

for Beale AFB, by both working to improve the on-base facilities and promoting the many values and strengths of Beale AFB throughout California and the country.

Bill Simmons has been a valuable local resource on education, military, and local issues affecting the entire Yuba-Sutter region, and I hope that he will remain active in his community beyond his retirement from the Yuba County Office of Education. I wish my friend the best as he embarks on this latest chapter of his distinguished career.●

2007 STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2006–2007 National Hockey League champions, the Anaheim Ducks. The Anaheim Ducks demonstrated remarkable skill, teamwork, and determination in becoming the first California hockey team to win the prestigious Stanley Cup.

The 2006 to 2007 season will be remembered as a truly landmark season for the Anaheim Ducks. During the course of the season, the Ducks played in the franchise's 1000th regular season game and recorded their 1000th point after a much-deserved 4 to 2 victory on March 11, 2007. The Ducks began their season in fine form as they set an NHL record by remaining undefeated in regulation play for the first 16 games of the season. The Ducks used a high-octane offense and a stout defense to achieve the first 100-point season and the first Pacific Division title in the franchise's history. Throughout the season, the Ducks were a model of hard work, dedication and consistency.

Under the leadership of a dedicated management and coaching staff and with contributions from an outstanding roster of seasoned veterans and promising young players, the Ducks defeated the Minnesota Wild, the Vancouver Canucks, and the Detroit Red Wings in their usual spirited fashion en route to winning the Western Conference title. In the finals, the Ducks triumphed over the Ottawa Senators in a fiercely contested series that ensured the oldest and most famous trophy in all of North American professional sports, the Stanley Cup, will finally make its way to California for the first time.

It is my pleasure to congratulate all the hard working members of the Ducks organization who worked tirelessly to bring so much joy and pride to the people of Orange County and to the State of California. Their successes are considerable, and I salute their accomplishments. As the Anaheim Ducks and their fans celebrate their first Stanley Cup victory, I congratulate them on a truly remarkable and memorable season and wish them more success in future seasons.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAMOURE

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, it was 125 years ago that pioneers created the city of LaMoure, ND.

LaMoure and its surrounding territory got off to an unexpectedly strong start due to the work of a fellow named MAJ H.T. Elliott. He was employed by a real estate firm whose financial fortunes depended upon the prosperity and success of homesteaders and town builders in the LaMoure area.

To ensure that region boomed, Major Elliott was sent to the nearest railroad station to meet incoming emigrants. If they appeared to be bright, industrious, honest folks with adequate financial resources, Elliott directed them to the region around LaMoure. But if they were of a suspect type, Elliott sent them off in the opposite direction.

Elliott himself was the county's first citizen but had the misfortune to establish the town of Grand Rapids which immediately found itself in a fight with LaMoure over which should be the county seat. When Grand Rapids lost that election, LaMoure's citizens armed themselves and trooped across country in the dead of night to seize the governmental records.

They were met at Grand Rapids by barricaded doors and rifles bristling from the courthouse windows. But with the aid of a battering ram, they smashed their way in and the Grand Rapids defenders slipped away. LaMoure had its first triumph.

There have been many more since then—some headline making like State championship sports teams, installation of a Coast Guard radar site serving mariners and pilots all around the globe, a national award as an All-America City, home to U.S. Senator Milton Young.

But many more of its successes never garnered headlines. They were the quiet but meaningful stories of strong families, vibrant businesses, prosperous farms, good kids, and the warmth of citizens who cared about each other.

LaMoure is both a wellspring and a repository of what is best about America—old-fashioned values of honesty, decency, hard work, faith, and family. Its foundation is solid, and its people will continue to create a community where dreams are turned into reality.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF RUTLAND

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, it was 125 years ago that pioneers in Dakota Territory created the community that is now Rutland, ND. Those pioneers included hopeful immigrants from Norway, Sweden, Germany, Ireland, Poland, England, and Scotland, seeking new homesteads on the unbroken prairie; hard-driving businessmen and railroad workers from the Eastern States finding opportunity on America's frontier; and the Wahpeton-Sisseton band of the Dakota people, adapting to changing times and preserving ancient

traditions as their world changed around them.

These pioneers built a solid foundation of family, faith, and education for their community, establishing farm homes, churches, and schools first. When the Great Northern Railway built its line through the territory, the community was given its name in honor of Rutland, VT, the hometown of many of the pioneer railroaders. The green hills of the Coteau de Prairie south of the town, reminded them of their home in the Green Mountains.

In those early years, the pioneers of the Rutland community endured drought, harsh winters, and economic exploitation, but their faith, independent spirit, and cooperative attitude carried them through the tough times and made the good times better. It has been said that Rutland could be renamed Phoenix because, like that mythical bird, the city's business district has twice risen from the ashes of devastating fires to rebuild better and stronger each time. One of the business buildings destroyed by the second fire, back in 1941, was a unique combination of economic enterprises, perhaps a forerunner of today's megamalls. The second floor was a hotel, providing rest and refuge for weary travelers, while three businesses occupied the ground floor: In the front was a harness and shoe repair shop, keeping Rutland folks either afoot or on horseback, and they always knew which; at the center of the building was a cream station, where farm produce including chickens, eggs, cream, and butter was bought and sold; and at the rear of the building was a funeral parlor, which had a double life as an illicit gambling casino, when a paying customer was not laid out in somber repose. That building and those businesses went up in smoke many years ago, but this week, another new business, the Rutland General Store, has opened its doors on Rutland's Main Street, showing that the spirit of optimism that inspired our pioneer ancestors is still alive and thriving in the community they built. The optimism and patriotism of Rutland citizens is reflected in the fact that men and women from the community have served in the Nation's military service in every conflict from the Civil War to the current engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Over the past 125 years, Rutland has been noted for many accomplishments: The home of one of North Dakota's outstanding amateur baseball teams, the Rutland Roosters; the Rutland Rockets and Sargent Central Cadets High School sports teams always tough and usually victorious; location of the Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge, conserving and preserving our Nation's natural heritage; an award as a National Bicentennial Community in 1976; an award as a North Dakota Centennial Community in 1989; home to Obed Wyum, a national leader in the establishment of rural electric and rural telephone cooperatives; and making it

into the “Guinness Book of World Records” with the world’s largest hamburger, a 3,591-pound whopper, as part of the community’s centennial celebration in 1982.

But many more of Rutland’s successes never garnered headlines. They were the quiet but meaningful stories of strong families, vibrant businesses, prosperous farms, good kids, and the warmth of citizens who cared about each other.

Rutland is both a wellspring and a repository of what is best about America—old-fashioned values of honesty, decency, hard work, faith, and family. Its foundation is solid, and its people will continue to create a community where dreams are turned into reality.●

FORT ABERCROMBIE

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, one of North Dakota’s oldest communities celebrates its anniversary this week. Abercrombie and the nearby fort after which it is named date their origins back 150 years.

Fort Abercrombie is famous for having been the site of one of the most prolonged battles in the American West between Native Americans and U.S. soldiers. Fresh from their triumphs in a Minnesota uprising, Dakota warriors quickly moved to secure their gains by attacking the last military post between the decimated, burning white settlements and the wide open Great Plains.

The defenders of the fort were in a desperate pinch. The fort had no protective palisade and little else in the way of defense, it was several hundred miles from the nearest help, and, worst of all, rifle ammunition was critically low.

For a month the soldiers, and the citizens who had rushed to the protection of the fort, held off Little Crow’s warriors. What saved them was the discovery that the metal balls with which the fort’s cannon shells were packed were identical to what their rifles required for ammunition.

Fort Abercrombie has a storied history. Military trails radiated out to Fort Wadsworth, Fort Ransom, and Fort Totten. It was here that wagon trains embarked for Montana’s gold fields, that the 1870 peace treaty between 900 Dakota and Chippewa delegates was signed, that oxcart caravans from Canada to the Twin Cities overnighted.

Fort Abercrombie is quiet now but houses a handsome State park and historical center. The adjacent community, however, continues to hum. In 1936, an observer called it “an enterprising, live, wide-awake community.” That is still an honest description, especially this weekend.

A street dance, military ball, school reunion, parades, wagon train, history tours, and a multitude of other events will fill the days. Although I expect the activity will be as intensive as it was in 1862, it will not be as desperate. In-

stead, it will be a classic festival of small town America—one of remembrance and homecoming, of neighbors and family, of heritage and pride. I send its citizens birthday greetings and a salute for its proud and singular history.●

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this week Wisconsin is honored to host more than 600 veterans and athletes for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Milwaukee. At the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world, hundreds of veterans who made tremendous sacrifices for our Nation will demonstrate not only their remarkable athletic abilities but also their unmatched courage and determination in the face of adversity.

World-class wheelchair athletes and newly disabled veterans will join together in Milwaukee for 17 competitive events and 2 exhibition events. The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is a great sporting event, and it is also a chance for athletes to develop lasting friendships with other veterans who have faced and overcome similar obstacles.

I thank the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America for hosting the games, as well as the VA officials and volunteers who helped to make these games a reality. More than 3400 Wisconsinites are showing their support by volunteering during the games.

I encourage these athletes and their families to explore their unique and dynamic host city. I hope everyone has the opportunity to experience Milwaukee’s wonderful lakefront and sample the outstanding food and drink that Milwaukee is known for.

I know Milwaukee will give a warm welcome to all the competitors and visitors who have come to the city for this week’s games. Their competitive spirit and the incredible sacrifices they have made bravely serving our Nation are an inspiration to us all. I hope everyone enjoys what is sure to be an exciting and memorable week.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEFFREY ERLANGER

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the memory of Jeff Erlanger, an extraordinary person who was a prominent member of the Madison community, a family friend, and an inspiration to me and everyone lucky enough to know him.

To understand what a positive force Jeff was in people’s lives, I will quote something he said in an ad he did for Wisconsin Public Television a few years ago: “It doesn’t matter what I can’t do—what matters is what I can do.” Those are words that everyone should live by, but Jeff, who was a quadriplegic, really did live by them.

He never dwelled on the many challenges he faced; instead, he focused on helping others, making tremendous contributions of time and effort to a wide array of organizations.

He served on the Economic Development Commission, as chairman of the Commission on People with Disabilities, and as chairman of the board of the Community Living Alliance, as well as many other positions. Among his accomplishments was his successful push for the accessible taxicab service that exists in Madison today. He also ran for the Madison City Council in 2002. Jeff’s commitment to public service says volumes about the kind of person he was and why his passing is such a loss for the Madison community.

Jeff used his personal experience to inspire others, visiting classrooms to talk about living with a disability, and appearing on ‘Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood’ at the age of 10. He became good friends with Fred Rogers, speaking both at Rogers’ induction to the Television Academy Hall of Fame and at a memorial service when Rogers passed away in 2003.

Throughout his adulthood, he continued to make life-changing connections with people he met. Incredibly, he saved the life of a Boston woman he was talking with online, calling both AOL and the Boston police after she told him she had cut her wrists but wouldn’t tell him what her last name was or where she lived. They tracked the woman down and rushed her to an emergency room. It is just one amazing story from a truly amazing life.

I am proud to say that Jeff was an intern in my office. He was also a dear friend to members of my family. He meant so much to so many people, both those he knew, those he inspired through his appearances, and those he helped through his life of community service. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and my thoughts are with his parents, his family, and his friends. Jeff left behind a wonderful legacy, of hope, enthusiasm, and caring, and that is something everyone who knew him can cherish.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL EMERSON N. GARDNER JR.

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a marine officer from my home State of Maryland, LTG Emerson N. Gardner, Jr., now serving as the Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, as he prepares to leave this position for one of even greater importance.

The position of Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources is one of the most demanding and important jobs within Marine Corps Headquarters. For the past 2 years, as Deputy Commandant, Lieutenant General Gardner has been responsible for planning, programming, budgeting and executing total appropriations in excess of