UNVEILING OF TIGER STADIUM COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to a special place in my hometown of Detroit that for the last century has inspired not only our city but our country. This year we are commemorating the tricentennial of the founding of a city that to Americans has long meant great automobiles. To Detroiters, it also means great sports teams and inspiring hero-athletes. Indeed, as Detroit enters its fourth century, our pride in our city is equaled by our pride in the house these heroes built—our storied Tiger Stadium.

Today at home plate, the people of Detroit will gather to unveil one of eleven new stamps commemorating Baseball’s Legendary Playing Fields. Of those eleven ballparks, only four still stand, and one is right in Detroit, where baseball was the pastime at The Corner of Michigan and Trumbull for more than a century.

The history of this stadium is in so many ways the history of our city. The spirit of hard work and determination that has always defined Detroit revealed itself early. When the Great Depression hit Detroit harder than most American cities, it was the 1935 World Series. led by Al Kaline, Charlie Gehringer, Goose Goslin, and Hank Greenberg—who renewed the hopes of an entire city. Detroit would forever after be the City of Champions, with four World Series titles to prove it.

When the riots and ruin of 1967 left deep scars of division across our city, it was the 1968 World Champion Tigers led by Al Kaline, Willie Horton, Bill Freehan, Denny McLain and Mickey Lolich who led one of the greatest comebacks in baseball history and who, in their unforgettable victory, united us to celebrate as one city.

It is no exaggeration to state that the heroes of Tiger Stadium also pointed us to a better America. By the time the prize fighter Joe Louis triumphed over Bob Pater in then-Briggs Stadium in 1939, he was more than a hometown hero from the East Side, he was a national hero and a symbol to all people of all races. Even today, I almost weep thinking of “Hammerin’ Hank” Greenberg’s grand slam in 1945 that put the Tigers in the Series and for what that one swing of the bat meant. When Nelson Mandela spoke to a massive rally in Tiger Stadium a decade ago, his words rung out past the rafters to every American on the endurance and inspiring power of the human spirit.

In this City of Champions, the names and feats of champions echo still. Here is where the three time NFL champion Detroit Lions played for more than three decades. Here is where the legends of baseball’s Golden Age took to the field in the unforgettable 1941 All-Star Game—Bob Feller, Joe DiMaggio, and Ted Williams. Here is where the Tigers earned the divisional championships, nine pennants, and those four World Series titles. Here is where the Tiger greats were born, the eleven Hall of Famers: Sparky Anderson, Ty Cobb, Mickey Cochrane, Sam Crawford, Hank Greenberg, Hugh Jennings, Al Kaline, George Kell, Heinie Manush, Hal Newhouser, and Charlie Gehringer. And one more Hall of Famer, broadcaster Ernie Harwell, made sure that when we couldn’t physically be at Michigan and Trumbull, the sights and sounds of the ballpark were part of our lives.

This house of heroes may have been built on the shoulders of giants, but someone else sustained it, the fans. If ever a community has unified in a place, Detroiters came together at The Corner. In this city of immigrants, attending a game there became an American rite of passage. The language of Tiger Stadium, as the Detroit News once put it, was not Polish or Armenian or Ukrainian, it was baseball. Generations of parents brought their children to those sun-drenched bleachers.

Years later, those grown children brought their own children to Tiger Stadium. I know because like many Detroiters I still call the old ballpark the place of my youth, a place where our parents took us and where I took my daughters and granddaughter.

To this day I remember my father leading me through the corridors to see the hero-athletes who have made the Detroit Lions for more than four years of effort, the Governor sign legislation to ensure that uninsured patients who volunteer to participate in cancer treatment clinical trials are provided with health care coverage.

Karen was diagnosed with cancer more than four years ago, and yet through it all, she did not give up her work on behalf of Vermonters. She continued to serve in the Legislature, she continued to fight cancer as a survivor in efforts to promote awareness about the importance of support groups, and she helped to establish the annual Breast Cancer Conference in Burlington. These are just a few of the lasting contributions that will serve as a tribute to Karen’s life for years to come. Karen leaves behind a loving family—her husband, Warren, and two daughters, Amy and Carrie. Amy is a student at the University of Virginia, studying government and women’s studies, and Carrie is a student at the University of Pennsylvania studying at the School of Arts and Sciences. I had the privilege