

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am proud to honor a group of 94 World War II veterans from Louisiana who are traveling to Washington, DC, this weekend to visit the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable service members.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, is sponsoring this Saturday's trip to the Nation's Capital. The organization is honoring each surviving World War II Louisiana veteran by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. On this trip, the veterans will visit the World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials. They will also travel to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns.

This is the eighth flight Louisiana HonorAir has made to Washington, DC., and there will be one additional flight this spring.

World War II was one of America's greatest triumphs, but was also a conflict rife with individual sacrifice and tragedy. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American service members were slain during the long war. The ultimate victory over enemies in the Pacific and in Europe is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. The years 1941 to 1945 also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of domestic industry, which supplied our military on two distant fronts.

In Louisiana, there remain today more than 40,000 living WWII veterans, and each one has a heroic tale of achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny. Veterans in this HonorAir group range in age from 79 to 91. They began their service as early as 1939, before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and some members of this group served as late as 1976. They served in various branches of the military—37 members in the Army; 17 in the Army Air Corps, including one in the Women's Air Corps; 28 in the Navy; 3 in the Naval Reserve; 4 in the Marines; 1 in the Marine Corps Reserve; 2 in the Merchant Marines; and 2 in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Our heroes served across the globe in the Pacific, Atlantic, Asiatic Pacific and China Burma India theaters. Others served in North Africa, Japan, Korea, the islands of the South Pacific and in other areas of Europe and state-side. Our service members battled at Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, Okinawa, Saipan, Tinian and the Solomon Islands.

Many of these veterans earned Purple Hearts, Bronze Star Medals and Croix de Guerre medals. They served on famous battleships such as USS North Carolina, and they participated in the liberation of the Philippines.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 94 veterans, all Louisiana

heroes, that we welcome to Washington this weekend and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality. •

HONORING TRANS-TECH INDUSTRIES

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the immeasurable contributions of a small Maine company both to its industry and community. Trans-Tech Industries is an innovative manufacturer of aluminum tanks and trailers which are used to transport fuel and petroleum products. In addition to leading its field, Trans-Tech has given back to the city of Brewer, ME, in countless ways.

Trans-Tech is a shining model for companies seeking to compete in the demanding global marketplace. Founded in 1984, the company set out with a simple goal: strengthen existing models of aluminum tanks to become safer and more convenient for the operator. Trans-Tech originally began operations in a converted storage unit in the seaside town of Southwest Harbor. During its early years, Trans-Tech manufactured tanks and trailers as well as aluminum boats. But company president Ken Peters found it difficult to produce the number of tanks for which he had hoped, and he continually increased efforts to make more tanks. In 1999, Trans-Tech finally moved to a location in Brewer's East-West Industrial Park that better suited the company's needs.

Since relocating to Brewer, Trans-Tech's tank production has soared. The company presently makes between 400 and 500 tanks each year, as opposed to the less than 100 it previously produced, and revenues have increased threefold. Moreover, the company continues to improve and expand. Besides its state-of-the-art 43,000 square foot production facility, Trans-Tech added an adjacent 7,200 square foot building in 2004, allowing it to focus on the manufacturing of specialty trailers. Trans-Tech was additionally able to realize its goal of developing aircraft refuelers that range from 1,000 to 10,000 gallons each which are now in use at airports across the country, showing how Trans-Tech has made the most of its new opportunities.

While Trans-Tech certainly produces high quality tanks and trailers, the firm and its over 60 employees are also a good neighbor, donating time and resources to many area organizations and charities. Trans-Tech's commitment to the community is visible with its assistance to The Salvation Army; the company's sponsoring a youth hockey team; and its major participation in the Brewer Days and Brewer Winterfest, two well-attended annual community events.

One of Trans-Tech's most recognizable efforts is its involvement with the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter. Mr. Peters serves on the shelter's board of directors, and he and Trans-Tech constantly provide the shelter with needed supplies such as furniture and food.

They even donated a new air conditioner for the hot summer months. Mr. Peters also serves as a board member on the Brewer Economic Development Corporation and he is a founding member of the Penobscot Landing Committee, which is aimed at revitalizing the historic Brewer waterfront. He is also the 2008 recipient of the Governor's Service Award as chosen by the Maine Commission for Community Service, a fitting acknowledgement of the devotion he and Trans-Tech have shown to improving the well-being of Brewer.

Through its unyielding pledge to both business and community, Trans-Tech sets a high bar for companies seeking to succeed in all facets. Ken Peters inspires his employees, and they in turn help make Brewer a better community in which to live. He also gives back to his employees in numerous ways, including providing them with a raise to help them manage rising gas prices. The firm's magnanimous spirit truly flows from the top, and it is something to be celebrated. I congratulate Trans-Tech Industries on all it does, and wish the company well in the future. •

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. BARTLETT

• Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Michael J. Bartlett, supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service New England Field Office, who is retiring after four decades of exemplary public service. My home State of New Hampshire, the New England region, and our Nation have benefitted greatly from Mike's efforts as a tireless defender of our natural resources.

After completing military service over 37 years ago, Mike joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a staff biologist. Prior to his current role, he served as a project leader in the New Jersey Ecological Services Office, Northeast regional chief of field operations, and Northeast deputy assistant regional director.

Like any good steward, Mike has left things better than he found them in each of these positions. Throughout his time with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Mike has fostered accountability, efficiency, and teamwork. For his accomplishments in strengthening employee-supervisor relationships and improving overall employee satisfaction, Mike was honored with the Fish and Wildlife Service Northeast Region's "Invest in People" award.

Mike's leadership and collaborative approach to natural resource protection are widely respected. As Supervisor of the New England Field Office, Mike has minimized the adversarial nature of his office's regulatory role and repeatedly brought parties together for mutually beneficial outcomes. At the same time, Mike has been unwavering in his dedication to natural resource protection.

Mike was instrumental in complex and lengthy negotiations with the

Maine aquaculture industry, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and State of Maine that resulted in strong protections for endangered Atlantic salmon. Additionally, under his supervision, the New England Field Office has secured significant resource benefits by negotiating numerous settlement agreements on contentious hydroelectric project license renewals. For example, a mitigation fund created as part of the relicensing of the Fifteen Mile Falls hydroelectric project on the Connecticut River has allowed the restoration of 20 miles of river habitat, protection of over 25,000 acres of watershed lands, and fish passage improvements.

Under Mike's supervision, the New England Field Office has been a wise steward of natural resource damage assessment funds. Mike has insisted that such funds be used to obtain the greatest possible benefit for fish and wildlife impacted by oil spills and other environmental degradation. In Maine, settlement funds totaling \$8 million were used to leverage over \$100 million in additional investment to protect habitat for common loons and ducks that were impacted by the North Cape oil spill in Rhode Island. The combined funds secured the protection of 1.5 million acres and more than 200 lakes and ponds that provide nesting habitat for over 125 pairs of loons and 600 pairs of common eiders. In Massachusetts, settlement funds have been used to preserve endangered roseate tern colonies in Buzzards Bay, restore saltmarsh and eelgrass beds, and provide herring with spawning habitat on the Acushnet River.

Mike's emphasis on collaboration shines through in the exceptional work performed by his office through the Fish and Wildlife Service Partners program. During Mike's tenure as supervisor of the New England Field Office, the program has restored hundreds of miles of river access and thousands of acres of wetlands in the region. In New Hampshire, thanks to a highly successful dam removal program that Mike conceived and helped to create, I have witnessed improvements to our rivers such as the Contoocook and Souhegan. Meanwhile, the Partners program has restored coastal saltmarsh in Greenland, Newmarket, Newington, Hampton, Rye and North Hampton, New Hampshire. This and similar work throughout New England has enhanced landscapes and preserved critical habitat for Atlantic salmon, American shad, American eel, brook trout, and freshwater mussels.

Mike's work has also benefitted many species including Indiana bats, New England cottontail rabbits, and a variety of migratory birds such as piping plovers, bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, loons, roseate terns, and bald eagles. His stewardship has even impacted the smallest of species. Mike's negotiation of an agreement with the city of Concord, the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game, and pri-

vate partners has ensured the protection of the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly through cooperative management of 300 acres of habitat at the Concord City Airport.

Mike plans to teach in his retirement, and this is fitting because he has already been a mentor, coach, and teacher for many individuals. Mike's dedication and his outgoing and gregarious personality, to which colleagues and friends attribute much of his success, are widely admired. The inspiration Mike provides for others will undoubtedly continue to be a catalyst for conservation.

Mike is to be commended for his extensive work on behalf of fish, wildlife, wetlands, and conservation in general. I am certain that Mike's retirement will be enjoyable, as some say that his professional and personal attributes may be equaled only by his aquatic resource collection skills with a fly rod. Mike's upcoming time for angling, hunting, kayaking, and relaxing with his wife, children, and grandchildren, is well-deserved. I wish Mike and his family great success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3490. An act to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3522. An act to ratify a conveyance of a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, pursuant to the settlement of litigation between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, to authorize issuance of a patent for said lands, and to change the exterior boundary of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation accordingly, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4332. An act to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act to require the Council to establish a single telephone number that consumers with complaints or inquiries could call and be routed to the appropriate Federal banking

agency or State bank supervisor, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5631. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 2457. An act to provide for extensions of leases of certain land by Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe.

S. 2739. An act to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the Department of Energy, to implement further the Act approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) reported that he had signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 3196. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Sussex Street in Port Jervis, New York, as the "E. Arthur Gray Post Office Building".

H.R. 3468. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1704 Weeksville Road in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as the "Dr. Clifford Bell Jones, Sr. Post Office".

H.R. 3532. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5815 McLeod Street in Lula, Georgia, as the "Private Johnathan Millican Lula Post Office".

H.R. 3720. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 424 Clay Avenue in Waco, Texas, as the "Army PFC Juan Alonso Covarrubias Post Office Building".

H.R. 3803. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3100 Cashwell Drive in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the "John Henry Wooten, Sr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 3936. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 Helen Highway in Cleveland, Georgia, as the "Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office Building".

H.R. 3988. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3701 Altamesa Boulevard in Fort Worth, Texas, as the "Master Sergeant Kenneth N. Mack Post Office Building".

H.R. 4166. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 East Copeland Drive in Lebanon, Missouri, as the "Steve W. Allee Carrier Annex".

H.R. 4203. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3035 Stone Mountain Street in Lithonia, Georgia, as the "Specialist Jamaal RaShard Addison Post Office Building".

H.R. 4211. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, as the "Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office".

H.R. 4240. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10799 West Alameda Avenue in Lakewood, Colorado, as the "Felix Sparks Post Office Building".