Kelly Moran (KS) Scott (GA) Kennedy (MN) Moran (VA) Scott (VA) Kennedy (RI) Murphy Sensenbrenner Kildee Musgrave Serrano Kilpatrick (MI) Myrick Sessions Kind Nådler Shadegg King (IA) Napolitano Shaw King (NY) Neal (MA) Shays Kirk Neugebauer Sherman Kline Nev Sherwood Knollenberg Northup Shimkus Kolbe Norwood Shuster Kucinich Nunes Simmons Kuhl (NY) Nussle Simpson LaHood Oberstar Skelton Langevin Obey Slaughter Olver Smith (N.I) Larsen (WA) Ortiz Smith (TX) Larson (CT) Osborne Smith (WA) Latham Otter Snyder LaTourette Owens Sodrel Oxley Leach Souder Pallone Lee Spratt Levin Pascrell Stark Lewis (CA) Pastor Stearns Lewis (GA) Paul Strickland Lewis (KY) Pavne Stupak Linder Pearce Sullivan Lipinski Pence Sweeney Peterson (MN) LoBiondo Tancredo Lofgren, Zoe Petri Tanner Pickering Lowey Tauscher Pitts Lucas Taylor (MS) Lungren, Daniel Platts Taylor (NC) Poe E. Terry Lvnch Pombo Thomas Mack Pomeroy Thompson (CA) Maloney Porter Thompson (MS) Price (GA) Manzullo Thornberry Marchant Price (NC) Tiahrt Markey Prvce (OH) Tiberi Marshall Putnam Tierney Radanovich Matheson Towns Matsui Rahall Turner Ramstad McCarthy Udall (CO) McCaul (TX) Rangel Udall (NM) McCollum (MN) Regula Upton McCotter Rehberg Van Hollen McCrery Reichert Velázquez McDermott Renzi Visclosky McGovern Reyes Walden (OR) McHenry Reynolds Walsh McHugh Rogers (AL) Wamp McIntvre Rogers (KY) Wasserman McKeon Rogers (MI) Schultz McKinney Rohrabacher Watson McMorris Ros-Lehtinen Watt Rothman Roybal-Allard McNulty Waxman Meehan Meek (FL) Weiner Royce Ruppersberger Weldon (FL) Meeks (NY) Weldon (PA) Melancon Rush Menendez Ryan (OH) Weller Westmoreland Mica. Rvan (WI) Michaud Wexler Ryun (KS) Whitfield Millender-Sabo McDonald Wicker Wilson (NM) Salazar Miller (FL) Sánchez, Linda Miller (MI) Wilson (SC) Sanchez, Loretta Miller (NC) Wolf Miller, Gary Sanders Woolsey Wu Miller, George Saxton Schakowsky Mollohan Wvnn Young (AK) Moore (KS) Schwartz (PA) Moore (WI) Schwarz (MI) Young (FL)

### NOT VOTING-14

Berman Higgins Ross
Clay Kingston Schiff
Cramer Murtha Solis
Everett Pelosi Waters
Harman Peterson (PA)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr.

SIMPSON) (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

## □ 2344

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table. Stated for:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 362 on H.R. 3130 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

# REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2355

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2355.

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

There was no objection.

## CONGRATULATING SAN ANTONIO SPURS FOR WINNING 2005 NA-TIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIA-TION CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 339) congratulating the San Antonio Spurs for winning the 2005 National Basketball Association Championship, 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 gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 339

Whereas on June 23, 2005, the San Antonio Spurs won the National Basketball Association's (NBA) Championship with an 81–74 victory over the Detroit Pistons;

Whereas the Spurs' win resulted in their third NBA championship title in franchise history;

Whereas the Spurs competed against the Pistons to win the series 4–3;

Whereas the Detroit Pistons and their coach, Larry Brown, put up a battle worthy of a championship series;

Whereas under the guidance of Coach Gregg Popovich, the Spurs' Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker, Robert Horry, Bruce Bowen, Nazr Mohammed, Brent Barry, Beno Udrih, Rasho Nesterovic, Glenn Robinson, Devin Brown, and Tony Massenburg played valiantly to bring the NBA trophy back home to San Antonio:

Whereas congratulations are due as well to the Spurs' owners, Peter and Julianna Holt, and all of the other people in the Spurs' organization.

Whereas Tim Duncan was for the third time named the finals' Most Valuable Player following the Spurs' victory;

Whereas Coach Gregg Popovich is only one of two active coaches to win three championship titles and only the fifth in league history; and

Whereas San Antonio has the best hometown crowd 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 another exciting basketball season and for winning the 2005 National Basketball Association Championship.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this resolution congratulates the San Antonio Spurs—and espe-

cially, 3-time NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Tim Duncan, the pride of Wake Forest University, which is located in my district—for winning the 2005 NBA championship.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the San Antonio Spurs for winning their third National Basketball Association Championship in seven years. The 2005 World Champion Spurs deserve recognition for this achievement, and the class and sportsmanship they displayed in victory.

The Spurs won their third championship against a most worthy opponent, the tough and determined defending champion Detroit Pistons. In this seven-game series, both the Spurs and the Pistons blew each other out for two games apiece, but in the last three games each team showed the championship-caliber mettle that made this series a classic.

The Spurs displayed the skills, determination, and courage to overcome an opponent displaying the same qualities and playing with the same philosophy. This provided for scintilating games five, six, and seven, in which each team would give no ground, and the winner deserved the victory.

This final, championship round featured two juggernauts of team defense, and the results showcased the simple beauty of the game the focus not strictly on the hype of individual scoring and acrobatic plays. The pride and joy of the Spurs and Coach Gregg Popovich is cohesive and tenacious defense that takes victory for its own.

The San Antonio Spurs are champions not only on the court, but off. The Spurs are the paragon of professionalism and teamwork, and while this may not sell for the casual fan, it sells very well for the fans in San Antonio and South Texas who admire these values. The San Antonio Spurs are both a vital member of the community and a community concept viewed with pride by all San Antonians.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to enter the names of these champions into the RECORD: Tim Duncan; Manu Ginobili; Tony Parker; Bruce Bowen; Nazr Mohammed; Robert Horry; Brent Barry; Devin Brown; Rasho Nesterovic; Beno Udrih; Tony Massenburg; Glenn Robinson; Head Coach Gregg Popovich, and Chairman Peter Holt.

I congratulate them on this momentous victory, and thank them for the pride and happiness they bring to all San Antonio.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 339, which honors the newly crowned champions of the NBA, the San Antonio Spurs. The Spurs have just won their third title in seven years. In a hard fought victory, the Spurs eventually triumphed over the defending NBA champions the Detroit Pistons in a back and forth series that culminated in a decisive seventh game. I must also honor the spirit of the Detroit Pistons who did not quit after the Spurs routed them in the first two games nor when the Spurs won the crucial game five. Even though the Pistons very reluctantly surrendered the title, they pushed the series to the full seven games, the first NBA finals to go the distance in 11 years.

Every significant structure must have a sound and strong foundation, and the Spurs are the model of stability in professional sports as the principal owners, Peter and Julianna Holt, allow the people they hire to run the team without interference. Coach Greg Popovich and General Manager R.C. Buford have created an atmosphere that fosters the

spirit of winning basketball and epitomizes the ideals of teamwork, cooperation, and the axiom that the whole is more than the sum of the parts. It is a style that demands sharing the ball, team defense, relentless effort and, above all, selfless play.

Moreover, the international composition of the team reflects the increasingly diversified, more tightly knit world in which we live. General Manager, R.C. Buford, spends a great deal of his time in gyms all over the world looking for the next Manu Ginobili, the Argentine swingman whose acrobatic drives into the lane electrified fans and dazzled the opposition. Given the range of languages and cultures of the Spurs, Coach Popovich has done an amazing job of integrating his players into a formidable and cohesive whole.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with San Antonio native Dean Aguillen, a die-hard Spurs fan and one of my constituents, when he says that "The greatness of the Spurs players who hail from Argentina, the Virgin Islands, France, Slovenia, New Zealand, and from across the U.S. have made San Antonio the capital of the international basketball world."

Naturally, the city of San Antonio has longed embraced the Spurs and considers them family. Spurs basketball suits the Alamo City as a place where substance matters much more than style and people hold others to their words. When the Spurs say they will give their all, they do. So, it is never a surprise when the colors of silver and black sweep the city come springtime as the Spurs work deeper and deeper into the playoffs.

So, I would like to honor Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili, Bruce Bowen, Nazr Mohammed, Rasho Nesterovic, Robert Horry, Devin Brown, Beno Udrih, Brent Barry, and Tony Massenburg. I would also like to recognize Greg Popovich who has now moved into elite coaching company with his third title.

The Spurs truly embody our national motto, e pluribus unum, which of course means out of the many come one. All of San Antonio is very proud of the Spurs and of this momentous accomplishment.

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of the San Antonio Spurs and congratulate them for winning the 2005 National Basketball Association Championship on June 23. This is the third time in the past five years that National Championship trophy has come home to San Antonio. This was a dramatic seven game series against the Detroit Pistons, and hard fought at every step along the way. Under the guidance of Coach Greg Popovich, the Spurs' Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker, Robert Horry, Bruce Bowen, Nazr Mohammed, Brent Barry, Beno Udrih, Rasho Nesterovic, Glenn Robinson, Devin Brown, and Tony Massenburg played valiantly to bring the NBA trophy back home to the fans of San Antonio. In fact, Tim Duncan earned recognition as the final's most valuable player for the third time due to his performance. leadership and character. In life it's not just whether you win, it's how you play the game. America has seen how the Spurs are a true team of character. no ball hogs, no billboard tattoos, no nose rings. It is a team that worked like a well oiled machine. No longer can anyone in the NBA say "nice guys finish last".

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2985. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 2985) "An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes." requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. ALLARD, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JOHNSON and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3104. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

H.R. 3021. An act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

## THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 109TH CONGRESS

(Mr. HASTERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, this week marks a significant time in the history of the House of Representatives, and in the future of the American people.

Just 6 months into the 109th Congress, we have made some great strides. And this week we mark a milestone.

You see, by the end of today, for the first time in nearly 20 years, the House of Representatives will have completed all of its appropriations bills before the July 4th holiday. It is an unprecedented success, and I want to thank and congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. Lewis), chairman; the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY); and the Committee on Appropriations for all their hard work and long hours.

I am especially proud of Members under the House Republican leadership for their input and support for our overall agenda.

Just like families must live within their budgets, the Federal Government must live within its means. We have passed appropriations bills that have been fiscally responsible while recognizing our national priorities.

We set out important goals in our budget: to provide overall increases only to defend America at home and abroad. We have kept that promise. Earlier this spring, we passed a wartime supplemental that gives our troops the tools they need to fight the war on terror. That same legislation, which is now law, includes provisions to protect our borders from terrorists by establishing Federal driver's license guidelines and beefing up our deportation laws.

We passed a budget that continues to cut the deficit. It also requires us to slow the growth of entitlement programs for the first time since 1997. For the first time, we are going to reform these programs and we are going to save our taxpayers more money by eliminating waste and fraud and abuse.

By restraining spending and by cutting the deficit, Republican policies are helping to keep our economy strong.

Currently, our Nation's unemployment stands at 5.1 percent. That is the lowest it has been since before the September 11 attacks. More Americans, especially minorities, own homes now than ever before. Federal revenues are coming in well above estimates, which means the deficit will be lower than expected.

And just yesterday we learned that overall economic growth was 3.8 percent for the first quarter of 2005, higher than expected.

## □ 2350

America's economy has now had 14 straight quarters of growth.

On the domestic front, we passed legislation that will maintain our status as the world leader. We have passed legislation which the President signed into law which would curb class action lawsuits. This is a problem that has been devastating to our small businesses across this country. Many of them spend on average \$150,000 per year on litigation expenses. Our legislation will bring relief to those mom and pop small businesses.

We passed a bankruptcy bill that will help curb the number of abusive and frivolous bankruptcy filings. That bill is now law. While the bill allows relief to those who truly need it, it is going to rein in those fraudulent bankruptcies that drive up the cost of credit to hard-working Americans who pay their bills.

We have moved to ease America's energy crisis. I am sure you have all heard from constituents upset about raising gas prices. In the long term, the comprehensive energy bill passed in this House will ease our dependence on foreign oil and curb high gas prices. It would also create nearly half a million jobs. I am pleased that the Senate this week passed their version of the bill, and I urge the Senate to quickly appoint conferees so that House and Senate negotiators can develop a compromise and send it to the President for his signature.

We have passed and are now awaiting Senate action on legislation that permanently ends the death tax. Many of our small businesses are wrapped up in a loved one's estate. Figures show that