

(Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3620, a bill to facilitate the provision of assistance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the cleanup and economic redevelopment of brownfields.

S. 3629

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3629, a bill to require a 50-hour workweek for Federal prison inmates, to reform inmate work programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3656

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3656, a bill to provide additional assistance to combat HIV/AIDS among young people, and for other purposes.

S. 3658

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3658, a bill to reauthorize customs and trade functions and programs in order to facilitate legitimate international trade with the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3667

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3667, a bill to promote nuclear nonproliferation in North Korea.

S. 3678

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3678, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, and for other purposes.

S. 3680

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3680, a bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to reauthorize and expand the New Markets Venture Capital Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3681

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3681, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 to provide that manure shall not be considered to be a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

S. RES. 526

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 526, a resolution condemning the

murder of United States journalist Paul Klebnikov on July 9, 2004, in Moscow, and the murders of other members of the media in the Russian Federation.

AMENDMENT NO. 4677

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4677 intended to be proposed to S. 728, a bill to provide for the consideration and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOND:

S. 3685. A bill to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, children endure a lot. They cannot always tell us what is wrong. Often they do not know themselves. So it takes a special person to work with young people and help identify their problems. Every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential, but it takes more than a bookbag full of pencils, paper, books and rulers to equip children with the tools necessary to succeed in school.

The most important tool kids will take to school is their eyes. Good vision is critical to learning. Eighty percent of what kids learn in their early school years is visual. Unfortunately, we overlook that fact sometimes. According to the CDC only one in three children receive any form of preventive vision care before entering school. That means many kids are in school right now with an undetected vision problem. One in four children has a vision problem that can interfere with learning. Some children are even labeled "disruptive" or thought to have a learning disability when the real reason for their difficulty is an undetected vision problem.

Without any vision care, some of our children will continue to fall through the cracks. I sympathize with these kids because I suffer from permanent vision loss in one eye as a result of undiagnosed Amblyopia in childhood. Amblyopia is the No. 1 cause of vision loss in young Americans. If discovered and treated early, vision loss from Amblyopia can be largely prevented. Had I been identified and treated before I entered school, I could have avoided a lifetime of vision loss. Parents are not always aware that their child may suffer from a vision problem. By educating parents on the importance of vision care and recognizing signs of visual impairment we can help children avoid unnecessary vision loss.

To ensure that children get the vital vision care that they need to succeed,

today I am introducing the Vision Care for Kids Act of 2006 which will establish a grant program to complement and encourage existing state efforts to improve children's vision care. More specifically, grant funds will be used to: (1) provide comprehensive eye exams to children that have been previously identified as needing such services; (2) provide treatment or services necessary to correct vision problems identified in that eye exam; and (3) develop and disseminate educational materials to recognize the signs of visual impairment in children for parents, teachers, and health care practitioners.

We need to do this. We must improve vision care for children to better equip them to succeed in school and in life. The Vision Care for Kids Act, endorsed by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Optometric Association, and Vision Council of America, will make a difference in the lives of children across the country.

By Mr. McCAIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 3688. A bill to preserve the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, by providing for the immediate acquisition of the memorial by the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to preserve the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, CA. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Senator GRAHAM.

Since 1913, a series of crosses have stood on top of Mount Soledad, property owned by the city of San Diego. In April of 1954, the site was designated to commemorate the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces who served in World War II, as well as the Korean war.

In 1989, one individual filed suit against the city claiming that the display of the cross by the city was unconstitutional and, therefore, violated his civil rights. In 1991, a Federal judge issued an injunction prohibiting the permanent display of the cross on city property. Since that time, the city has repeatedly tried to divest itself of the property through sale or donation. But the plaintiff continued to mount legal challenges to every attempted property transfer—revealing that his true objection is not to the city's display of the cross, but to the cross itself. The legal wrangling over this memorial continues today.

The Mount Soledad Memorial is a remarkably popular landmark. On two different occasions, the voters of San Diego passed, by votes of 76 percent, ballot measures designed to transfer the property to entities that could maintain it.

I do not believe that the Mount Soledad cross violates the Constitution. Consequently, I do not believe there is just cause for removing it from its position as the centerpiece of the

Soledad Veterans Memorial. Therefore, given the many years of legal disputes regarding this issue, I believe it is past time it is resolved.

The bill I am introducing would bring the Mount Soledad cross under the control of the Federal Government, and specifically the Department of Defense. The process set forth in the bill is consistent with analysis provided by the Department of Justice's Office of Legislative Affairs in a recent letter to the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. In that letter, the OLA stated, "we would . . . point out that Congress could enact the necessary authority [to acquire the Mount Soledad Memorial] through an immediate legislative taking. . . ."

This bill would allow for the just compensation for the property in question. It also would address the required maintenance for the memorial and the surrounding property through a memorandum of understanding between the Secretary of Defense and the Mount Soledad Memorial Association. The minimal financial commitment required in this legislation will ensure the endurance of this memorial which serves as a reminder of the hundreds of thousands of men and women who made enormous sacrifices when our country called upon them.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, which will ensure the preservation of an important tribute to our men and women of the Armed Forces.

By Mr. JEFFORDS:

S. 3689. A bill to establish a national historic country store preservation and revitalization program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I have long been a proponent of measures that support historic preservation and economic development. In keeping with that tradition, I rise today to introduce the National Historic Country Store Preservation and Revitalization Act of 2006.

This bill establishes a national program to support historic country store preservation and will aid in the revitalization of rural villages and community centers nationwide.

For many Americans, the country store brings to mind days that have since passed, before much of this country became stamped with shopping malls and the "big-box" store. But for thousands of people living in Vermont and for millions more living in rural communities across the United States, a visit to the local country store is a regular part of one's daily life.

In my hometown of Shrewsbury, VT, the Pierce Store was the hub of our small community when my wife Liz and I settled there in 1963. Run by the four Pierce siblings—Marjorie, Glendon, Marion and Gordon—the store was the place to go for a neighborly chat as much as for your milk and butter. Unfortunately, the Pierce Store

closed its doors some years back and Shrewsbury lost a vital part of its identity.

Yet while some country stores have been forced to close their doors, others have shown incredible resiliency.

They have survived floods and fires, overcome economic downturns, and reformulated their inventories to meet modern needs. According to the Vermont Grocers' Association, country stores account for an estimated \$55 million annually in retail sales in Vermont alone.

But with increased competition and additional costs to maintain aging structures, today's remaining country store owners are hard-pressed to overcome these unprecedented challenges.

My legislation authorizes the U.S. Economic Development Administration to make grants to national, state and local agencies and non-profit organizations to support historic country store preservation efforts. In addition, the bill establishes a revolving loan fund. The fund will be used for research, restoration work that will improve our understanding of existing needs and provide the assistance required to address them. The bill promotes the study of best practices for preserving structures, improving profitability and promoting collaboration among country store owners.

My legislation unites small business development and historic preservation principles to sustain these invaluable community institutions. I encourage my colleagues to join me in my efforts to protect our rural heritage by preventing the further loss of our Nation's historic country stores.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3689

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Historic Country Store Preservation and Revitalization Act of 2006".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

- (1) historic country stores are lasting icons of rural tradition in the United States;
- (2) historic country stores are valuable contributors to the civic and economic vitality of their local communities;
- (3) historic country stores demonstrate innovative approaches to historic preservation and small business practices;
- (4) historic country stores are threatened by larger competitors and the costs associated with maintaining older structures; and
- (5) the United States should—

(A) collect and disseminate information concerning the number, condition, and variety of historic country stores;

(B) develop opportunities for cooperation among proprietors of historic country stores; and

(C) promote the long-term economic viability of historic country stores through the provision of financial assistance to historic country stores.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COUNTRY STORE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "country store" means a structure independently owned and formerly or currently operated as a business that—

(i) sells or sold grocery items and other small retail goods; and

(ii) is located in—

(I) an economically distressed area; or

(II) a nonmetropolitan area, as defined by the Secretary.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term "country store" includes a cooperative.

(2) ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREA.—The term "economically distressed area" means an area that meets 1 or more of the criteria described in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)).

(3) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—The term "eligible applicant" means—

(A) a State department of commerce or economic development;

(B) a national or State nonprofit organization that—

(i) is described in section 501(c)(3), and exempt from Federal tax under section 501(a), of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(ii) (I) has experience or expertise, as determined by the Secretary, in the identification, evaluation, rehabilitation, or preservation of historic country stores; or

(II) is undertaking economic and community development activities;

(C) a national or State nonprofit trade organization that—

(i) is described in section 501(c)(3), and exempt from Federal tax under section 501(a), of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(ii) acts as a cooperative to promote and enhance country stores; and

(D) a State historic preservation office.

(4) FUND.—The term "Fund" means the Historic Country Store Revolving Loan Fund established under section 5(a).

(5) HISTORIC COUNTRY STORE.—The term "historic country store" means a country store that—

(A) has operated at the same location for at least 50 years; and

(B) retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, and construction to clearly identify the structure as a country store.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.

#### SEC. 4. HISTORIC COUNTRY STORE PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a historic country store preservation and revitalization program—

(1) to collect and disseminate information on historic country stores;

(2) to promote State and regional partnerships among proprietors of historic country stores; and

(3) to sponsor and conduct research on—

(A) the economic impact of historic country stores in rural areas, including the impact on unemployment rates and community vitality;

(B) best practices to—

(i) improve the profitability of historic country stores; and

(ii) protect historic country stores from foreclosure or seizure; and

(C) best practices for developing cooperative organizations that address the economic and historic preservation needs of—

(i) historic country stores; and

(ii) the communities served by the historic country stores.

(b) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, eligible applicants to carry out an eligible project under paragraph (2).

(2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—A grant under this subsection may be made to an eligible applicant for a project—

(A)(i) to rehabilitate or repair a historic country store; and

(ii) to enhance the economic benefit of the historic country store to the communities served by the historic country store;

(B) to identify, document, and conduct research on historic country stores; and

(C) to develop and evaluate appropriate techniques or best practices for protecting historic country stores.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible applicant that receives a grant for an eligible project under paragraph (1) shall comply with all applicable requirements for historic preservation projects under Federal, State, and local law.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that—

(A) identifies the number of grants made under subsection (b);

(B) describes the type of grants made under subsection (b); and

(C) includes any other information that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(c) COUNTRY STORE ALLIANCE PILOT PROJECT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a pilot project in the State of Vermont under which the Secretary shall conduct demonstration activities to preserve historic country stores and the communities served by the historic country stores, including—

(A) the collection and dissemination of information on historic country stores in the State;

(B) the development of collaborative country store marketing and purchasing techniques; and

(C) the development of best practices for historic country store proprietors and communities facing transitions involved in the sale or closure of a historic country store.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that—

(A) describes the results of the pilot project; and

(B) includes any recommended changes of the Secretary to the program established under subsection (a), based on the results of the pilot project.

#### SEC. 5. HISTORIC COUNTRY STORE REVOLVING LOAN FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall establish in the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund, to be known as the “Historic Country Store Revolving Loan Fund”, consisting of—

(1) such amounts as are appropriated to the Fund under subsection (b);

(2)  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the amounts appropriated under section 8(a); and

(3) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the Fund under subsection (d).

(b) TRANSFERS TO FUND.—There are appropriated to the Fund amounts equivalent to—

(1) the amounts repaid on loans under section 6; and

(2) the amounts of the proceeds from the sales of notes, bonds, obligations, liens, mortgages and property delivered or assigned to the Secretary pursuant to loans made under section 6.

(c) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), on request by the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary such amounts as the Secretary determines are necessary to provide loans under section 6.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—An amount not exceeding 10 percent of the amounts in the Fund shall be available for each fiscal year to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

(d) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury, required to meet current withdrawals.

(2) INTEREST-BEARING OBLIGATIONS.—Investments may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

(3) ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.—For the purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obligations may be acquired—

(A) on original issue at the issue price; or

(B) by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

(4) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation acquired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

(5) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Fund.

(e) TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts required to be transferred to the Fund under this section shall be transferred at least monthly from the general fund of the Treasury to the Fund on the basis of estimates made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—Proper adjustment shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates were in excess of or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

#### SEC. 6. LOANS FOR HISTORIC COUNTRY STORE REHABILITATION OR REPAIR PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Using amounts in the Fund, the Secretary may make direct loans to eligible applicants for projects—

(1) to purchase, rehabilitate, or repair historic country stores; or

(2) to establish microloan funds to make short-term, fixed-interest rate loans to proprietors of historic country stores.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a loan under this section, an eligible applicant shall submit to the Secretary a complete application for a loan that addresses the criteria described in paragraph (2).

(2) CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—In determining whether to approve or disapprove an application for a loan submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider—

(A) the demonstrated need for the purchase, construction, reconstruction, or renovation of the historic country store based on the condition of the historic country store;

(B) the age of the historic country store;

(C) the extent to which the project to purchase, rehabilitate, or repair the historic country store includes collaboration among historic country store proprietors and other eligible applicants; and

(D) any other criteria that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible applicant that receives a loan for a project under this

section shall comply with all applicable standards for historic preservation projects under Federal, State, and local law.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Fund is established under subsection (a), and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) identifies—

(A) the number of loans provided under this section;

(B) the repayment rate of the loans; and

(C) the default rate of the loans; and

(2) includes any other information that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

#### SEC. 7. PERFORMANCE REPORT.

Any eligible applicant that receives financial assistance under this Act shall, for each fiscal year for which the eligible applicant receives the financial assistance, submit to the Secretary a performance report that—

(1) describes—

(A) the allocation of the amount of financial assistance received under this Act;

(B) the economic benefit of the financial assistance, including a description of—

(i) the number of jobs retained or created; and

(ii) the tax revenues generated; and

(2) addresses any other reporting requirements established by the Secretary.

#### SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2006 through 2011, to remain available until expended.

(b) COUNTRY STORE ALLIANCE PILOT PROJECT.—Of the amount made available under subsection (a), not less than \$250,000 shall be made available to carry out section 4(c).

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. TALENT):

S. 3691. A bill to amend the Small Business Act, to reform and reauthorize the National Veterans Business Development Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, as the ranking member of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am joined today by my colleagues Senators SNOWE, AKAKA, and TALENT to introduce the Veterans Corporation Reauthorization Act of 2006.

This legislation is the product of lengthy bipartisan discussions about how we might be able to restore and revitalize the mission of The Veterans Corporation. Established in 1999 through Public Law 106-50, The National Veterans Business Development Corporation, commonly known as The Veterans Corporation, TVC, is charged with the task of assisting the men and women who have served this country in the military by helping them create and expand their own businesses. There are over 5 million veteran entrepreneurs across the country—over 550,000 in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts alone—and approximately 200,000 veterans are expected to retire in 2006. Additionally, 2004 data from the Small Business Administration, SBA, shows that approximately 22 percent of veterans in the U.S. household

population purchased or started a new business, or were considering doing so. This legislation ensures that necessary steps are taken to continue fostering entrepreneurship and business ownership among a veterans population that can clearly benefit from such assistance nationwide.

My distinguished colleagues and I feel that TVC is an organization worth reinvigorating. In fiscal year 2005, TVC reached out to over 18,000 current and potential veteran entrepreneurs, and opened three Veteran Business Resource Centers in Boston, MA; Flint, MI; and San Diego, CA, in addition to the flagship location in St. Louis, MO. In my home State of Massachusetts, TVC has close to 100 business owners and over 400 registered members.

Yet, in recent years, TVC has come under criticism for its overall performance. Many within the veterans community, and indeed some of my colleagues in Congress, do not believe TVC has produced results that warrant the millions of dollars in funding the organization has received. I understand this sentiment, and share in the desire to ensure taxpayer dollars are well-spent. This was among my primary concerns as we approached reauthorizing TVC. However, my colleagues and I came to the conclusion that by reauthorizing the organization, Congress could ensure greater oversight and accountability on the part of TVC and its use of Federal dollars—ultimately resulting in better service for our veterans. This is exactly what the Veterans Corporation Reauthorization Act of 2006 aims to do.

This legislation builds on the pre-existing TVC program in order to expand its reach nationwide, so that more veterans can have the tools they need to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations. Through a series of provisions that target the weaknesses of TVC and develop sound policies to strengthen them and clarify the organization's mission within the veterans community it serves, this bill makes several key improvements to the corporation.

In its inception, we envisioned that TVC would establish centers across the country to help assist veteran entrepreneurs with their small business needs. Unfortunately, the organization has shifted its primary focus toward the development of online programs in recent years. Although it is a good thing that TVC has four centers across the country, clearly more needs to be done to build upon these and develop a substantial number of new centers and networking opportunities for veterans nationwide. That is why this bill clarifies the role TVC should have in local communities. In rewriting the purpose of TVC in this capacity, our legislation explicitly states that the organization should be actively working to form more centers in order to build and create a national network linking veterans to the information, counseling, and assistance they need in starting and maintaining their businesses.

A recurring frustration that echoes from many veterans nationwide is that they are often unable to gain access to the Federal contracting and procurement realm. It is downright shameful that so many servicemen and women feel as though a government they fought so hard to protect all but abandons them—continuing to award myriad contracts to big businesses. By law, the Federal Government has a 3-percent contracting goal for service-disabled veterans. However, in 2004 only 0.38 percent of government contracts were awarded to service-disabled veterans. Patterns such as this are all too common—replaying themselves year in and year out. Clearly, more ought to be done to help those veterans who are looking to gain access to Federal contracts. Given this, our legislation directs TVC to assist veterans, particularly service-disabled veterans, with Federal contracting opportunities.

We received numerous complaints from veterans about the way the administration has chosen to interpret the current law such that it severely limits Congress's role in appointing board members. In this, TVC had experienced significant staffing changes on its Board of Directors since 1999. Our legislation ensures that the President works with the chair and ranking members of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and/or the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, and their House counterparts, to appoint nine members of the board with 4-year terms. Additionally, our legislation dictates that in this nomination process, the President and Congress consult with veterans groups nationwide. Furthermore, the Veterans Corporation Reauthorization Act of 2006 stipulates that no more than five of the nine board members be from the same political party and that all have business experience, knowledge of veterans issues, as well as the wherewithal to raise private funds for TVC. I firmly believe that this provision will ensure that TVC has top-notch board members, who can offer the best service to those who have already served our country.

This legislation authorizes \$2 million in Federal funds annually from fiscal years 2007 through 2009. Additionally, because TVC was originally to become a self-sustaining entity, our bill requires that for all Federal dollars received, the organization match those dollar amounts with private funds. Since its authorization expired in 2004, TVC's original matching requirement vanished, and the organization instead received Federal funding without any private fundraising requirement. We felt that this matching requirement needed to be reinstated to better enable TVC to become fully self-sustaining. Thus, our legislation forces TVC to function in a way similar to the SBA's Women's Business Centers and Small Business Development Centers. The leveraging of Federal dollars enables TVC to expand its donor base

so that it can achieve the goal of self-sustainability. Additionally, it has come to our attention through conversations with the veterans community, that servicemen and women are being charged high fees for using TVC services. That was never the intention when this program was conceptualized, and it is wrong for TVC to earn its private funds on the backs of veterans. We fix that in this bill by limiting the amount of non-Federal funds that TVC can raise in the form of fees to veterans to no more than 33 percent of the organization's total revenue.

In addition to the matching-fund requirement within our bill, it also requires that TVC develop a comprehensive plan for privatization within 6 months of the enactment of the Veterans Corporation Reauthorization Act of 2006. To ensure that TVC is in full compliance with the provisions in our bill, and that its self-sustaining plan demonstrates a certain degree of feasibility, we have asked the Government Accountability Office to conduct an audit of the organization no later than one year after date of enactment.

Finally, this bill extends the SBA's Veterans Advisory Committee, which the administration planned on terminating as of this year. Originally established through Public Law 106-50, this committee was to advise and counsel the SBA Administrator and the agency's Associate Administrator for Veterans' Business Development on the entrepreneurial needs and concerns of veteran small business owners and to monitor public and private plans that have the potential to impact veteran entrepreneurs from obtaining capital, credit, and to access markets. Additionally, it was to roll into TVC by September 30, 2004. However, when this date came around, it was clear that TVC was in no position to take on more responsibilities. Thus, Congress reauthorized the Veterans Advisory Committee and postponed the transfer date until this year. As the deadline closes in, we thought it best to reauthorize Veterans Advisory Committee and again postpone the transfer.

America's veterans and service-disabled veteran communities deserve a resource to assist them in bringing their entrepreneurial ideas into fruition. Nationwide, more and more veterans are turning to small businesses as a means of carving out their piece of the American dream, despite the many barriers they face upon reentering civilian life. The strengthening and revitalization of TVC that this legislation proposes, is one way that Congress can help in this effort and ensure greater effectiveness and accountability within the organization in the years ahead.

I urge my colleagues to join in support of this bipartisan Veterans Corporation Reauthorization Act of 2006—because in helping TVC succeed, we are ultimately helping veterans succeed and prosper.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3691

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Corporation Reauthorization Act of 2006”.

**SEC. 2. PURPOSES OF THE CORPORATION.**

(a) **PURPOSES.**—Section 33(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) to establish and maintain a national network of information and assistance centers for use by veterans and the public by—

“(A) providing information regarding small business oriented employment or development programs;

“(B) providing access to studies and research concerning the management, financing, and operation of small business enterprises, small business participation in international markets, export promotion, and technology transfer;

“(C) providing referrals to business analysts who can provide direct counseling to veteran small business owners regarding the subjects described in this section;

“(D) serving as an information clearinghouse for business development and entrepreneurial assistance materials, as well as other veteran assistance materials, as deemed necessary, that are provided by Federal, State and local governments; and

“(E) providing assistance to veterans and service-disabled veterans in efforts to gain access to Federal prime contracts and subcontracts; and”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “including service-disabled veterans” and inserting “particularly service-disabled veterans”.

**SEC. 3. MANAGEMENT OF THE CORPORATION.**

(a) **APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD.**—Section 33(c)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c(c)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) **APPOINTMENT OF VOTING MEMBERS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall, after considering recommendations proposed under subparagraph (B), appoint the 9 voting members of the Board, all of whom shall be United States citizens, and not more than 5 of whom shall be members of the same political party.

“(B) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Recommendations shall be submitted to the President for appointments under this paragraph by the chairman or ranking member (or both) of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship or the Committee on Veterans Affairs (or both) of the Senate or the Committee on Small Business or the Committee on Veterans Affairs (or both) of the House of Representatives.

“(C) **CONSULTATION WITH VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS.**—Recommendations under subparagraph (B) shall be made after consultation with such veteran service organizations as are determined appropriate by the member of Congress making the recommendation.

“(D) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—Consideration for eligibility for membership on the Board shall include business experience, knowledge of veterans’ issues, and ability to raise funds for the Corporation.

“(E) **LIMITATION ON INTERNAL RECOMMENDATIONS.**—No member of the Board may recommend an individual for appointment to another position on the Board.”.

(b) **TERMS.**—Section 33(c)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c(c)(6)) is amended to read as follows:

“(6) **TERMS OF APPOINTED MEMBERS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each member of the Board of Directors appointed under paragraph (2) shall serve for a term of 4 years.

“(B) **UNEXPIRED TERMS.**—Any member of the Board of Directors appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member’s predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of the term. A member of the Board of Directors may not serve beyond the expiration of the term for which the member is appointed.”.

(c) **REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS.**—Section 33(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(12) **REMOVAL OF MEMBERS.**—With the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors and the approval of the chairmen and ranking members of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate, the Corporation may remove a member of the Board of Directors that is deemed unable to fulfill his or her duties, as established under this section.”.

**SEC. 4. TIMING OF TRANSFER OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE DUTIES.**

Section 33(h) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c(h)) is amended by striking “October 1, 2006” and inserting “October 1, 2009”.

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

Section 33(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c(k)(1)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “, through the Office of Veteran’s Business Development of the Administration,” after “to the Corporation”; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (D) and inserting the following:

“(A) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

“(B) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

“(C) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.”;

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administration shall require, as a condition of any grant (or amendment or modification thereto) made to the Corporation under this section, that a matching amount (excluding any fees collected from recipients of such assistance) equal to the amount of such grant be provided from sources other than the Federal Government.

“(B) **LIMITATION.**—Not more than 33 percent of the total revenue of the Corporation, including the funds raised for use at the Veteran’s Business Resource Centers, may be acquired from fee-for-service tools or direct charge to the veteran receiving services, as described in this section, except that the amount of any such fee or charge may not exceed the amount of such fee or charge in effect on the date of enactment of the Veterans Corporation Reauthorization Act of 2006.

“(C) **MISSION-RELATED LIMITATION.**—The Corporation may not engage in revenue producing programs, services, or related business ventures that are not intended to carry out the mission and activities described in section (b).

“(D) **RETURN TO TREASURY.**—Funds appropriated under this section that have not been expended at the end of the fiscal year for which they were appropriated shall revert back to the Treasury.”; and

(3) by striking paragraph (3).

**SEC. 6. PRIVATIZATION.**

Section 33 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (f) and (i); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (g), (h), (j), and (k) as subsections (f) through (i), respectively; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) **PRIVATIZATION.**—

“(1) **DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Veterans Corporation Reauthorization

Act of 2006, the Corporation shall develop, institute, and implement a plan to raise private funds and become a self-sustaining corporation.

“(2) **GAO AUDIT AND REPORT.**—

“(A) **AUDIT.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of the Corporation, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and generally accepted audit standards.

“(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The audit required by this paragraph shall include—

“(i) an evaluation of the efficacy of the Corporation in carrying out the purposes under section (b); and

“(ii) an analysis of the feasibility of the sustainability plan developed by the Corporation.

“(C) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Veterans Corporation Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Comptroller General shall submit a report on the audit conducted under this paragraph to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and to the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives.”.

By Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3694. A bill to increase fuel economy standards for automobiles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, 33 years ago, this Nation faced a crisis that touched every American. In 1973, in the shadow of a war against Israel, the Arab nations of OPEC decided to embargo shipments of crude oil to the West.

The economic effects were devastating. For American drivers, the price at the gas pump rose from a national average of 38.5 cents per gallon in May 1973 to 55.1 cents per gallon in June 1974. The stock market fell, and countries across the world faced terrible cycles of inflation and recession that lasted well into the 1980s.

Lawmakers in Washington reacted by calling for a nationwide daylight savings time and a national speed limit. They established a new Department of Energy that eventually created a strategic petroleum reserve. Perhaps most important, Congress enacted the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards, or CAFE, the first-ever requirements for automakers to improve gas mileage on the vehicles we drive.

At the time, auto executives protested, saying there was no way to increase fuel economy without making cars smaller. One company predicted that Americans would all be driving sub-compacts as a result of CAFE. But CAFE did work, and under the direction of Congress, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, nearly doubled the average gas mileage of cars from 14 miles per gallon in 1976 to 27.5 mpg for cars in 1985. Today, CAFE standards save us about 3 million barrels of oil per day, making it the most successful energy-saving measure ever adopted.

Now 30 years later, Americans again are feeling the pain at the pump. The price of oil has reached \$78 a barrel, and Americans are paying more than \$3.00 a gallon for gas. America's 20-million-barrel-a-day habit costs our economy \$800 million a day, or \$300 billion annually. Because we import 60 percent of our oil, much of it from the Middle East, our dependence on oil is also a national security issue as well. Al-Qaida knows that oil is America's Achilles heel. Osama bin Laden has urged his supporters to "Focus your operations on oil, especially in Iraq and the gulf area, since this will cause them to die off."

At a time when the energy and security stakes couldn't be higher, CAFE standards have been stagnant. In fact, because of a long-standing deadlock in Washington, CAFE standards that initially increased so quickly have remained stagnant for the last 20 years.

Since 1985, efforts to raise the CAFE standard have been stymied by opponents who have argued that Congress does not possess the expertise to set specific benchmarks and that an inflexible congressional mandate would result in the production of less safe cars and a loss of American jobs. This has been a bureaucratic logjam that has ignored technological innovations in the auto industry and crippled our ability to increase fuel efficiency.

To attempt to break this two-decade-long deadlock and start the U.S. on the path towards energy independence, I have joined with Senators LUGAR, BIDEN, SMITH, BINGAMAN, HARKIN, COLEMAN, and DURBIN to introduce the Fuel Economy Reform Act of 2006. This bill would set a new course by establishing regular, continual, and incremental progress in miles per gallon, targeting 4 percent annually, but preserving NHTSA expertise and flexibility on how to meet those targets.

Over the past 20 years, NHTSA's efforts to improve fuel economy have been encumbered with loopholes and resistance. With this bill, CAFE standards would increase by 4 percent every year unless NHTSA can justify a deviation in that rate by proving that the increase is technologically unachievable, does not materially reduce the safety of automobiles manufactured or sold in the U.S., or can prove it is not cost-effective when comparing with the economic and geopolitical value of a gallon of gasoline saved. We specifically define the grounds upon which NHTSA can determine cost-effectiveness. By flipping the presumption that has served as a barrier to action, we replace the status quo of continued stagnation with steady, measured progress.

Under this system, if the 4 percent annualized improvement occurs over ten years, this bill would save 1.3 million barrels of oil per day—or 20 billion gallons of gasoline per year. If gasoline is just \$2.50 per gallon, consumers will save \$50 billion at the pump in 2018. By 2018, we would be cutting global warm-

ing pollution by 220 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent gases.

The Fuel Economy Reform Act also would provide fairness and flexibility to domestic automakers by establishing different standards for different types of cars. Currently, manufacturers have to meet broad standards over their whole fleet of cars. This disadvantages companies like Ford and General Motors that produce full lines of small and large cars and trucks rather than manufacturers that only sell small cars.

In order to enable domestic manufacturers to develop advanced-technology vehicles, this legislation provides tax incentives to retool parts and assembly plants. This will strengthen the U.S. auto industry by allowing it to compete with foreign hybrid and other fuel efficient vehicles. It is our expectation that NHTSA will use its enhanced authority to bring greater market-based flexibility into CAFE compliance by allowing the banking and trading of credits among all vehicle types and between manufacturers.

Finally, the bill also would expand the tax incentives that encourage consumers to buy advanced technology vehicles. The bill would lift the current 60,000-per-manufacturer cap on buyer tax credits to allow more Americans to buy ultra-efficient vehicles like hybrids.

By ending a 20-year stalemate on CAFE, the Fuel Economy Reform Act will recapture the innovation that Congress and the auto industry launched in response to the OPEC crisis. In the process, we will safeguard our national security, protect our economy, reduce consumer pain at the pump, and protect our climate, environment, and public health. I urge my colleagues to join our bipartisan coalition and support the Fuel Economy Reform Act.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3695. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the marketing of authorized generic drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today with Senators SCHUMER and LEAHY to introduce an important piece of legislation for seniors, individual with disabilities, children, and anyone who is taking a brand name prescription drug with a generic equivalent. The bill we are introducing today would outlaw the latest in a long line of loopholes that brand name manufacturers have found to limit generic drug access to the market.

Our legislation would prohibit brand name manufacturers from introducing so-called "authorized generics" during the 180-day period that Congress intended true generics to have exclusive market rights. Some of my colleagues may be wondering what an "authorized generic" is.

An authorized generic drug is a brand name prescription drug produced by the same brand manufacturer on the same manufacturing lines, yet repackaged as a generic in order to confuse consumers and shut true generics out of the market. This is a huge problem and one that is becoming even more prevalent as patents on some of the best-selling brand name pharmaceuticals start to expire.

Pravachol, Zocor and Zoloft have patents that have expired or will expire this year. Together, these drugs account for approximately \$9 billion in sales annually. In 2007, another top-selling brand name drug, Norvasc, will lose its patent protection, followed by Advair the following year.

When brand name drugs lose patent rights, this opens the door for consumers, employers, third-party payers, and other purchasers to save billions—between 50 and 80 percent on the costs of prescriptions—by using generic versions of these drugs. Brand name drug companies are expected to lose as much as \$75 billion over the next 5 years as some of their best sellers go off-patent and generic competition increases. So, not surprisingly, these big pharmaceutical companies are desperately trying to protect their market share and prevent consumers from cashing in on savings from generic drugs.

We have addressed this issue before. In 1984, Congress passed the Hatch-Waxman legislation to provide consumers greater access to lower cost generic drugs. The intent of this law was to improve generic competition, while preserving the ability of brand name manufacturers to discover and market new and innovative products. As part of this law, the first generic company on the market after challenging an expiring brand name patent is granted 180-days of exclusive market rights, which is just a fraction of the up to 20 years of exclusive market rights afforded brand companies.

This 6-month incentive is crucial to maintaining the balance between encouraging brand drug companies to make new drugs and encouraging generic drug companies to make existing drugs more affordable. Challenging a brand name drug's patent takes time, money, and involves absorbing a great deal of risk. Generic drug companies rely on the added revenue provided by the 180-day exclusivity period to recoup their costs, fund new patent challenges where appropriate, and ultimately pass savings onto consumers.

This latest attempt by big drug companies to protect their profits puts billions of dollars in savings for consumers in jeopardy. The bill we are introducing today eliminates the authorized generic loophole, protects the integrity of the 180 days, and improves consumer access to lower-cost generic drugs. I urge my colleagues to support this timely and important piece of legislation.



I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3695

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

**SECTION 1. PROHIBITION OF AUTHORIZED GENERICS.**

Section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(o) PROHIBITION OF AUTHORIZED GENERIC DRUGS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no holder of a new drug application approved under subsection (c) shall manufacture, market, sell, or distribute an authorized generic drug, direct or indirectly, or authorize any other person to manufacture, market, sell, or distribute an authorized generic drug.

“(2) AUTHORIZED GENERIC DRUG.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘authorized generic drug’—

“(A) means any version of a listed drug (as such term is used in subsection (j)) that the holder of the new drug application approved under subsection (c) for that listed drug seeks to commence marketing, selling, or distributing, directly or indirectly, after receipt of a notice sent pursuant to subsection (j)(2)(B) with respect to that listed drug; and

“(B) does not include any drug to be marketed, sold, or distributed—

“(i) by an entity eligible for exclusivity with respect to such drug under subsection (j)(5)(B)(iv); or

“(ii) after expiration or forfeiture of any exclusivity with respect to such drug under such subsection (j)(5)(B)(iv).”.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, recently I was pleased to introduce with Senators KOHL, GRASSLEY and SCHUMER, the Preserve Access to Affordable Generics Act of 2006, S. 3582. That bill was designed to improve the timely and effective introduction of generic pharmaceuticals into the marketplace.

It is no secret that prescription drug prices are rapidly increasing and are a source of considerable concern to many Americans, especially senior citizens and families. In a marketplace free of manipulation, generic drug prices can be as much as 80 percent lower than the comparable brand name version. Unfortunately, there are still some companies driven by greed that may be keeping low-cost, life-saving generic drugs off the marketplace, off pharmacy shelves, and out of the hands of consumers by carefully crafted anti-competitive agreements between drug manufacturers.

In 2001, and last Congress, I introduced a related bill, the Competition Act. That bill, which is now law, is small in terms of length but large in terms of impact. It ensured that law enforcement agencies could take quick and decisive action against companies seeking to cheat consumers by delaying availability of generic medicines. It gave the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department access to information about secret deals between drug companies that keep generic

drugs out of the market—a practice that not only hurts American families, particularly senior citizens, by denying them access to low-cost generic drugs, but also contributes to rising medical costs.

The Drug Competition Act, which was incorporated in the Medicare Modernization Act, was a bipartisan effort to protect consumers in need of patented medicines who were being forced to pay considerably higher costs because of collusive secret deals designed. It is regrettable that we must come to the floor again today and take additional action to prevent drug companies from continuing to find and exploit loopholes.

The bill I am introducing tonight with Senators ROCKEFELLER and SCHUMER is very important. It will provide incentives for generic companies to make the investments needed to introduce low-cost generic medicines for all our citizens.

The bill assures all Americans that the original intent of the Hatch-Waxman law is carried out. That law was to provide incentives for generic companies to challenge the validity of patents on medicines and provide incentives for generic companies to manufacture low-cost medicines. That incentive was simple.

Under Hatch-Waxman law, the first generic company, called the first-filer, which successfully develops a generic version of a patented drug and meets certain other requirements, can get a 180-day exclusivity period to be the only generic company to have permission to make and sell that generic drug.

That was called an exclusivity period because that is what the Congress intended—that generic company would have the exclusive right for 180 days to make the generic version of the patented medicine.

The problem is that recently brand-name companies have been labeling their own patented drugs also as a generic version of itself, or licensing others to make it, and selling both the brand-name version and the so-called generic version. This undercuts the potential profits of the “real” generic company and denies them what the Hatch-Waxman law promised and for a long time delivered—an exclusivity period lasting up to 180 days.

When the brand-name company offers a competing “fake” generic version of the drug, that can cut the profits of the real generic manufacturer greatly—thus making it less likely that a real generic company will even want to make the product.

The Rockefeller bill prevents the brand-name company from doing that for the 180-day exclusivity period. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this effort.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 110—COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC 1946 SEASON OF MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME MEMBER BOB FELLER AND HIS RETURN FROM MILITARY SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. DEWINE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 110

Whereas Robert William Andrew Feller was born on November 3, 1918, near Van Meter, Iowa, and resides in Gates Mills, Ohio;

Whereas Bob Feller enlisted in the Navy 2 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941;

Whereas, at the time of his enlistment, Bob Feller was at the peak of his baseball career, as he had been signed to the Cleveland Indians at the age of 16, had struck out 15 batters in his first Major League Baseball start in August 1936, and established a Major League record by striking out 18 Detroit Tigers in a single, 9-inning game;

Whereas Bob Feller is the first pitcher in modern Major League Baseball history to win 20 or more games before the age of 21;

Whereas Bob Feller pitched the only opening day no-hitter in Major League Baseball history;

Whereas, on April 16, 1940, at Comiskey Park in Chicago, Bob Feller threw his first no-hitter and began the season for which he was awarded Major League Baseball Player of the Year;

Whereas Bob Feller served with valor in the Navy for nearly 4 years, missing almost 4 full baseball seasons;

Whereas Bob Feller was stationed mostly aboard the U.S.S. Alabama as a gunnery specialist, where he kept his pitching arm in shape by tossing a ball on the deck of that ship;

Whereas Bob Feller earned 8 battle stars and was discharged in late 1945, and was able to pitch 9 games at the end of that season, compiling a record of 5 wins and 3 losses;

Whereas 60 years ago, amid great speculation that, after nearly 4 seasons away from baseball, his best pitching days were behind him, Bob Feller had 1 of the most amazing seasons in baseball history;

Whereas, in the 1946 season, Bob Feller pitched 36 complete games in 42 starts;

Whereas, on April 30, 1946, in a game against the New York Yankees, Bob Feller pitched his second career no-hitter;

Whereas, in 1946, Bob Feller pitched in relief 6 times, saving 4 games;

Whereas, in 1946, Bob Feller routinely threw between 125 and 140 pitches a game, a feat not often seen today;

Whereas, in 1946, Bob Feller pitched 371½ innings and had 348 strikeouts;

Whereas, in 1946, Bob Feller had an earned run average of 2.18;

Whereas, in 1946, a fastball thrown by Bob Feller was clocked at 109 mph;

Whereas Bob Feller was the winning pitcher in the 1946 All Star Game, throwing 3 scoreless innings in a 12-0 victory by the American League;

Whereas, in 1946, Bob Feller led the American League in wins, shutouts, strikeouts, games pitched, and innings;

Whereas the baseball career of Bob Feller ended in 1956, but not before pitching his