

(1) congratulates the United States National Soccer Team for its historic performance in the 2002 World Cup;

(2) recognizes Bruce Arena, the head coach of the United States Team, and every player on the Team for their dedication to excellence; and

(3) commends the United States Soccer Federation and coaches and parents of young soccer players around the country for their role in the success of soccer in the United States.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SULLIVAN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. SULLIVAN:
Page 3, beginning line 1, strike "United States Soccer Federation" and insert "United States Soccer Federation, the United States Soccer Foundation,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1745

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN FRANCIS "JACK" BUCK

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 455) honoring the life of John Francis "Jack" Buck, 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 gentleman from Oklahoma?

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I will not object; but I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) to explain the resolution.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 455 introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) honors the life of John Francis "Jack" Buck. The resolution is co-sponsored by the entire House delegation from Missouri along with other Members.

For nearly 50 years, Jack Buck was known as the voice of the St. Louis Cardinals. He became one of the most respected sports broadcasters in the industry and an institution among baseball fans everywhere.

A decorated veteran of World War II, Jack Buck began his broadcasting career in 1948 while attending Ohio State University where he was a play-by-play announcer for football, basketball and baseball. He was hired by the St. Louis Cardinals in 1954 and began his 48 year career of announcing Cardinals baseball on KMOX radio. He brought baseball to life to millions of fans throughout the Midwest during his tenure in the booth. Jack Buck announced 8

World Series, 17 Super Bowls, numerous baseball All Star and play-off games, and many other major sporting events. He has been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and American Sportscasters Association Hall of Fame and the Radio Hall of Fame.

Jack Buck was a leader away from the stadium as well. He spent over 30 years as the campaign chairman for the St. Louis chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for which he helped raise more than \$30 million to fight the disease.

On June 18, 2002, Jack Buck passed away after a distinguished career in broadcasting and a long life in which he touched the lives of millions of Americans. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I urge the adoption of House Resolution 455.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from St. Louis, Missouri (Mr. CLAY), for whatever comments or remarks he might have.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding. I also thank my friend from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) for speaking on behalf of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 455 honors the life of John Francis "Jack" Buck, one of the true giants of sports broadcasting and a St. Louis icon. Jack Buck, the voice of the St. Louis Cardinals for nearly 50 years, sadly passed away last week at the age of 77 after a long battle with lung cancer and Parkinson's disease. He was one of the most respected and admired baseball broadcasters to have ever sat behind a mike, and his passing signals the passing of the golden age of baseball.

Jack Buck came to prominence in the 1950's, a time when baseball and radio were not simply intertwined, they were inseparable. In the 1950's and early 1960's, radio was the primary source for baseball for most Americans. And on any given night, Jack Buck on KMOX radio in St. Louis could be heard throughout middle America, from the upper regions of Wisconsin, all the way down to the Deep South. Like many St. Louisians, I grew up listening to Jack Buck broadcast St. Louis Cardinals games. It was through his broadcasts that I and millions of other baseball fans first learned the intricacies and the beauty of the game of baseball.

His friendly voice, his baseball knowledge, and his sense of humor enabled us to mentally picture the action on the field and were instrumental in fostering our love for the game of baseball. In the words of Bernie Miklasz of the St. Louis Post Dispatch, Jack Buck provided "the soundtrack for St. Louis summers" for 48 years. He was there in our backyards as we gathered around our grills and picnic tables; and he was there on our porches, under an evening sky. He was there in our cars, always the friendly travel companion along for

the ride; and he was there under our pillows late at night as countless kids smuggled their radios into bed to stay up and listen to a distant game from the west coast. He was part of the family.

He introduced us to all the Cardinal stars, Stan Musial to Bob Gibson to Ozzie Smith to Mark McGwire to Albert Pujols. His words were the link that connected them all. He was there at Sportsman Park and he was there at Bush Stadium. Jack Buck was a beloved figure in baseball and an institution to fans of the St. Louis Cardinals. His passing has brought great sorrow to Red Bird fans across the country and we all mourn our loss and the Buck family's loss.

I also want to extend my personal condolences to the Buck family. Jack Buck is rightfully considered to be one of the greatest baseball announcers of all time joining Vin Scully, Red Barber, Mel Allen, Ernie Harwell, and Harry Caray. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD an untitled poem that Jack Buck wrote and read September 17, 2001, at the resumption of baseball following the September 11 attacks.

JACK BUCK'S POEM

Since this nation was founded under God,
more than 200 years ago,
We've been the bastion of freedom . . .
The light which keeps the free world aglow.
We do not covet the possessions of others, we
are blessed with the bounty we share.
We have rushed to help other nations . . .
anything . . . anytime . . . anywhere.
War is just not our nature . . . we won't
start, but we will end the fight.
If we are involved we shall be resolved to
protect what we know is right.
We've been challenged by a cowardly foe who
strikes and then hides from our view.
With one voice we say there's no choice
today, there is only one Thing to do.
Everyone is saying the same thing and praying
that we end these senseless moments
we are living.
As our fathers did before, we shall win this
unwanted war.
And our children will enjoy the future, we'll
be giving.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, let me just agree with the gentleman from St. Louis, Missouri (Mr. CLAY). Of course, St. Louis has always been a tremendous town for athletics. I spent 2 years as a young person living in St. Louis, and I learned all of these penalties that he mentioned. I must confess I was a great Red Schoendienst and Harry Caray fan and Ray Jablonski. I think they used to call him Jabbo. It is a great place to be and certainly Jack Buck added tremendously to the aura of St. Louis. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 455

Whereas for nearly 50 years, John Francis "Jack" Buck was known as the "Voice of the St. Louis Cardinals" to generations of baseball fans, one of the most respected sports broadcasters in the industry, and a beloved institution to all St. Louis Cardinals fans;

Whereas Jack Buck's distinctive voice and his signature exclamation "That's a winner" following each Cardinals victory were familiar to baseball fans across the United States;

Whereas Jack Buck was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, in 1924 and was a decorated veteran of World War II;

Whereas Jack Buck began his broadcasting career in 1948 while attending Ohio State University, where he was the play-by-play announcer for football, basketball, and baseball;

Whereas in 1954, Jack Buck was hired by the St. Louis Cardinals, joined Harry Caray in the booth at Sportsman's Park, and began his 48 years of broadcasting Cardinals baseball on KMOX radio;

Whereas in 1970, Jack Buck was made the lead play-by-play announcer for the St. Louis Cardinals and he brought baseball to life for millions of fans throughout the Midwest;

Whereas Jack Buck covered some of the greatest moments in baseball history, including Lou Brock's record-setting 118th stolen base, Bob Gibson's incredible 1968 season, and Mark McGwire's record-breaking 70th home run in 1998;

Whereas in 1960, Jack Buck was the play-by-play announcer for the first televised American Football League game and worked AFL broadcasts for three years;

Whereas Jack Buck was the announcer for one of professional football's most famous games, the 1967 NFL Championship game, dubbed the "Ice Bowl", between the Green Bay Packers and the Dallas Cowboys;

Whereas Jack Buck was the radio voice of Monday Night Football from 1978 to 1996;

Whereas Jack Buck was the lead announcer for 8 World Series, 17 Super Bowls, numerous baseball All-Star and National League playoff games, and other major sporting events, including professional bowling;

Whereas Jack Buck has been inducted into 11 different Halls of Fame, including the Baseball Hall of Fame (1987), the Pro Football Hall of Fame (1996), the American Sportscasters Association Hall of Fame (1990), the Radio Hall of Fame (1995), and the St. Louis Walk of Fame (1991), and has been the recipient of numerous lifetime achievement broadcasting awards;

Whereas for more than 30 years Jack Buck was the campaign chairman for the St. Louis chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, for which he helped raise more than \$30,000,000 for research to find a cure for the disease; and

Whereas on June 18, 2002, Jack Buck passed away after a long and distinguished career in broadcasting in which he touched the lives of millions of sports fans across the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the life of John Francis "Jack" Buck.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

marks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 445, just adopted, and on H.R. 5018, passed earlier today.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1800

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KERN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

CONCERNS OVER POSSIBLE SHUTDOWN OF AMTRAK

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong concerns over the possible shutdown of Amtrak.

Amtrak's new president has said that Amtrak needs a \$200 million loan guarantee by June 30 or the company will have to begin a shutdown of all services. This would have a serious impact on commuters and travelers across this country, and I speak for those who would be strongly affected in California. For that reason, Congress and the administration must avert a shutdown.

We cannot allow Amtrak to go bankrupt. Amtrak is a critical component of our national transportation network, providing safe, efficient and affordable transportation for millions of Americans each year. Amtrak serves over 500 cities and communities across this country, many of which rely on trains as a crucial transportation option.

Since 1996, ridership on Amtrak trains has increased by 19 percent. Last year, Amtrak had 23 million riders. Including commuter services, Amtrak's total ridership exceeds 60 million passengers a year.

Amtrak also plays a significant role in my State. California hosts three of the top six most heavily traveled services in the country. The Pacific Surfliner, which serves my congressional district in southern and central California, carries more than 1½ million passengers annually. The Surfliner is California's most highly developed service, and it is second only to Amtrak's northeast corridor in ridership. It connects two of the most congested regions in the country, Los Angeles and San Diego. Maintaining mobility in this busy economic corridor is essential.

In addition, if funds are not provided to Amtrak, regional contract partners, like commuter rail system Metrolink, are at risk. Metrolink contracts with Amtrak to provide service throughout southern California, including Ventura

County. Shutting down Metrolink service will not only impact ridership, 34,000 riders a day, but contribute to increased congestion on the region's highways.

In my district, Amtrak serves Santa Barbara, Goleta, Lompoc, Guadalupe, San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles. These communities rely on Amtrak as a very important, vital transportation link.

At a time when more and more communities are looking to rail passenger service to increase transportation options, create economic development and reduce congestion, we must avoid an unnecessary disruption of service that America depends on.

Mr. Speaker, there are three things Congress and the administration can do. First, we must support an appropriation of \$200 million for Amtrak in the supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002. A number of my colleagues and I sent a letter to the conferees urging them to do so yesterday. I urge the administration to join in this effort.

Second, we must substantially increase funding for Amtrak above current levels. As my colleagues know, the President has requested in his budget only half of what Amtrak says it needs to survive. If we do not address this shortfall, the railroad has publicly stated that it may be forced to eliminate the entire long distance train network.

Third, we must adopt a long-term strategy to reform and to improve Amtrak.

We need to address the real problem with passenger rail travel in this country: lack of funding, new missions and undercapitalization. As we begin a new era, our Nation needs a viable passenger rail system to supplement our network of highways and airports. It is time we recognize such a system requires more financial support.

The Department of Transportation's Inspector General has stated that Amtrak has never received sufficient funding to invest in capital projects that would create opportunities for greater efficiency and revenue production. Yet, despite the inadequate support, Amtrak has been able to increase ridership and revenue. I commend Amtrak for doing so much with so little.

In conclusion, I would like to urge the administration to take action to prevent a shutdown of Amtrak. Immediate Federal investment in our national passenger rail system is vital. If we are unable to avoid a shutdown, thousands of Amtrak workers could lose their jobs, and millions of passengers face the loss of vital train service in communities nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that we can make a commitment to provide stable and adequate funding for the national Amtrak passenger rail network.

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