

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am proud to honor a group of 97 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 servicemembers.

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 ninth flight Louisiana HonorAir will make to Washington, DC.

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. The oldest in this HonorAir group was born in 1913. They began their service as early as 1938, before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and some members of this group served as late as 1979. They served in various branches of the military—34 members in the Army; 14 in the Army Air Corps; 37 in the Navy; 8 in the Marines; 1 in the USO; and 3 in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Our heroes served across the globe, participating in major invasions such as those at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Guadalcanal, Leyte, the Philippines, and southern France. One was a prisoner of war in Italy, another served under General Patton, and one flew 35 bombing missions over Europe.

Many of these veterans earned Purple Hearts, Bronze Star Medals, Air Medals and Navy Crosses.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 97 veterans, all Louisiana heroes, that we welcome to Washington this weekend and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality.●

RECOGNIZING TINA FLETCHER

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the work of an out-

standing young woman who has served Arkansas and our Nation this spring as an intern in my office, Tina L. Fletcher of Plumerville, AK.

Last month, Tina, a senior at the University of Arkansas, was named the 2008 recipient of the Henry Woods Student Leadership Award, which recognizes one outstanding student leader and his or her contributions to the University of Arkansas campus community. She is the ninth recipient of the Woods award and will receive a \$750 scholarship.

Friends and associates of Henry Woods created this award to honor his 25 years of service in the Washington, DC, area. While in Washington, Woods worked for U.S. Representative Bill Alexander and U.S. Senators David Pryor and Dale Bumpers. I was also fortunate enough to have Henry work in my Washington office for a short time and lend his years of experience to my staff. Prior to his professional service with in Congress, Henry was active in numerous campus organizations and served for 2 years as editor of the Razorback yearbook while attending the University of Arkansas.

In addition to winning the Henry Woods award, Tina is a Silas H. Hunt distinguished scholar and member of the Political Science Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha. She is a graduating senior in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences completing a combined major in political science and African-American studies.

In addition to serving as the former secretary of Pi Sigma Alpha, Tina also served as the 2007 president of the Kappa Iota Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the 2007 vice-president of the Black Students Association, and is the founder and first President of S.A.S.S.: Students Advocating Stronger Sisterhood. Tina is an active member of the Connections Mentoring Program, Order of Omega, and Tri-Council.

In November 2007, Tina was selected as one of 10 students to serve as a Congressional Black Caucus/Wal-Mart Emerging Leaders intern. She was among the first group of students to receive the Silas H. Hunt distinguished scholarship. Tina has also received many additional honors and awards since arriving at the University of Arkansas as a freshman in 2004 including being named the NAACP's University of Arkansas Legend.

Recently admitted into Harvard University, Tina will pursue her masters of education degree in political philosophy/political science and history during the upcoming school year. After receiving her master's degree, Tina plans to teach high school within the Delta region's urban and impoverished school districts.

Mr. President, it goes without saying that the future looks bright for Tina Fletcher. While we will certainly miss her, we wish her the best in all her future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING LEW WILLIAMS, JR.

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to talk about one of Alaska's greatest newspaper publishers and newsmen. Lew Williams, Jr. was a fixture in Ketchikan, AK, one of the State's largest cities as I was growing up in nearby Wrangell. Lew unfortunately passed away at age 83 this past Saturday, leaving a hole in the fabric of Alaska journalism that may never be fully patched.

Mr. Williams was a successful publisher, no simple accomplishment when publishing newspapers in relatively small Alaska towns is expensive, newsprint had to come by barge from thousands of miles away, and advertisers and readers were sometimes far too scarce. But he never scrimped on his product and was fearless in writing strong, clear and always factually accurate and well reasoned editorials.

Lew was a champion in supporting statehood for Alaska back in the mid-1950s. Along with Robert Atwood, the former publisher of the Anchorage Times, and C.J. Snedden, the long-time publisher of the Fairbanks News Miner, Mr. Williams was one of the three pioneer publishers and editors in Alaska who did more to establish modern Alaska than most community leaders and politicians. Avoiding the trend to sell his publication to outside chains, his daughter Tena remains as publisher of the newspaper today.

He also was a leading light in improving journalism in Alaska, being the founder in 1965, just 6 years after Statehood, of the Alaska Newspaper Publishers' Association, the forerunner to today's Alaska Newspaper Association. He served as president of each organization and later as director of the regional Allied Daily Newspaper Association.

Mr. Williams was born in Spokane, WA, in November 1924, the son of two reporters, Lew M. Williams, Sr., and Winfred—Dow—Williams, who worked for newspapers in Tacoma, WA. The Williams family moved to Juneau in 1935, where his father worked for the Juneau Empire. In 1939 Lew Williams, Sr., purchased the Wrangell Sentinel, starting a history of newspaper publishing in Alaska which continues to this day.

After serving as a sergeant in the paratroopers in World War II, Lew Jr. ran the Wrangell Sentinel for the family. He married Dorothy M. Baum in July 1954. The couple bought the Petersburg Press and acquired the Wrangell Sentinel from Mr. Williams' parents when they retired. They later sold the two newspapers and bought the Daily Sitka Sentinel—Sitka being the site of Alaska's first pulp mill started after WW II—and also bought an interest in the Ketchikan Daily News.

Ketchikan, a sawmill town in the heart of the Tongass National Forest, later saw its own pulp mill develop. The Williams sold the Sitka paper to

concentrate on the Ketchikan paper. But Lew was quick to help reestablish small papers in both Petersburg and Wrangell.

Like many newspaper publishers, Lew Jr. was active in his community. He served on the Wrangell School Board, as mayor of Petersburg, and on numerous State boards including the Alaska Judicial Council, on the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska and as a member of the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association. He served on the State boards under every State Governor, Democratic or Republican, through his retirement in 1999. He also served as the first secretary of the Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Board just after statehood, helping to foster the State's strong fisheries ethics that helped salmon to recover from the catch disasters of the 1950s to the all-time records for salmon harvest currently being produced in Alaska.

Besides government positions, Mr. Williams was a lifetime member of the Petersburg Elks Lodge 1615, the American Legion, the Pioneers of Alaska, a past president of Rotary, and for 29 years was an adult leader in the Boy Scout program. He also was active in the Democratic Party and was awarded an honorary doctorate of humanities by the University of Alaska Southeast. He also was the founder of the regional Southeast Conference and was named Citizen of the Year by both the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce in the early 1980s. He won statewide recognition as the Alaskan of the Year in 1991.

But this speech is not meant as an obituary, but as a way for me to state my deepest appreciation for a man who epitomized Alaska during the past 70 years. He was a man who loved the beauty of Alaska, enjoying hunting and fishing on the nearby Stikine River. He also pushed for the development of Alaska from its timber industry in the southeast to the fishing industry around the State. He was a strong voice in favor of the aquaculture movement in the 1970s that helped the State preserve and grow its wild salmon populations. He also was a tireless supporter of environmentally sensitive oil and gas development, first in Cook Inlet and later in northern Alaska. Lew, having lived in the grinding poverty of Alaska long before statehood, always understood that Alaskans needed and still need good jobs and a strong economy so that the State can develop an economy strong enough to support good educational institutions, community infrastructure and allow the development of good health care and social service programs. He knew that Alaskans could grow the economy and protect our wildlife and environment. He never set up an artificial confrontation between the two goals.

After his retirement, Lew wrote with the late Evangeline Atwood, the book "Bent Pins to Chains: Alaska and its

Newspapers." The 2006 book is a lively history of Alaska as described through the development of its newspaper industry. The book, better than most, tells the tales of life in both the territory and State of Alaska as seen through reporters, editors and publishers. Lew, undoubtedly wrote the book as a way of honoring the many talented writers and editors that have practiced in Alaska over the past 49 years since statehood, many of them reporters he helped recruit out of journalism schools, and helped mentor and train once they arrived.

As his obituary earlier this week in the Ketchikan Daily News said, "He believed the editorial was the heart and strength of any newspaper. He editorialized for Alaska State, for the creation of the state ferry system, for the trans-Alaska pipeline, for power development, in support of the timber and fishing industries, and for airports, harbors and roads."

Alaskans have seen countless columns and editorials explaining to Americans—who never wanted to really understand the issue—why it was fully proper for some of Alaska's Federal highway funds to go for construction of a bridge from downtown Ketchikan to the city's airport, so that those who needed to fly out of the State's fifth largest city could actually get to their flights when high winds or low tides rendered the ferry system to the airport inoperative. For those who needed to catch emergency medivac flights, a bridge was no expensive trinket, but a life-saving link to the outside world. Lew always championed Alaska.

I can only say to his wife Dorothy, to his daughters Christena—Tena for short—and Kathryn, his son Lew III, and his daughter-in-law Vicki, and granddaughters Kristie, Jodi, and Melissa Williams, and great-grandson Milan Browne, all of Ketchikan; and his sisters: Susan Pagenkopf of Juneau and Jane Ferguson of California, how much he will be missed. Those in public life will miss his balanced and fair editorials, his prodding and his support. We will miss his ethics and deep-seated sense of fair-play and ethics. And we will miss his wise counsel and thoughtfulness and compassion.

Alaska, and the Nation, has lost a great citizen. Goodbye Lew, we will never forget you. •

HONORING READY SEAFOOD

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I celebrate the outstanding achievements of two brothers from Portland, ME, who recently won the U.S. Small Business Administration's Young Entrepreneurs of the Year Award on the local, regional, and national levels. John and Brendan Ready are the founders and owners of Ready Seafood and Catch a Piece of Maine, two highly successful firms that have transformed the Maine lobster market. I had the pleasure of meeting with the brothers just 2

weeks ago, and they are a true reflection of the dedication and zeal of Maine's legendary lobstermen.

The Ready brothers grew up in Cape Elizabeth, on Maine's picturesque coast, where they quickly grew fond of the sea. Venturing out with their uncle to catch lobsters, the pair learned the intricacies of the trade before their teenage years, and they continued to fish throughout high school. Attentive to their lifelong passion for lobstering, the brothers returned from college during summer breaks and even weekends to lobster. Additionally, John spent an extra year at Boston University to participate as a lobsterman in a co-op program.

When they arrived back in Maine following college—John from Boston University and Brendan from Stonehill College—the duo immediately sought to enter the Maine seafood market. In 2004, they opened Ready Seafood, a thriving wholesaler of fresh lobster and other seafood to domestic clients, as well as customers as far away as Italy, China, and Japan. To promote Maine's rich history of lobstering, the firm provides both internships and unique educational opportunities to high school and college students in the region, including an inside look at how Portland's waterfront works. The brothers have visibly transformed the company into a \$10 million business in just 4 short years.

In October 2007, seeking to create a one of its kind company in the crowded seafood industry, the Ready brothers launched Catch a Piece of Maine, a remarkable and innovative company that allows individuals and corporate clients alike to purchase lobsters caught especially for them. The buyers pay an annual fee, which entitles them to have their own personal lobsterman set their traps and collect their lobsters. The company began with 400 traps for 2008, all of which were in place by last Thursday, and each is guaranteed to garner a minimum of 40 lobsters throughout the remainder of the year. The lobsters are shipped at intervals scheduled by the client, and each shipment includes one pound of mussels and clams, a Maine dessert, and the traditional bibs and utensils essential to enjoying Maine's famed crustacean.

The program includes some additional distinctive features. Customers keep in touch with their personal lobstermen through the Internet by logging onto an individualized and regularly updated summary, including how many lobsters have been caught and when the traps were checked. Moreover, clients can have their lobsters shipped anywhere in the continental United States, making a great holiday gift, corporate thank you, or special anniversary dinner. Ever mindful of the future of Maine's gorgeous coast and those who rely on it, the Ready brothers send 10 percent of their profits to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute for marine ecosystem education programs for schoolchildren throughout the State.