

those playoffs were tough, and I would like to acknowledge the adversary and that is the New Jersey Nets, which put up a noble fight; but the better team did win for many, many reasons. It was not just athletic ability, though.

I think some of my colleagues have touched on what makes this team so special. It is about character, and when we talk about individuals like David Robinson, we understand what character is all about. It has been pointed out this is a Naval Academy graduate who put in his military obligation and finished that and then went on to his professional basketball career.

We also speak about Tim Duncan, and we have forgotten a very important chapter in Tim Duncan's life, and I think Members may have heard this story before, but these are role models. These are the kinds of models that we need to display and demonstrate to all of the youth in this country.

Tim Duncan had an opportunity to leave Wake Forest early. He did not have to get a degree, but his family instilled that kind of appreciation. His mother wanted him to graduate. As a result of a promise made to his mother, he remained at Wake Forest before he pursued his professional basketball career; and it has been an incredible time for not just Tim Duncan, but for all his fans.

This type of class, this type of character starts at the very top; and I have to say that you start with the owner, Mr. and Mrs. Holt. Next, look at the coach, Coach Popovich. Then look at the first string, but also at the bench; and this is a lesson to all of us. We cannot all be starters, but we can all make a contribution because this championship belongs to that entire team. Also the staff that supports the Spurs and the very special San Antonio fans second to none in the United States.

It was a class act, and one of skill and challenge. If you have character, I think you will always be a winner. In this instance they do have the ring. They are going to have the trophy, but I think they have something which is so much more important, and that is an accomplishment which is earned through character, skill, dedication, and commitment.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, as the mighty San Antonio Spurs entered the arena on game six of the NBA National Championship you could tell that it was going to be an amazing game. The crowd was on their feet chanting Go Spurs Go, non-stop, it was energizing. Every player from Tim Duncan to Kevin Willis had their game faces on. There was something in their look as if they knew what was going to happen, as if they had dreams of three point shots and death defying dunks the night before. They had hoop dreams.

The New Jersey Nets put up a great fight, but the Spurs' dominance of the fourth quarter seemed too much for even the Nets to overcome. After a 19 point scoring run, from a combination of aerial and ground attacks, the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Nets 88-77.

Similar to the likes of Jordan/Pippen, Bird/McHale, Magic/Jabbar. Tim Duncan and Dave

"the Admiral" Robinson proved to be an unstoppable force. With Duncan's field goals and amazing drives along with Robinson's dominance on the paint they helped lead the Spurs to their second championship season.

The 2003 NBA Finals MVP was Tim Duncan; he gave an amazing performance, scoring 20 points and 20 rebounds, 10 assists and 8 blocked shots. Robinson scored 13 points and 17 rebounds in the final game of his amazing Spurs career.

This propelled the Spurs to their second championship win in less than 5 years.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the San Antonio Spurs on a great season and a great championship. This is not only a great day for San Antonio and San Antonians, but for all of Texas. Great job Spurs. Go Spurs go.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 279

Whereas, on June 15, 2003, the San Antonio Spurs won the National Basketball Association's (NBA) Championship best-of-seven series with an 88-77 victory over the New Jersey Nets;

Whereas the Spurs' victory over the Nets is their second NBA championship in five years;

Whereas this year's Spurs-Nets Finals is the first time two former American Basketball Association teams have played for the NBA Championship;

Whereas seven foot center David Robinson joined the Spurs in 1987, and Tim Duncan joined the team in 1997;

Whereas last night's match-up was the final game of David Robinson's 14-year career, and his 13 points, 17 rebounds, and two blocked shots will be remembered as his best performance of the season;

Whereas Tim Duncan's triple-double, (21 points, 20 rebounds, and ten assists), and his eight blocked shots will be remembered as one of the greatest individual efforts in Finals' history;

Whereas Tim Duncan won the regular season Most Valuable Player award for the second consecutive year, and he was named the Finals Most Valuable Player following the Spurs victory;

Whereas Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich was awarded the Red Auerbach Trophy as the NBA Coach of the Year for the 2002-03 season; and

Whereas Gregg Popovich is the first Spurs coach in franchise history to win the Red Auerbach Trophy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the San Antonio Spurs and Coach of the Year Gregg Popovich for an unforgettable season of basketball excellence and for winning the 2003 National Basketball Association Championship.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 279.

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

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY DOBY

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I have some sad news this morning. A great American passed last evening. Larry Doby, 79 years of age, broke the color barrier in the American League and became a Hall of Famer, but he was a Hall of Famer in his life.

He said when inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1998, "Kids are our future, and we hope baseball has given them some idea of what it is to live together and how we can get along, whether you be black or white."

He was a great American. He lost his wife, Helyn, just 2 years ago. Larry lived a very productive life in my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, and lived in Montclair, which is part of my district as well.

Mr. Speaker, if I can read from the resolution, a tribute to him back in 1997, which was entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, "Despite his great accomplishments, Larry Doby has remained modest and endearing and a true gentleman. Mr. Doby always gives thanks to God for giving him the talent to help integrate baseball and American society and to Mr. Veck for giving him the opportunity to use that talent and to his wife Helyn for holding together their family while he was away."

I ask that my colleagues join in a resolution which I will be introducing. We have lost a good American.

[From the Record, June 19, 2003]

LARRY DOBY, HALL OF FAMER, DIES

Hall of Famer Larry Doby, who grew up in Paterson and became the first black player in the American League, died Wednesday night after long illness at his home in Montclair, his son, Larry Doby Jr. said. Doby was 79.

Doby was a seven-time All-Star in a 13-year career, almost all of it spent in the outfield for the Cleveland Indians. He helped lead the Indians to their last World Series title in 1948.

On July 5, 1947—just 11 weeks after Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier—Doby joined the Indians.

Although he hit .283 with 253 home runs and 969 RBI in a big-league career that lasted through 1959, his locker room reception that first day was chilly. Some teammates would not even shake his hand.

"Very tough", Doby once recalled. "I'd never faced any circumstances like that. Teammates were lined up and some would greet you and some wouldn't. You could deal with it, but it was hard."

Doby ended his major league career in 1959 with the Detroit Tigers and Chicago White Sox. In 1978, he took over as manager of the White Sox, becoming only the second black to manage a major league team (following Frank Robinson).

Although Doby was voted into the Hall of Fame by the veterans committee in 1998, he