. His commitments include support for the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, the Living Desert and Desert Museum, and the Eisenhower Medical Center and the Betty Ford Center.

In 1997, Ford joined Gen. Colin Powell in Philadelphia for the formation of America's Promise. In my district, he brought the goals of helping young people to fruition by chairing an America's Promise chapter in the Coachella Valley.

President Bill Clinton presented Ford with the Medal of Freedom in 1999, recognizing his role in guiding the nation through the turbulent times of Watergate, the Nixon resignation and the end of the Vietnam war. Also in 1999, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor for, "dedicated public service and outstanding humanitarian contributions."

In my district, President Ford is heralded as a man who consistently puts country over political party. He is a respected and honored leader, who tirelessly and passionately fights for principles of freedom, hope, and justice. On a personal note, President Ford has provided me with advice and inspiration to better serve the people of the 45th District of California.

Ford and his wife, Betty, continue to support numerous local and national charities and service projects. Despite Ford's long list of honors, his humble spirit remains as a shining example to us all. When asked about his and Betty's unrelenting investment of public service, he simply responded: "We're trying to do our full share." After decades of compassionate leadership, President Ford remains a trusted, proven leader, who views giving back to the community as a civic responsibility of all Americans, not just the task of elected officials.

On behalf of my constituents, the people of California, and the people of America, I am pleased to honor a man who has dedicated a lifetime to public service on this very special day. Happy 91st Birthday, President Gerald Ford. You are a continuous inspiration, admired leader, and valued friend.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, happy birthday to a great American, President Gerald R. Ford.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion

offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 702.

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.

**SERGEANT FIRST CLASS PAUL RAY SMITH POST OFFICE BUILDING**

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4380) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4737 Mile Stretch Drive in Holiday, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4380

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

**SECTION 1. SERGEANT FIRST CLASS PAUL RAY SMITH POST OFFICE BUILDING.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4737 Mile Stretch Drive in Holiday, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith 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 Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

□ 1500

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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 (Mr. TERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4380 commemorates the incredible bravery and patriotism of Army Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith. On April 4 of 2003, Sergeant Smith of Holiday, Florida, was tragically killed in action in Operation Iraqi Freedom during a fierce fire fight near Baghdad.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Smith was a member of the Bravo Company, Eleventh Engineer Battalion of the Army's