

in Nebraska, as well as companies elsewhere in recognizing that the jobs they offer are a major draw for immigrants, some of whom are not in the country legally, and for taking the initiative to help root out those who are not eligible to work. The meatpacking industry wants to hire legal workers; this industry is also well aware of how difficult a task that can be given the availability of forged documents. The Employment Verification Pilot will test, across an entire industry, a hiring system that has already demonstrated success in smaller pilot projects.

In a relatively short period of time we should expect that the word will spread: Nebraska and other States with good job opportunities will keep the welcome mat out for those authorized to work, but will shut the door to those who are not. The participating companies together employ about 56,000 workers at 48 sites in 10 States. Participation by these employers ensures that about 80 percent of the meatpacking industry will be covered.

I also commend the INS for their response to an issue of utmost importance to the country—protecting American jobs and continuing efforts to reduce the primary incentive for illegal immigration—the job magnet. I also want to laud the INS for recognizing the usefulness of a voluntary system. By participating with employers in fashioning the program, the INS has forged a partnership that will lead to success.

The process is simple. Employers who volunteer to participate can quickly verify with INS, through a computer, whether their newly hired, noncitizen employees are authorized to work. In most cases, verification will be received in minutes. Through quick verification, this project cracks down on illegal employment while protecting the rights of legal immigrant workers.

I believe this pilot project has the potential to restore American's faith in the legal immigration system and I look forward to the evaluation of the program after it has gotten off the ground. I also look forward to continue working with INS and employers to ensure that Americans jobs are protected and available for those who are in the United States legally.●

#### HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BASEBALL

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, on a warm spring afternoon, on June 19, 1846, the seeds of modern baseball were planted in the fertile soil of New Jersey. On that day, one of baseball's first teams, the Knickerbockers, invited a group known as the New York City Club to join them for a game of ball. They met on the Elysian Fields of Hoboken, NJ, and played under a unique set of rules, which the Knickerbockers had recently devised. With the first pitch, the modern game of baseball was born. The new pastime quickly captured the young Nation's interest

and fired its imagination. Clubs were soon modeling themselves upon the Knickerbockers, and Hoboken's Elysian Fields became one of the first great centers of baseball activity in the United States.

Over the last 150 years, the seed first planted in New Jersey became firmly rooted in the American landscape and then spread around the globe.

But although baseball is enjoyed throughout the world, it is a uniquely American game. It both mirrors and molds our national character.

It has been said that "Whoever wants to know the hearts and minds of America had better learn baseball." This is undeniably true, because baseball is one of the world's most democratic games. Each team has equal opportunity to win, since no timeclock decides when the game is done. Only hard work and teamwork determine a winner. What could better reflect our national philosophy?

But baseball not only mirrors our character, it also molds it. For generations of immigrant children, their first American experience often came on the baseball diamond. During World War II, when our male baseball players joined the war effort, all-female teams were formed. Displaying exceptional talent and tenacity, these ballplayers vividly demonstrated that a woman could fill a man's shoes. In 1947, baseball set a powerful example for the Nation; when Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, professional baseball became one of the standard bearers of the desegregation movement.

For all that baseball has done, perhaps its greatest contribution is simply the bond that it forms between one generation of Americans and the next. It is a bond forged between children and parents who have spent long days together at the ballpark or on the ballfield.

As Americans, we come from diverse cultures, often with very different customs and beliefs. It is only our common experiences that bind us together as a nation. Whether playing it or watching it, baseball has been one of the few shared experiences enjoyed by all of us, a common thread which has helped stitch together the tapestry of America. So, it is no exaggeration to say that baseball is, and will always be, a part of our national identity, our national heritage, and our national greatness.

I am pleased to recognize the important role which New Jersey played in baseball's history. Too few people realize that baseball's first match game was played in Hoboken. Hopefully, the events taking place today in Hoboken, to celebrate that first game, will help spread the word. Congratulations Hoboken, and happy 150th anniversary to America's national pastime, the sport of baseball.

Mr. President, I ask that a letter from President Clinton be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, June 19, 1996.

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in Hoboken, New Jersey, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the celebrated baseball game on Elysian Fields between the Knickerbockers and the New York Club.

Throughout its long and storied history, baseball has stirred the hearts and captured the imagination of the American people. From hot summer days on the sandlot to cool autumn nights at the World Series, baseball has passed from generation to generation as new stars rise to replace the legends of the past and new fans learn to root for the home team.

Through wars and depression, good times and bad, we have been beguiled by the sights and sounds of this graceful and timeless game. The crack of the bat on a hard-hit ball; the slap of a fastball into a catcher's mitt; the smooth precision of a well-turned double play; the thrill of a stolen base; the sight of a home run as it clears the center field fence—these are the things that have imprinted baseball in the soul of America.

I join you in celebrating this cherished national pastime and the players, managers, coaches, and fans who have made it a permanent part of American culture. Best wishes for a memorable day.

BILL CLINTON.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LUCILLE MAURER, FORMER STATE TREASURER OF MARYLAND

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, the State of Maryland mourns today.

We have lost a tremendous public servant and role model in Lucille Maurer, who died Monday at the age of 73, after a long struggle with a brain tumor.

Lucy Maurer was a long time Montgomery County legislator who went on to serve as Maryland's first female treasurer. She served as treasurer for over 9 years, ending this past January. As treasurer, she was widely recognized for her effectiveness, her professionalism, her intelligence, and her commitment. Lucy also served in the House of Delegates and on several school boards.

But her public service was not limited to fiscal affairs; Lucy Maurer also committed her considerable talents and energies to those who needed them most—Maryland's children. Whether the issue was education, nutrition, or safety, Lucy wanted the promise of a better future to become a reality for every child.

Lucy was an outstanding example of all that is good about democratic politics. She was also a great friend and an inspiration to so many women—and men—who hold public office. We looked to emulate the strength, fiscal and political savvy, confidence, and can-do spirit that was so much a part of her.

She was an inspiration to the many unheralded women across Maryland who work everyday to improve their communities and make a real difference. I hope Lucy's community involvement—with groups like the PTA and the League of Women Voters—will encourage even more women to become active in community and political affairs. I can think of no legacy more important that Lucy Maurer could leave for the Maryland she loved so much.