

members of this Nation and, of course, to the United States armed services.

Likewise, I would like to join my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), in his resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol grounds for an event to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Million Man March, and let me salute the concept of the Nation of Islam and Prime Minister Farrakhan for understanding it is a million more, for inviting communities from all over America, diverse ethnic and religious groups and racial groups to come simply to say that the poor have not been forgotten. I hope that as we commemorate, we will set a legislative agenda to turn around and to change America for the better.

I add my support for H.R. 15, which deals with the supporting of the goals and ideals of the National Campus Safety Awareness Month. I do that for a general reason, but also, Madam Speaker, for a personal reason. I have two young people in my family, my daughter and my son, who are on college campuses today. I can assure you that, as a parent, you send your child off with the best intentions, but it is also very important to remind them nationally, if you will, even from the podium of the United States Congress, that all young people should be aware of the dangers of overdosing on drugs, of alcohol abuse, of hazing, of the dangers of altercations between students. Just this past couple of months, we buried a very bright young man in our community that we still mourn, and we do so because, unfortunately, he lost his life in an altercation and brawl on his campus, through no fault of his own, a bright, energetic and talented young man. His family still mourns, and his mother is seeking to be engaged in campus safety, and I look forward to working with her, so that we can find ways to touch students and touch their hearts.

This legislation is so very important, because at least it makes a public and national statement that young people should be safe, but they should also be their brothers' and sisters' keeper. When you see something going on, tell someone in order to save a life. Campus safety also means campus involvement and campus recognition that we are in fact our brothers' and sisters' keeper.

I would ask my colleagues to support the underlying bill which deals specifically with the idea of supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and, of course, I thank my colleagues for allowing me to submit statements on behalf of the above-mentioned resolutions.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, I urge all Members to support the adoption of H. Res. 276, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 276.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN BASKETBALL TEAMS AND PLAYERS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS, DEDICATION, AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPORT OF BASKETBALL AND TO THE NATION

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 59) recognizing the contributions of African-American basketball teams and players for their achievements, dedication, and contributions to the sport of basketball and to the Nation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 59

Whereas, even though African-Americans were excluded from playing in organized white-only leagues, the desire of African-Americans to play basketball could not be repressed;

Whereas, unlike baseball, which had Negro leagues, basketball had no organized black leagues, thus forcing blacks to take to the road out of necessity;

Whereas among the most well-known black barnstorming teams who found their beginnings in the 1920s were the New York Renaissance (or Rens), the Harlem Globetrotters, the New York Enforcers, the Harlem Clowns, the Harlem Road Kings, the Harlem Stars, the Harlem Ambassadors, and the Philadelphia Tribunes;

Whereas, despite the racism they faced, Negro basketball teams overcame great obstacles to play the game before black players were allowed to play in the National Basketball Association in the early 1950s;

Whereas the New York Rens became one of the first great basketball dynasties in the history of the game, compiling a 2,588-539 record in its 27-year existence, winning 88 straight games in the 1932-33 season, and winning the 1939 World Professional Championship;

Whereas the Harlem Globetrotters proved that they were capable of beating professional teams like the World Champions Minneapolis Lakers led by basketball great George Mikan in 1948;

Whereas the barnstorming African-American basketball teams included exceptionally talented players and shaped modern-day basketball by introducing a new style of play predicated on speed, short crisp passing techniques, and vigorous defensive play;

Whereas among the pioneers who played on black barnstorming teams included players such as Tarzan Cooper, Pop Gates, John Isaacs, Willie Smith, Sweetwater Clifton,

Ermer Robinson, Bob Douglas, Pappy Ricks, Runt Pullins, Goose Tatum, Marques Haynes, Bobby Hall, Babe Pressley, Bernie Price, Ted Strong, Inman Jackson, Duke Cumberland, Fat Jenkins, Eddie Younger, Lou Badger, Zachary Clayton, Jim Usry, Sonny Boswell, and Puggy Bell;

Whereas the struggles of these players and others paved the way for current African American professional players, who are playing in the National Basketball Association today;

Whereas the style of black basketball was more conducive to a wide open, fast-paced spectator sport;

Whereas, by achieving success on the basketball court, African-American basketball players helped break down the color barrier and integrate African-Americans into all aspects of society in the United States;

Whereas, during the era of sexism and gender barriers, barnstorming African-American basketball was not limited to men's teams, but included women's teams as well, such as the Chicago Romas and the Philadelphia Tribunes;

Whereas only in recent years has the history of African-Americans in team sports begun receiving the recognition it deserves;

Whereas basketball is a uniquely modern and uniquely American sport;

Whereas the Black Legends of Professional Basketball Foundation, founded by former Harlem Globetrotter Dr. John Kline, of Detroit, Michigan, honors and highlights the significant contributions of these pioneers and their impact on professional basketball today; and

Whereas the hard work and efforts of the foundation have been instrumental in bringing African-American inductees into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) Congress recognizes the teams and players of the barnstorming African-American basketball teams for their achievement, dedication, sacrifices, and contribution to basketball and to the Nation prior to the integration of the white professional leagues;

(2) current National Basketball Association players should pay a debt of gratitude to those great pioneers of the game of basketball and recognize them at every possible opportunity; and

(3) a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Black Legends of Professional Basketball Foundation, which has recognized and commemorated the achievements of African-American basketball teams, the National Basketball Association, and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam 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 H. Con. Res. 59.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 59 introduced by the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK). This resolution would recognize the dedication of African-American basketball players who played on the barnstorming teams of the early 1920s through the 1950s. The motivation of these teams to organize despite being excluded from playing in the white-only structured teams and leagues was truly a story of perseverance and honor.

The history is very similar to the Negro baseball leagues which have received such honor and distinction in recent years. One of the first basketball dynasties, the New York Renaissance, was founded in 1923. The team's namesake came from their home court, the Harlem Renaissance Ballroom, in which they played 27 seasons. The Renaissance organized games each day of the week and twice on Sundays. Because the racial climate of the 1930s was often harsh and unforgiving, while away from their home court, the Rens were often refused food and board. Other barnstorming teams included the Harlem Globetrotters, the New York Enforcers and the Philadelphia Tribunes.

Not only did these players bring organized basketball to all those who may not have had the opportunity to play, but they also helped influence the way basketball is played today. The fast pace of the game and the short, concise passing techniques originated with the talented players that dominated the barnstorming teams. More importantly, on April 25, 1950, the first African-American player was drafted into the National Basketball Association.

By demanding respect on the basketball court, these brave players did their part to facilitate racial integration in all aspects of American life. They were an inspiration to many.

Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution, and I congratulate the gentlewoman from Michigan on her efforts.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the sponsor of this resolution, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK).

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for controlling the time and allowing us to present this to the American people.

I first want to thank Dr. John Kline, a psychologist in my district who has been on this for many years. He is a former Harlem Globetrotter and now a psychologist in the City of Detroit who has been working tirelessly with me to see that we honor the men, particularly the men, and now the women who play in the WNBA, for their talent and for their commitment to the sport of

basketball. Dr. Kline has been working on this for some time, and he established in 1996 the Black Legends of Professional Basketball Foundation where he works himself to see that the players reach the Hall of Fame in the basketball world. I want to thank Dr. Kline for his tenacity, and my staff thanks him, and we look forward to working with him.

Basketball has been a dream come true for many young people in America and around the world. They are able because of the pioneers who have gone before them to present themselves in the discipline and the competition that the sport requires. I want to first say before there was a Bill Russell and a Cazzie Russell, as well as a Michael Jordan and Dr. J, in 1920, as was mentioned by my colleague, other gentlemen came forth and began to play organized basketball that began and created a competition that endured in men the skill, the tenacity, the commitment and the competition to move forward.

As was mentioned, in 1922, the first team, the New York Renaissance was established, and in the 27 years that followed, they played every year. After them, in 1930, the Harlem Globetrotters were organized to play basketball, and even though they could not play in the NBA, they continued to play.

It is important that as we move into this new season of the NBA, which will be starting in the next month, that we not forget those who set the pace, both African-Americans as well as European-Americans and others who played the sport of basketball and brought it to our country and now around the world.

The Basketball Legends Professional Foundation is here to recognize and to assist, under Dr. John Kline's leadership, that men be inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame as Dr. Kline has done. It is important that we continue the sport of basketball. Not only is it a character-building, competition-raising, beautiful sport, it also offers cities around the country the opportunity to participate. I would like to at this time send a shout out to the Detroit Pistons, world champions in 2003 and also in the semifinals in 2004.

So as we pay homage to Earl Lloyd, a former 1950's basketball player from my district, as well as some of the others that came before him, let us remember that the NBA was started many years after the African-American basketball players played their sport. Together it has evolved into a wonderful sport. I urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution. It is called the resolution recognizing the contributions of African American basketball teams that started in the 1920s.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee as well as the gentleman from Illinois, and let us continue to remember that through competition and sports, we too can build a strong America and a strong family.

Madam Speaker, in less than a month the 2005–2006 professional basketball season will

begin, and I am proud that the resolution being considered today pays tribute to the founding African-American basketball teams and players who made the game what it is today.

In the past, Congress has recognized the contributions of the Harlem Globetrotters, one of the first barnstorming teams that roamed the United States before professional leagues were integrated, and the professional Negro Baseball Leagues. But no one until now, has recognized the contributions of the early African-American basketball teams and their players.

Before the New York Knicks of the newly formed National Basketball Association signed Nathaniel "Sweetwater" Clifton in 1950, an African-American, organized professional basketball was a whites-only sport. Accompanying Clifton to the NBA were Earl Lloyd and Chuck Cooper. Cooper, Lloyd, and Clifton may not be household names, but their place in the NBA's history will be secure forever.

The First white pro-basketball team was founded in 1914.

The first African-American team came into being in 1922 with the organization of the New York Renaissance. They were known as the New York Rens. The New York Rens became one of the first great basketball dynasties in the history of the game, compiling a 2,588–539 record in its 27-year span as an organized basketball team.

The New York Globetrotters—the forerunner of the Harlem Globetrotters—were organized in 1930. Other teams that came into being include the New York Enforcers, the Harlem Clowns, the Harlem Road Kings, the Harlem Stars, the Harlem Ambassadors, and the Philadelphia Tribunes.

African-American basketball teams had a different style of play from their white, professional counterparts. They played for the "fast break", shot with one-hand, made short, crisp passes, and emphasized a vigorous style of defense. Their style stood in marked contrast with the waltz-paced game played by the two-hand set shooters of the all-white basketball teams. These African-American barnstorming teams introduced a style of play that makes the world sport of basketball the wide-open, fast paced game it is today.

Before Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Julius Erving and Michael Jordan, we celebrated basketball notables such as Tarzan Cooper, Pop Gates, John Isaacs, and Goose Tatum just to name a few.

Their love for the game allowed them to conquer many hardships on their barnstorming tours. They traveled from town to town, often sleeping in their cars because they were refused lodging. They were denied service at restaurants and suffered all the indignities of Jim Crow laws.

The barnstorming African-American basketball teams were exceptionally talented, and they had the chance to prove it, when in 1948 the Harlem Globetrotters beat the world champion Minneapolis Lakers led by pro-basketball's first big man, George Mikan, the game's first superstar.

Special thanks go to Dr. John Kline, a former Globetrotter, who resides in Detroit, Michigan, which I am privileged to represent. Dr. Kline has made it his personal mission that the great players who made this game what it

is today are not forgotten and that their legends continue to be noted in the annals of basketball history.

Dr. Kline founded in 1996 the Black Legends of Professional Basketball Foundation to honor black pros who played prior to 1960. Dr. Kline was recently inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. The Foundation which he heads lobbies for African-American players to be considered for induction into the National Basketball Hall of Fame to make sure these men finally get their due—in much the same way that Negro League baseball players have finally begun to get recognition for their talents and sacrifices.

We are proud of his work and a copy of this resolution will be presented to the foundation, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, and the National Basketball Association.

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

Madam Speaker, basketball was invented in December 1891 by James Naismith at the YMCA's School for Christian Workers, now Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts. Also, I guess it is also home to the Basketball Museum Hall of Fame and just a great place.

Within months, the game spread across the country through a network of YMCAs. Unfortunately, blacks were excluded from professional sports at that time, when leagues were established in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Unlike baseball, which had the Negro Leagues, basketball had no organized black leagues. Black players responded by participating in barnstorming teams. Barnstorming clubs crossed the country to play wherever a club, black or white, amateur or professional, could be found. Three of the most well-known black barnstorming teams of the 1930s were the New York Renaissance, the Harlem Globetrotters and the Philadelphia Tribunes.

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Founded in 1923 by Bob Douglas, a British West Indies native, the New York Renaissance became one of the first dynasties in basketball. Named after the Harlem Renaissance Ballroom which served as the team's home court, the Rens played for 27 seasons and compiled a 2,588–539 record by playing each day of the week and twice on Sundays.

Due to the racial climate during the 1930s, the Rens faced discrimination away from home. While on the road, the Rens often were refused lodging and food. The team ate cold sandwiches and often slept on buses when excluded from hotels. In the Midwest, the team would use Chicago or Indianapolis as its base. The team would drive as far as 200 miles to play a game, drive back to Chicago or Indianapolis to sleep and do it all over again the next day.

Barnstorming was not limited to men's teams. There were two women's black teams, the Chicago Romas and the Philadelphia Tribunes.

Whether it was the Rens, the Chicago Romas or the famed Harlem Globe-

trotters, they were competitive and dedicated to the sport despite the discrimination they faced.

I also would urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I, too, would join the gentlewoman from Detroit in acknowledging the prowess of the Detroit Pistons in terms of winning their championship and being the runner-up. But of course, they have never really been a match for the Chicago Bulls, who reside in my district, the Seventh District of Illinois.

But not only are the Bulls there, but the Reinsdorfs, who own the Bulls, are great civic and community leaders, being involved in activities that stretch from education to community development to providing atmosphere and environment. My district has also been a prolific developer of NBA stars, people like Mark Aguirre, Isaiah Thomas, Doc Rivers, Randy Brown, who my wife taught in high school at the George W. Collins High School, Michael Findley, Mickey Johnson, Kevin Garnett, who came from the Farragut high school where I used to teach, Tim Hardaway, Terry Cummings, Dwayne Wade, just to name a few.

And so, basketball has indeed been a godsend for many young athletes, allowing them to not only get a good education as a result of their athletic prowess, but also to become mainstays in a professional environment where they could earn a livelihood.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me thank the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for his kindness in yielding and to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), my Republican colleague, who is leading the debate on this issue, and might I add my deep appreciation to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK), the distinguished Congresswoman, for the vision and wisdom in working with the scholars who understood that, for its history to be complete, we must not overlook the beginnings of a sport that everyone thinks they can play. It is a wonder, as you look at how basketball has exploded over the last decades, and you will see teams throughout the community; you will see the young teams, the middle school teams, high school teams, the college teams, you will see the community teams. Everyone loves basketball. But it is important for our history to be remembered and to be honored.

So I rise today in support of this particular resolution that deals with the honoring of the very beginnings of basketball amongst African-Americans. I support H. Con. Res. 59, recognizing the contributions of African-American basketball teams and players for their achievement, dedication and contributions.

Madam Speaker, I would like to make these points as I recognize the work of my colleague. It is, of course, to be able to say that, as we look at America's history, we will find that many aspects of African-American history have been missed. And it is never too late for us to come back and correct that absence. In this instance, it is interesting to note that these basketball teams of African-Americans, and as noted by my colleague from Illinois, men and women started as early as the 1920s.

Might I remind my colleagues that it was not too long into the 1920s or before the 1920s that America was strangled by Jim Crow laws, which defined separatism by blacks and whites, terror in the deep south. And so for these teams to spring up, call themselves barnstorming and go about creating joy but also competition is a tribute that should be acknowledged. The fact that they played for 27 years without recognition and in discriminatory times should be acknowledged. The fact that they were not in organized leagues should be acknowledged. The fact that they were men and women should be acknowledged. And might I say that I hope that, as they may be installed into the Michigan Hall of Fame, that they might find their way into the National Basketball Hall of Fame as well. This legislation is long overdue, and the leadership of my colleague should be applauded.

Might I also say to my colleagues that this speaks very loudly to the inappropriate statement that was made just last week by Dr. Bill Bennett who noted that the reduction of crime could be done by aborting every black baby. And I think we should not forget that, as we look to honor those who are forgotten in history. For anyone to blatantly make such a statement in 21st century America means that they have forgotten the long years of prejudice and discrimination that faced many African-Americans in many disciplines, including sports and education and the sciences and medicine; that they would offer to suggest that the likes of those who have been called on this floor, the likes of Colin Powell, the likes of former Mayor Lee Brown, the likes of Mark Morial, the likes of Sojourner Truth, the likes of Mae Jemison, the first black woman astronaut, all who started out as black babies, would have contributed only if they were aborted and would have helped to reduce crime. I frankly believe that he should be suspended off the air, and I frankly believe that these words, if he was in Congress, should be taken down.

But as we celebrate, I hope that we are reminded that every person, every person's life who has the ability to contribute should be cherished, and we should remind ourselves of their great history. And so this legislation has a very important place in history and a very important place for our colleagues to celebrate the history of those early African-American sports persons and basketball players.

I could not end my remarks without trying to compete, though I am obviously working hard to compete, by noting the history of the Houston Rockets and to give a shout out to my home team and to mention the early basketball players. Probably there were some earlier than this, but I might mention John Lucas, who now has a son playing and will be entering a second generation of pro basketball players; and Calvin Murphy, who not only, along with John, played basketball but were fixtures in our community, contributed to the lives of young people and turned their lives around and were role models for them; Olajuwon and the famous dream team that we had; and Clyde Drexler, who is a businessman and contributor in our community; Steve Francis, who supports the programs of young people; Kenny Smith and many, many others who played for the Houston Rockets.

Might I say that we are still striving, but I know that our day will come when we will be national basketball champs. We look forward to celebrating the All-Stars in Houston this coming year, and we want to thank all of our NBA players for the contributions they have made over the years to improving the quality of life of all of our citizens across America, and particularly the work they have done in helping us with Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation. Again, I support enthusiastically and congratulate the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) for her leadership on H. Con. Res. 59 and ask my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of H. Con. Res. 59.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 59.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AVA GARDNER POST OFFICE

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3439) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 North 3rd Street in Smithfield, North Carolina, as the "Ava Gardner Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3439

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

SECTION 1. AVA GARDNER POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 North 3rd Street in Smithfield, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Ava Gardner Post Office".

(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 "Ava Gardner Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam 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 H.R. 3439.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 3439, authored by the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE).

This bill would designate the Post Office in Smithfield, North Carolina, as the "Ava Gardner Post Office Building." All Members of the North Carolina delegation have cosponsored this legislation.

The life of Ava Gardner is a true rags-to-riches story that started on a tobacco farm in the rural south. Born and raised in Johnston County, North Carolina, Ava Gardner had planned on becoming a secretary in her adult life. However, at the age of 18, a scout from MGM Studios offered her a 7-year contract from seeing a photo of her in the window of her brother-in-law's New York photograph shop. Having no acting experience at all, Ava had to settle for scripts containing little better than one-line bits.

In 1946, she landed her first starring role in the B-grade movie, *Whistle Stop*. Later that year, on loan from MGM, Universal Studios cast her in her breakout hit, *The Killers*. Her career as a leading lady then took off in such films as *Magambo* opposite Clark Gable, *The Barefoot Contessa* and *Night of the Iguana*, all between the years of 1953 and 1964.

Ava Gardner, the earthy girl from North Carolina, had beaten the odds to become one of Hollywood's most famous icons. Today, anyone can view the personal effects and career artifacts of Ava's extraordinary life at the Ava Gardner Museum in Smithfield, North Carolina. The museum enables both young and old to experience the history of classic cinema. I urge all Members to join me in saluting her dedication and perseverance towards her unlikely but spectacularly successful career.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 3439, legislation naming a postal facility in Smithfield, North Carolina, after Ava Gardner, an illustrious actress often remembered as the most beautiful in Hollywood history. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) on July 26, 2005, and unanimously reported by our committee on September 15, 2005, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire North Carolina delegation.

Ava Lavinia Gardner was born in the small town of Grapetown, North Carolina, as the youngest of seven children. Ava Gardner's film career began at the age of 18 when an MGM agent saw her photograph in the window of her brother-in-law's New York City photograph studio. Her prolific film career includes roles in *Mogambo* (1953), for which she was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress; *The Barefoot Contessa* (1954); *The Sun Also Rises* (1957); *On the Beach* (1959); *The Night of the Iguana* (1964), for which she was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress; and *Regina Roma* (1982).

Ava Gardner was married to three legendary Hollywood actors, including Mickey Rooney, Artie Shaw and Frank Sinatra. She died in London on January 25, 1990, of pneumonia at the age of 67 and was buried in Smithfield, North Carolina, in the Gardner family plot near the Ava Gardner Museum.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague for speaking to honor Ava Gardner, who rose from humble roots to become one of the most famous actresses in film history.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I would just like to thank my colleague from Illinois for his help on all of these resolutions. He is always such a gentleman, so dignified. I have sometimes said that east Tennessee, where I am from, is the only part the whole country where the people speak with absolutely no accent whatsoever, but I do have to admit that the gentleman from Illinois has a beautiful voice, and it is always a pleasure to work with him.

Madam Speaker, with that, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3439.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3439, legislation to name the main post office in Smithfield, North Carolina, in honor of Ava Gardner.

I am proud to be sponsor of this legislation not only because Ava Gardner is a native of our great State, but because growing up in Johnston County I was always aware of her accomplishments and of the lives she touched around the world.