

That's why today I am introducing the Nuclear Release Notice Act of 2006, a bill designed to expand the public's right to know when radioactive substances are released from a reactor. Specifically, the bill is designed to accomplish the following: (1) to ensure that the licensees notify State and local officials at the same time the NRC is notified regarding unplanned incidents that occur at local nuclear power plants; (2) to add State and local reporting requirements not just on incidents regarding fissionable material releases, but on all unplanned radioactive substance releases that are outside of normal operating limits; (3) to add State and local reporting requirements when releases exceed not just NRC limits for normal operation, but also when they exceed other Federal limits and standards for groundwater and other types of contamination; (4) to ensure that any repeat unplanned releases of radioactive substances—even if within allowable limits—that occur more than twice within 2 years are reported to State, local and NRC officials—so that we all know when poor maintenance, malfunctions of poor design are going unfixed; and (5) to provide that violations of this provision could result in the revocation of the operating license of the licensee.

As energy demand throughout the Nation increases in the coming decades, we will be challenged in how best to meet these consumption demands without sacrificing the environment. That means using all of our energy resources fully and wisely, including wind, solar, and other important renewable power-generating resources.

Moreover, as Congress considers policies to address air quality and the deleterious effects of carbon emissions on the global ecosystem, it is reasonable—and realistic—for nuclear power to remain on the table for consideration. Illinois has 11 nuclear power plants—the most of any State in the country—and nuclear power provides more than half of Illinois' electricity needs.

The people of Illinois—and all residents who live near nuclear power plants—have a right to know when actions are taken that might affect their safety and well-being. This bill furthers this commonsense goal, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 2351. A bill to provide additional funding for mental health care for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to double the funding for veterans mental health care over the next 5 years.

Our brave veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have faced unspeakable horrors. They have seen people killed and wounded, experienced the stress of urban warfare, and endured other traumatic events. These experiences undoubtedly take their

toll. However, it can take months or even years for these events to impact a person's mental health.

The need for this legislation is clear. Just today, the Washington Post reported that more than one in three soldiers and Marines who have served in Iraq later sought help for mental health problems. And we already know that the Veterans' Administration treated almost 19,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans for post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, between 2002 and 2005. These numbers will continue to increase.

This legislation will help ensure that the VA has the resources necessary to treat veterans with mental illness. First, it authorizes the VA to spend at least \$3.6 billion in 2007—up from \$2.8 billion in 2006—and increases funding to \$5.6 billion by 2011. Second, it requires an annual report about progress in implementing milestones from the VA Mental Health Strategic Plan.

This bill is supported by AMVETS and Disabled American Veterans.

It is imperative that we make a long-term commitment to provide mental health services to our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for us. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 386— HONORING THE PRE-NEGRO LEAGUES AND NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL PLAYERS AND EXECUTIVES ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2006

Mr. TALENT (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. SUNUNU) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 386

Whereas African Americans began to play baseball in the late 1800s on military teams, college teams, and company teams, and eventually found their way onto professional teams with White players;

Whereas the racism and "Jim Crow" laws that forced African American players from their integrated teams by 1900 compelled those dedicated players to form their own "barnstorming" teams that traveled throughout the United States and offered to play any team willing to challenge them;

Whereas, in 1920, the Negro National League was created under the guidance of Andrew "Rube" Foster, a former player, manager, and owner of the Chicago American Giants, at a meeting held at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City, Missouri;

Whereas soon after the Negro National League was formed, rival leagues were assembled in eastern and southern States, bringing the thrills and innovative play of African American ballplayers to major urban centers and rural countrysides throughout the United States, Canada, and Latin America;

Whereas, from the 1920s to the 1960s, over 30 communities located throughout the United States were home to teams in 1 of the 6 Negro Leagues;

Whereas the Negro Leagues maintained a high level of professional skill and became

centerpieces for economic development in their communities;

Whereas, in 1945, the Brooklyn Dodgers of Major League Baseball recruited Jackie Robinson from the Kansas City Monarchs, making Robinson the first African American in the modern era to play on a Major League Baseball roster;

Whereas the integration of Major League Baseball, which soon followed the signing of Jackie Robinson, prompted the decline of the Negro Leagues because the Major Leagues began to recruit and sign the best African American ballplayers;

Whereas it has been recognized by numerous baseball authorities that many of the greatest players ever to play the game of baseball played in the Negro Leagues, rather than Major League Baseball;

Whereas, on February 27, 2006, the National Baseball Hall of Fame announced that Ray Brown, Willard Brown, Andy Cooper, Frank Grant, Pete Hill, Biz Mackey, Effa Manley, Joe Mendez, Alex Pompez, Cum Posey, Louis Santop, Mule Suttles, Ben Taylor, Cristobal Torriente, Sol White, J.L. Wilkinson, and Jud Wilson had been elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2006;

Whereas less than 1 percent of all professional baseball players have been honored with induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas we congratulate Ray Brown, an ace starter for the Homestead Grays who—

(1) ranks among the top Negro Leagues pitchers in total wins and winning percentage; and

(2) pitched a perfect game in 1945 as well as a one-hitter in the 1944 Negro World Series;

Whereas we congratulate Willard Brown, an outfielder with the Kansas City Monarchs who—

(1) lead the Negro American League in home runs and batting average during numerous seasons; and

(2) was considered by many to be the Negro American League version of Josh Gibson;

Whereas we congratulate Andy Cooper, a pitcher with the Detroit Stars and Kansas City Monarchs who—

(1) had a knack for changing the speed of his pitches;

(2) was the all-time leader in every Detroit Stars pitching category;

(3) was among the top 10 leaders in career wins, strikeouts, shutouts, and winning percentage in Negro Leagues history; and

(4) later in his career became the manager of the Kansas City Monarchs and lead them to 3 pennants;

Whereas we congratulate Frank Grant, a second baseman with tremendous range and a strong arm who—

(1) hit over .300 in 4 seasons with White minor league teams until the color lines forced him out of the league in 1886;

(2) played for top-rated African American teams until 1903; and

(3) who displayed a unique blend of speed and power in the International League that allowed him to turn 1 out of every 4 base hits into extra bases;

Whereas we congratulate Pete Hill, a premier outfielder who—

(1) played brilliantly for the Cuban X-Giants, Philadelphia Giants, Chicago Leland Giants, and the Chicago American Giants before the formation of the Negro Leagues;

(2) during his 1911 season as an American Giant, hit safely in 115 out of 116 games; and

(3) was rated the fourth best outfielder in the renowned 1952 Pittsburgh Courier player-voted poll of the best players of the Negro Leagues;

Whereas we congratulate Biz Mackey, a strong-armed catcher who—

(1) ended his career with a lifetime batting average well over .300;

(2) ranked among the top Negro Leaguers in lifetime total bases, RBIs, and slugging percentage; and

(3) later managed the Baltimore Elite Giants and the Newark Eagles who, under his skill and leadership, won the Negro World Series in 1946;

Whereas we congratulate Effa Manley, the co-owner of the Newark Eagles, who—

(1) has become the first woman elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame; and

(2) in addition to her efforts in baseball, played an active role in the Civil Rights Movement by promoting such causes as Anti-Lynching Day at Ruppert Stadium, which is the home of the Eagles;

Whereas we congratulate Jose Mendez, a right-handed pitcher who—

(1) earned a winning percentage of just under .700 during his memorable career as a member of the Cuban Stars, All Nations, and Kansas City Monarchs; and

(2) managed the Kansas City Monarchs to successive pennants from 1923–1925, during which time he compiled a 20–4 pitching record with 7 saves;

Whereas we congratulate Alex Pompez, a successful team owner who—

(1) owned the Cuban Stars of the Eastern Colored League and then the New York Cubans of the Negro National League; and

(2) signed the first Puerto Rican, Dominican, Venezuelan, and Panamanian players of the circuit;

Whereas we congratulate “Cum” Posey, owner of the Homestead Grays, who—

(1) won the Negro National League pennant 8 times between 1937 and 1945; and

(2) assembled teams that were home to 11 of the 18 Negro Leaguers currently in the Hall of Fame;

Whereas we congratulate Louis Santop, a power-hitting catcher who—

(1) played for several of the greatest African American teams of the pre-Negro Leagues era, including the Philadelphia Giants, New York Lincoln Giants, and the Brooklyn Giants;

(2) hit over .320 while slugging tape-measure homeruns during his tremendous career in the Negro Leagues; and

(3) was rated by Rollo Wilson as the first string catcher on his all-time Black baseball team;

Whereas we congratulate Mule Suttles, a hard-hitting first baseman and outfielder who—

(1) played spectacularly for the St. Louis Stars, Chicago American Giants, Birmingham Black Barons, Newark Eagles, and other Negro League teams; and

(2) was 1 of the most powerful home run hitters in the Negro Leagues, ranking third all-time among Negro Leaguers in home runs and RBI;

Whereas we congratulate Ben Taylor, a pitcher who—

(1) transitioned into a top-ranked first baseman and clean-up hitter for the Indianapolis ABC's at the start of his career;

(2) served as an extremely successful player-manager from 1923–1929; and

(3) exclusively managed the Washington Potomacs, the Baltimore Black Sox, and the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants until 1940;

Whereas we congratulate Cristobal Torriente, a 5-tool outfielder who—

(1) played most of his games for the Cuban Stars and Chicago American Giants;

(2) earned an incredible lifetime batting average of over .330; and

(3) is 1 of the all-time offensive leaders in Negro Leagues history, ranking in the top 20 all-time in home runs, RBIs, and total bases;

Whereas we congratulate Sol White, a tremendously gifted baseball player who—

(1) played all infield positions during his 25-year baseball career;

(2) was a member of the best African American independent teams of the pre-Negro Leagues era, including the Philadelphia Giants, which he helped found in 1902 as playing manager;

(3) hit .359 in the White minor leagues during 5 seasons before the color line was established; and

(4) made a timeless contribution to baseball by authoring his book, “Sol White's Official Base Ball Guide”, the first history of Black baseball before 1900;

Whereas we congratulate J.L. Wilkinson, an creative and innovative team owner who—

(1) owned the Kansas City Monarchs, the All Nations club, and 1 of the first professional women's teams in the United States;

(2) was a pioneer of night baseball and various ballpark promotions;

(3) was the only White owner of the Negro National League when it was chartered in 1920; and

(4) ran the longest running franchise in Negro National League history during which his teams won an unprecedented 17 pennants and 2 World Series;

Whereas we congratulate Jud Wilson, an intense first and third baseman who—

(1) ranks among the top 10 all-time in home runs, RBIs, hits, total bases, slugging average, and batting average in the Negro Leagues;

(2) holds a lifetime batting average over .340;

(3) earned from fans the nickname Boojum, after the sound that his line drives made when slamming off the fences; and

(4) played on pennant-winning teams as a member of the Baltimore Black Sox, Philadelphia Stars, and Homestead Grays;

Whereas those baseball legends will be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame on July 30, 2006, in Cooperstown, New York, joining former Negro Leagues players Ernie Banks, Hank Aaron, Jackie Robinson, Larry Doby, Monte Irvin, Roy Campanella, “Satchel” Paige, Willie Mays, Bill Foster, “Buck” Leonard, “Bullet” Rogan, “Cool Papa” Bell, Hilton Smith, “Smokey” Joe Williams, Josh Gibson, “Judy” Johnson, Leon Day, Martin Dihigo, Oscar Charleston, “Pop” Lloyd, Ray Dandridge, “Rube” Foster, “Turkey” Stearnes, and Willie Wells, as members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame; and

Whereas we congratulate the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, the only public museum in the Nation that exists for the exclusive purpose of interpreting the experiences of the players in the Negro Leagues, founded in 1990 by Negro Leagues legend Buck O'Neil, Horace Peterson, former Kansas City Monarchs outfielder Al “Slick” Surratt, and other former Negro Leagues players, for the tireless efforts of the museum to preserve the evidence of honor, courage, sacrifice, and triumph in the face of segregation of those African Americans who played in the Negro Leagues through its comprehensive collection of historical materials, important artifacts, and oral histories of the participants in the Negro Leagues and the impact that segregation had in the lives of the players and their fans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Ray Brown, Willard Brown, Andy Cooper, Frank Grant, Pete Hill, Biz Mackey, Effa Manley, Joe Mendez, Alex Pompez, Cum Posey, Louis Santop, Mule Suttles, Ben Taylor, Cristobal Torriente, Sol White, J.L. Wilkinson, and Jud Wilson on being elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2006;

(2) commends the National Baseball Hall of Fame and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum for their efforts to ensure that these

legends of baseball receive the recognition due to players of their caliber; and

(3) respectfully requests the Enrolling Clerk of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the National Baseball Hall of Fame; and

(B) the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2898. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2320, to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2898. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2320, to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . REDUCTION OF ENERGY PRICES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Energy Price Reduction Act of 2006”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) high energy prices place an artificial drag on the economy of the United States;

(2) high energy prices disproportionately hurt poor and fixed income families and individuals, such as the elderly;

(3) according to the most recent census, there are more than 3,600,000 elderly people in the United States;

(4) families and individuals in the United States should not be forced to choose between paying for home heating or cooling and food or medication;

(5) high energy prices make manufacturing in the United States less competitive;

(6) according to the American Chemistry Council, “Because the current gas pressures are most intense in North America, U.S. exports are relatively more expensive on the world market.”;

(7) according to the American Gas Association, “because of the extremely tight balance between current production and strong demand, U.S. homes and businesses pay more for natural gas than nearly anyone in the world,” and “[o]ne of the best ways to bring natural gas prices down for everyone is to enable producers to expand the areas where they can work, and move the natural gas via pipelines to consumers.”; and

(8) the increased production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner is essential to the well-being of the people of the United States.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) BIOREFINERY.—The term “biorefinery” means a facility that produces a renewable fuel (as that term is defined in section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o))).

(3) CURRENT.—The term “current” means, with respect to a resource management or forest plan for an energy project, a plan that has been amended or otherwise updated during the most recent 10-year period.