

the Senate. He is a Senator who has always been on the lookout for ways to improve the efficiency of Government programs and reduce unnecessary costs. He is a leader in achieving results. Again, he is showing his ability to carefully analyze Federal programs and look for ways that we can improve them in terms of their efficiency. The savings of taxpayers' dollars that will result from the changes are quite obvious. This is another example which shows his diligence and his ability in this regard. So I commend him for his continued efforts to do what he is trying to do. I applaud that effort.

Having said that, I hope that if Senators do want to comment on the legislation and the proposed amendment, they will come to the floor to do so, and I will put in a quorum call to ascertain whether we do have Senators who want to speak further on this amendment at this time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I understand there is nobody at the moment waiting to bring up any amendments so I ask unanimous consent that I be able to proceed as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAL RIPKEN, JR.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, a couple weeks ago, like many others, I had the opportunity to be in Camden Yards to see a most extraordinary baseball game when Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's record. I remember as a child thinking that the Gehrig record might never be reached, never be broken.

For me, the fact that I could be there with my son, Kevin, to watch that game, was really one of the highlights of this or any other year.

In watching, I could not help but think that Cal Ripken reflected the best of all people who get up and go to work every day in all fields. Whether it is the nurse who is there for the evening shift on a weekend, the person who shows up at the police department and goes to work to protect all of us, the teacher who is there teaching our children, the men and women of the Senate staff who are here—sometimes long after we Senators are able to go home—every day working for the best of our country, and on and on.

In this case I also think credit should be given to Peter Angelos and those who own the Orioles. Earlier this year when there was talk of replacement teams, they stood fast and said there would be no replacement team for the Orioles. Nothing would be done to cut into Cal Ripken's record. Indeed, they did not.

I also think that two things came as a result of that. One, it sent a signal to baseball that there are some owners and some players who care more for the game than care for the disgraceful dance that has gone on the past year, the dance of charges and countercharges and strikes and lockouts that resulted in the cancellation last year of the World Series.

Second, by doing that, I believe it helped bring to an end the strike and it also gave baseball an evening of glory that it has not had for so long. It really did not become a question of whether the Orioles won or lost that night. It turned out they did win with Cal Ripken hitting a home run. It was a chance for people to unite around this country and say there are so many good things in baseball, and to go back to the basics of it. I hope Cal Ripken's accomplishment does help.

As Kevin and I sat there, we watched the different people—Joe DiMaggio sitting a few feet from us, the President, the Vice President, and others just to the other side of us, but what united us was not the well-known people but that baseball fans of all sort throughout that field and throughout the country could share in a magnificent achievement.

#### VERMONT'S FINEST, SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I recently had a chance to watch some of the best softball I have ever seen.

I saw the Vermonters, who make up my own team, play in the semifinals and then the finals and then win the softball championship.

I was out there Saturday in 95-degree heat, blistering sun, and I watched these young men and women from my office's team and I thought: That is real sportsmanship.

Then, the next day the final championship was fought between Vermont and New Hampshire.

In a league with 120 teams, the idea that the Senate softball championship this year came down to teams from New Hampshire and Vermont is ironic.

You have to understand we are both northern New England States, and the baseball season is rather short in northern New England. Our children grew up with hockey sticks and skates and skis—and have to squeeze their baseball in between those light May snow showers and the September autumn chill that stings the hands of all children who make contact with ball and bat.

But there we were.

The Thundering Herd, the talented granite-like team of Senator BOB SMITH's office had not been beaten all year. But neither had Vermont's Finest. Vermont's Finest, we say with no hint of modesty, is the name of our softball team.

The game went back and forth, only to be tied at the end of seven innings. Vermont scored two runs in the top of

the eighth and shut the Herd down to seal the victory and the championship.

We were led by Montpelier's Maggie Whitney, who played second base but should be turning double plays with Cal Ripken, Jr. St. Albans' Jamie Horan has a black eye and a 500-foot home run to show for the series. Beebe Plain's Mike Lawson won rookie of the year honors while representing the smallest town in Vermont with glove and lumber.

And the list of contributors is endless. Big Ed Pagano, our oak tree at first; Tom "Stonewall" Cosgrove, anchoring third on a nearly broken ankle—an ankle, incidentally, we heard snap as he hit home plate. He would not allow it to break until he scored that run. Paul "The Enforcer" Johnson, who with aging star J.P. Dowd provided key hitting and veteran leadership. Norwich's Regen O'Malley and UVM grad Kara Calaca-Mottola were anchors behind the plate. And our own tank commander, that stalwart marine, Bill Delaney, had more than a few key hits.

Rookies David East and Narric Rome were vital to the team effort.

Vivian Cocca pitched as gutsy a series of games as we have seen in years.

Special honors have to go to our player-coach Brady Burgess, the solid, taciturn hunk of granite, a native of Lincoln, VT, who grew up dreaming of one day holding the Senate trophy aloft. I am sure this is a dream he had as a 3-year-old. He batted, fielded, and led his team to an impossible series of victories.

The loyal bench jockeys were Brattleboro's Jenny Backus, the purple-shorted Kevin "Scooter" McDonald, and the pride of St. Johnsbury, Zima-drinking Amy Rainone.

And the whole team was aided by their biggest fan and 5-year-old bat-boy, Walter Albee, who occasionally let his aging baby boomer, semi-yuppie father play.

We have to tip our caps to a few teams. First, our friendly rivals the Vermont Saps, from my good friend JIM JEFFORDS' office, who had what we call a "rebuilding year" this year but will no doubt be in the playoffs next year as they have been.

Second, our tough but honorable rivals from the MCCAIN-McCONNELL team. It seems one of us is always knocking off the other to get to the mountain top.

Third, our friends on Senator MIKULSKI's team. In the past 5 years, we have each won the championship twice and will be glad to be keeping it in the family.

Finally, to the Thundering Herd from New Hampshire—that the two New England teams made it to the top of the heap is a testament to traditional Yankee values of team play, strength, and hard work. I say to my friends from New Hampshire, they will be first in the Nation when Dixville Notch goes to the polls at midnight. You almost made it first in the Nation in softball,