Ferrel's contract was purchased by the Brooklyn Dodgers, where he spent 3 seasons in the Dodgers' farm system. A nagging injury cut Ferrell's baseball career short. But the real reason ''Tootsie'' Ferrell never got his chance to play in the majors was because of the prejudice that kept America's pastime segregated for so many years.

It may be hard for younger Americans to imagine a world where the best African-American players were not allowed to play on the same field with the best white players. The first appearance of an official color barrier in baseball came in 1868, when the National Association of Baseball Players voted to bar any club that had nonwhite members. Professional baseball eventually followed suit. Sadly, by the turn of the century there were no black players in organized, professional baseball.

But exclusion from the ''white'' leagues did not stop African-Americans from playing the game of baseball. Instead, they formed teams and leagues of their own. In 1920, an African-American businessman named Rube Foster organized a collection of independent all-black ball clubs into the Negro National League. In 1923, the competing Eastern Colored League was formed. These two leagues operated successfully for years—delighting crowds, showcasing the talent of African-American athletes, and inspiring future generations of baseball players. A new Negro National League was organized in 1933, and the Negro American League was chartered four years later. These leagues thrived until the color barrier was finally shattered by Jackie Robinson. And although all-black teams continued to play for several years, integrated major league baseball eventually put the Negro Leagues out of business.

The history of the white major leagues has been well documented. Unfortunately, the same is not true of the Negro Leagues. While it is easy to look up how many home runs Babe Ruth hit or how many batters the great Walter Johnston struck out, the same cannot be done for Negro League greats like Josh Gibson and Satchel Paige. As time goes by, there are fewer and fewer men left who played ''the other'' game of baseball before the color barrier was broken. That is why it is so important we honor men like ''Tootsie'' Ferrell. He began his baseball career in a league that was separate but unequal. He saw this ugly and unfair color barrier disappear, just as it eventually would in other aspects of American society.

I congratulate Howard ''Tootsie'' Ferrell for his achievement, and I commend the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame for his induction.●

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TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL RONALD R. BLANCK

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the exceptionally distinguished service of Lieutenant General Ronald R. Blanck, United States Army, who has distinguished himself as the Army's 39th Surgeon General and Commander, U.S. Army Medical Command General, from 1 October 1996 to 31 August 2000.

In addition to serving as the principal medical staff advisor to the Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Blanck also serves as Commander of the United States Army Medical Command, which administers a 6.6 billion-dollar worldwide-integrated health care system with 46,000 military personnel and 26,000 civilian employees. During his tenure, Lieutenant General Blanck concentrated on three major areas, readiness, quality of healthcare, and innovation, to ensure the provision of comprehensive, quality healthcare to soldiers, retirees, and their family members. Lieutenant General Blanck implemented a new set of combat support training standards; energized the Army's Medical Reengineering Initiative; and organized an array of Special Medical Augmentation Response Teams to provide global, rapid-deployment capabilities for local, state and federal agencies. He provided oversight for the Defense Department Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program; and established a successful, Army-wide Medical Protection System to track all immunization data. In addition, he established new partnerships with civilian trauma centers to provide appropriate hands-on training and experience for military surgical trauma teams.

Lieutenant General Blanck has been a leader in the development and use of clinical practice guidelines and helped implement the Department of Defense clinical practice guidelines partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs. As a direct result of his initiatives, Army medical treatment facilities have been accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), with scores consistently above 90, the highest in the history of the Army Medical Department, with three prestigious Army hospitals receiving perfect scores of 100 on their JCAHO surveys during the past year. Lieutenant General Blanck has championed the use of modern technologies by the Department of Defense and the Army Medical Department. He supported an innovative Simulation Center initiative, and promoted the dissemination of information about chemical and biological terrorism. He has also enthusiastically advocated the introduction of new, advanced technologies into patient care, including: (1) the Medical Personal Information Carrier which stores soldiers' medical and personal information, (2) a dry fibrin sealant bandage, developed by Army research in cooperation with the American Red Cross, (3) multiple and extensive uses of telemedicine, (4) new initiatives to speed evacuation of wounded soldiers from the battlefield.

Mr. President, Lieutenant General Blanck is a great credit to the Army and the Nation. Even with all of the extraordinary accomplishments during his thirty-two years of service, General Blanck will be remembered mostly for his great compassion for people, his loyalty to his country and his inspirational leadership.●

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RECOGNITION OF DR. PAT JOHNSON, PRINCIPAL OF KENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, the students at Kent Elementary School have witnessed many innovative changes thanks to the hard work and foresight of their principal, Dr. Pat Johnson. For the last nine years, Dr. Johnson has been called a strong and supportive leader by her colleagues and never ceases to make the mark of excellence high for her staff and students. I applaud Dr. Johnson's work in transforming an at-risk school into one of excellence.

Kent Elementary School serves a low income and highly transient population, yet Dr. Johnson believes in the abilities of all students, preaching her motto that ''Together Everyone Achieves More'' (TEAM). Though many students face challenges both at home and in the classroom, Dr. Johnson uses her positive attitude to inspire her staff toward maintaining an environment that promotes student learning.

One example of Johnson's commitment to enhancing student achievement was by creating a school-wide discipline program. Through this program, discipline problems have dramatically decreased on the playground and in the classroom. Dr. Johnson also believes in reinforcing positive social skills to the children through rewards and student recognition. All of the staff members share in this ''Positive Action'' program, making teamwork a priority for the children.

Dr. JOHNSON has also implemented block scheduling to maximize student learning. In order to better target students' math and reading skills, students attend specifically assigned classes that fit their appropriate learning levels, giving children the opportunity to move to other classrooms as their needs and skill levels improve throughout the year.

Student reading levels have also improved because of Dr. Johnson's Reading Mastery program which focuses on strategies that help students reach academic success. Johnson's impact on her students is also evident in Kent Elementary's 1998 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) writing scores which were the highest scores in the Kent School District.

Another challenge taken on by Principal Johnson was giving students a sense of stability in their lives by creating a ''multi-age format'' in each classroom. This system allows students to have the same home-room teacher for two years and lowers the student/teacher ratio.