

By far, this was the most important veterans' legislation passed in the 104th Congress, and one of the most difficult and complex issues I have witnessed during my 17-year tenure as a U.S. Senator.

I do not think anyone can doubt the commitment and dedication Chris has for our veterans, and I know every member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs will miss his dedication and expertise.

He is a man with the courage to tackle the difficult questions and the knowledge to find the answers. Chris Yoder will be sorely missed on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. As a friend, I wish him the best of the luck.●

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD "PRINCE
HAL" NEWHOUSER

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Michigan's greatest athletes in America's greatest pastime. Baseball was Harold "Prince Hal" Newhouser's life, and it

showed every minute during the 15 years he was on the field, proudly wearing the Detroit Tigers jersey number 16. Rising to prominence during a time when athletes played for the love of the sport, Harold's story represents a fine example of the American ethic of hard work and determination.

At 14 years old, Harold listened intently to the announcer as Goose Goslin drove in the series winning run, giving the Detroit Tigers the 1935 pennant. Harold was so excited about the victory he decided his life's goal was to play for his hometown Tigers. Four months after his eighteenth birthday, as he stepped on the mound for the first time, Harold's dream came true.

Harold Newhouser was born to play baseball. Just a few years after he began pitching for the Tigers, Harold reached the coveted twenty wins in one season. In 1942, Harold was named to the All-Star team. In 1944, he earned the American League's Most Valuable Player award, and won it again the very next year. This occasion marked

the only time in history a major league picture won the MVP award in back-to-back seasons.

By the time Harold Newhouser retired in 1955, he had played in six All-Star Games, won two MVP's, and earned recognition as a strikeout king with a blazing fastball. In 1992, his achievements were formally recognized through his induction into the Hall of Fame. As Harold is proud to point out, he is the first Detroit-born player to go into the Hall of Fame, and he's the first Detroit-born player to have his uniform number retired by the Tigers.

And that occasion, Mr. President, is what I rise today to commemorate. Harold was born in Detroit, grew up in Detroit, and played baseball for Detroit. This Sunday the Tigers will bestow upon him their highest honor, and on behalf of Michigan, I would like to recognize his accomplishments in the RECORD, and to thank him for his outstanding representation of Michigan throughout his life, both on and off the field.●