

Baseball is often called the "American Pastime," and with good reason. Few events are greater harbingers of the coming of summer than the first pitches in ball parks around the country. Millions of parents across this nation carve time out of their days to teach their child how to throw a baseball or to coach a little league team. And millions of American children count their first baseball glove among their most treasured possessions.

Baseball, however, is not only an American tradition. Rather, it is treasured with equal fervor and excitement by Cubans less than 100 miles from our shore. There, too, baseball is the national pastime. Countless Cuban and American children play little league baseball with visions of a future in the major leagues. Just as Americans eagerly count down to opening day, Cubans anticipate the first pitch of a new season with a mix of anticipation and excitement.

Not only do Cubans and Americans share their deep love of baseball, they also both play the game with great skill. Indeed, some of America's finest players hail from Cuba.

In spite of this close connection, however, politics has kept American and Cuban teams from visiting each other's stadiums for nearly four decades. This artificial separation remained intact until this spring when the Cuban National Team hosted the Baltimore Orioles in Havana. That game marked the opening day, not just of a two game home-and-home series, but hopefully of a new season in the relationship between two of the world's greatest lovers of baseball.

The series, which continued in Baltimore this month, would never have come about if it were not for the courage and dedication of Bud Selig. His efforts succeeded where those of hundreds of diplomats and politicians have failed: he managed to bring the Cuban and American people together to celebrate the game they love so dearly.

I recognize that the process of arranging these two games was rarely easy. At times, it seemed that the opening pitch would remain forever out of reach. Yet, Mr. Selig persisted and brought the two teams closest to our capitals—and their fans—together for two historic games. Our nation should be proud of and grateful to Mr. Selig for his efforts and look forward to additional contact between the Cuban and American peoples, both on and off the baseball diamond.●

I LOVE AMERICA DAY

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Fulton, Missouri's "I Love America Day." Several years ago, the faculty of McIntire Elementary school became concerned that many of the students did not have a true sense of patriotism and national pride. What started out at one elementary school has spread to a communitywide celebration. Each year

they highlight all levels of government and place special emphasis on pride in the flag. This year's celebration will include a presentation of the colors by the VFW flag team, a twenty-one gun salute, taps to honor those lost in service, presentations by the VFW, Mayor Craghead, and others, and a special demonstration by the Army's Golden Knights parachute team. As you can see, Mr. President, this event has grown into a wonderful day of activities that will enrich the sense of patriotism not only in our youth, but also in the entire community. I commend the organizers of "I Love America Day" for the wonderful example they set for Missouri and the entire country.●

HONORING FEDERAL RESERVE CHALLENGE WINNERS

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate five outstanding High School students from University School at Milwaukee. Working as a team, these five students were recently named national champions of the 1999 Federal Reserve Challenge.

Mary Broydrick, Michelle Hill, Day Manoli, Nick Nielsen, all seniors, and Gus Fuldner, a junior, each received a \$10,000 scholarship for their presentation on monetary policy. The team was coached by John Stephens, a teacher at University School for 41 years. In addition, the school received a \$40,000 grant to develop an economics lab.

Their winning presentation included countless hours researching economic and monetary policy. Making recommendations based on their findings, the team was asked a series of grueling questions by Federal Reserve officials.

We are all extremely proud of our students from University School. They must be applauded for a job well done.●

TRIBUTE TO ILA MARIE GOODEY

● Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would just like to take a moment to pay tribute to Ila Marie Goodey of Logan, Utah. I have just learned that Ila passed away on Saturday.

Ila was a tireless and effective advocate for individuals with disabilities and served as an early and active member of my Utah Advisory Committee on Disability Policy. I have always appreciated her counsel on these issues.

In particular, she believed in independence and self-sufficiency, and she directed as much of her energy to assisting others to reach this goal as she did to helping herself. She served as the first chairperson of the Utah Assistive Technology Program Management and Implementation Board. This consumer-responsive, interagency program has been hailed nationwide as a model for other programs of its kind.

I know that her friends and colleagues at Utah State University and among the disability community in my state will mourn her loss. But, I also know that they, as I do, appreciate all that she has contributed. There can be

no doubt that Ila has made a real difference.●

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW RAMIREZ

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez who has served his country with bravery and valor. For Sergeant Ramirez, a resident of East Los Angeles, public service runs in the family—his brother is a detective with the Los Angeles Police Department.

On March 31, 1999, Sergeant Ramirez was taken as a prisoner of war by the Yugoslavia Army while he was serving as part of a U.S. Army detachment assigned to a U.N. monitoring force patrolling Yugoslavia's southern border. Sergeant Ramirez was part of the 4th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division based in Wurzburg, Germany. He had arrived in Macedonia in early March to relieve another contingent.

I cannot begin to imagine the terror experienced by Sergeant Ramirez and his fellow soldiers, Christopher J. Stone and Steven M. Gonzales, when they were surrounded, and under heavy fire, taken as prisoners of war.

Just a few days later, the soldiers were shown on Serbian television, battered and bruised. It is a picture that every mother hopes she will never see. It is a picture that every American hoped was not true. But, it was true, and these three men paid a dear price of over a month in captivity. They did not know what fate would befall them and if they were ever going to see their families again.

During the past weeks, Kosovo has witnessed carnage and bloodshed unseen in Europe for almost fifty years. These events are the culmination of a decade-long campaign of terror and bloodshed in the Balkans—and it has created a refugee crisis unparalleled in recent years.

Sergeant Ramirez was in Yugoslavia because his country asked him to go. He was there to protect our promise that the civilized world will never again do nothing in the face of genocide, ethnic cleansing, mass rape and rampant violence to thousands of innocent people. If the most powerful alliance in the world fails to stop ethnic cleansing, it will send a green light to every tyrant and dictator with similar intentions that they can do the same, and that the world community will be unable or unwilling to muster the resolve to stop it.

None of these words would mean anything without individuals like Sergeant Anthony Ramirez. He is the truest of patriots—the bravest of the brave. Our country is forever indebted to him, and there are not words nor deeds that could ever repay his dedicated service—or that of his family. He is a testament to the human spirit that keeps the light of peace and human freedoms alive.

Sergeant Ramirez, we thank you, we honor you, and we are so very, very glad that you are home.●

MONTANA RAIL LINK

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today an award ceremony for one of the nation's best and brightest short line railroads, was held to honor Montana Rail Link's safety record. Montana Rail Link, commonly referred to as MRL, offers essential and competitive freight service to a large number of customers along Montana's Southern rail line from Billings to Sandpoint, Idaho.

MRL was honored today by being awarded the E.H. Hariman Memorial award. This award is specifically designated to recognize railroad safety improvement. Working on the railroad is not like having a desk job. It's not a job for the timid—it's a job where hard work and plenty of sweat are part of everyday tasks.

Each year, it is tragically inevitable that railroad employees are involved in accidents which can result in serious injury or even death. With the reception of this award, it is very apparent that MRL places a significant value on the safety of their employees. As a Montanan, I am relieved to see that a Montana railroad is the recipient of this award. Montana railroads have a long and colorful history in the establishment of our state. And I have friends that work on the railroad.

Montanans are very dependent on this rail transportation. We are dependent on this competitive alternative. As many are aware, I have introduced legislation that will help to assure the nation's shippers of competitive rail access. It is my intent to not only create free-market competition in the rail industry, I would also like to improve service of the nation's Class 1 railroads.

I've heard from many Montanans about the importance of rail car availability and affordability. The nation's rail system is dominated by four large behemoths of railroads. In Montana, those railroads are the target of much criticism based on their pricing and contractual practices.

It is the short lines that help to balance out the public's perception of railroads. In Montana, MRL has been hailed as a very reliable transportation alternative. MRL has also been hailed with this award today.

You've all heard me make a reference to Montana's vast distances—from corner to corner, the distance from Alzaka to Yaak, Montana is equivalent to the distance from Washington, D.C. to Chicago, Illinois. I'm sure my colleagues will agree with me, especially when you consider the variance in terrain we are faced with in our state. Pulling a train over multiple mountain passes in the dead of winter can be a daunting task.

In Montana, we value good, honest, quality service. MRL is very much an example of what is best about Montana.●

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL BERRIE and DR. ROBERT A. SCOTT

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Russell Berrie and Dr. Robert A. Scott, two of New Jersey's leaders in business and education, on the occasion of their third annual "Making A Difference Awards" program.

Mr. President, Russ and Robert have made tremendous philanthropic and humanitarian contributions to my state of New Jersey. In 1997, they joined together through the Russell Berrie Foundation to create the "Making A Difference Awards," which honor unsung heroes of New Jersey for acts of unusual heroism, extraordinary community service or lifetime achievement.

Much like the award recipients, Russ Berrie has devoted a lifetime to helping others. Thirty-six years ago, he founded RUSS Berrie and Company, Incorporated, which develops and distributes more than 6,000 gift products to retailers worldwide. Its diverse range of products include stuffed animals, baby gifts, picture frames, candles, figurines, and home decor gifts. Russ' company, headquartered in Oakland, NJ, grosses annual sales of \$270 million and has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since 1984.

Recently, Fortune Magazine named Russ one of its "Forty Most Generous Americans," and Russ has been recognized by many organizations for his strong commitment to education, health care and interreligious affairs. Russ' Foundation promotes his values, passions, and ideas through investment in innovative ideas and by supporting individuals who make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Robert also has made a positive impact on the world around him. He currently is the president of Ramapo College, New Jersey's leading liberal arts school, serving over 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students from over 20 states and 50 nations. Thanks to Robert, the college has named its soon-to-open center for performing and visual arts after Russ and his wife, Angelica. What an honor!

Mr. President, I am pleased today to honor my good friends Russ and Robert for their work in honoring the unsung heroes of New Jersey. We are indebted to them for their service. I am happy to join them in honoring this year's three winners of the "Making A Difference Award"—Beverly Turner, of Irvington, who lives with muscular dystrophy, for devoting her time caring to children with special needs. James C. Joiner, founder of the Rescuing Inner City Kids (RISK), for dedicating his time, skill, and spirit to working with inner-city children to instill in them the desire to better themselves and the people around them. Finally, Frederick "Freddie" Hoffman, of River Edge, for dedicating the last ten years of his life to raising money for the Leukemia Foundation. I also would like to recognize the 14 finalists: Douglas A.

Berrian, Mr. and Mrs. William Clutter, Sister June Favata, Kathleen Garcia, Adam and Blair Hornstine, Sylvia Jackson, Jeff Macaulay, Jim McCloskey, Eddie Mulrow, Thomas O'Leary, Barry Lee Petty, Michael Ricciardone, Richard J. Ward, and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Zufall.

Mr. President, I congratulate all of the honorees for unselfishly giving of themselves. They have proven to their family, to their friends, and to their communities that this honor is well-deserved.●

ADMIRAL BUD NANCE

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Admiral Bud Nance, chief of staff of the Foreign Relations Committee, who passed away last week after many years of devoted service to the country he loved.

As a former member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and someone who had the privilege of knowing and working with Bud, I can honestly say I have not met a finer person. A man deeply devoted to the ideals for which this country stands, he conducted himself with honor and integrity in all that he did. And he had an uncommon humility and kindness that will be remembered by all those fortunate to have met him.

With 41 years in the Navy, service under both the Nixon and Reagan Administrations, and a direct role in SALT II talks, Bud had already achieved a lifetime of accomplishments even before he was urged by his longtime friend, Senator HELMS, to assume the role of chief of staff at the Foreign Relations Committee. As with everything else he did, Bud flourished in that position, bringing his invaluable years of experience and knowledge to the Senate. He was a sure and steady hand at the helm of the Committee, and his remarkable spirit has left an indelible mark on all of us.

Theodore Roosevelt once said that "the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena—whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood . . . a leader who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause . . ." Admiral Bud Nance was just such a man, and today our thoughts are with his wife, Mary, and Bud's entire family as they mourn the passing of their beloved husband, father, and grandfather. We are also thinking of Senator HELMS at this saddest of times, as he grieves for the loss of one of his oldest and dearest friends.

Again, I want express my profound sadness on the loss of this great American, who was a patriot in life and whose legacy will never be forgotten by a grateful nation.●

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Jewish