Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to a man who passed away too soon, the Man with the Golden Arm, the great Baltimore Colt, Hall of Famer Johnny Unitas. He was known to many as the greatest quarterback to ever play in the National Football League. Yet, in Baltimore and Maryland, he was our own Johnny U. He was the man who put professional football on the national map, who embodied the strong spirit of our city and State.

Johnny Unitas was born in Pittsburgh, but he spent most of his life in Baltimore. He was as much a part of the fabric of the city as crab cakes and Cal Ripken.

After high school, he wanted to play football in college at the University of Notre Dame. Yet the coaches there told him he was too small to play football. Johnny wound up playing at the University of Louisville, and was drafted in 1955 by his hometown Pittsburgh Steelers. The Steelers promptly cut him from the team before the 1955 season started, telling him that he wasn’t smart enough to be a quarterback.

Pittsburgh’s loss was Baltimore’s gain. The Baltimore Colts signed him in 1956. In 1958, he led the Colts to an improbable victory in the NFL Championship Game against the New York Giants, a game that is now referred to as “The Greatest Ever Played.” Unitas engineered the famous 96-yard game-tying drive with less than 2 minutes to play in regulation, then led the Colts to victory in overtime. This was the first overtime game ever played in the NFL. The legend of Johnny Unitas was soon born.

In 1965, the Colts went on to win the NFL title, and Johnny was named the Most Valuable Player. His toughness was legendary. Many times he played with broken bones, through unbearable pain. The words he said to his teammates before every game embodied his spirit: “Talk is cheap, let’s go play.”

His accomplishments are too numerous to list here, but among them are these: 3-time Player of the Year; 3-time NFL Champion; first quarterback to pass for over 40,000 yards; a touchdown pass in 47 consecutive games, a feat which is compared to Joe DiMaggio’s 56-game hitting streak; 10 Pro Bowl selections; Player of the Decade for the 1960’s; Greatest Player in the First 50 Years of the NFL; NFL 75th Anniversary Team; and Hall of Fame Inductee, 1979. When he retired in 1973, Johnny Unitas held 22 NFL records.

It is not just his accomplishments on the field that endeared him to the fans in Baltimore. He was an unassuming superstar, a reluctant hero, a regular guy who happened to be a football superstar. He understood that a smile or a handshake or an autograph could make a fan’s day.

He was generous with charities, too, even as he fell upon difficult financial times. He established the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation, and supported various organizations dedicated to children’s causes, cancer research, and victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Johnny Unitas was the underdog who became the greatest quarterback in the history of the National Football League. Yet beyond that, he was a fine person who will be sorely missed, not only in Baltimore and Maryland, but across the country. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, his friends, and his many, many fans.

EXPULSION OF THE ACADIANS

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I rise today to address the injustices the British Crown inflicted upon the Acadian people over 200 years ago. Due to their refusal to take an oath of loyalty to the King of Great Britain that would require them to bear arms against their French ancestors, the British governor exiled them from their homes and confiscated their property in Eastern Canada beginning in 1755.

This action caused great suffering among the Acadians. The Acadian people were forced to struggle to find a new home. Forced from their homes, many left for the American colonies. Ultimately, a small group of Acadians found their way to the Spanish colony of Louisiana in 1764. In the next twenty-five years, over 2,600 made the journey to Louisiana.

These refugees ultimately settled in Louisiana and created the Cajun culture which has so richly influenced Louisiana since that time. While Louisiana was granted independence from the Acadian expulsion, the suffering of the Acadian people must never be forgotten.