

dedicated and talented workforce is driving today's innovation and ingenuity.

Each time I visit Youngstown, I learn something new—from Mayor Williams, the fine, aggressive, very bright, young mayor of Youngstown, to Chamber of Commerce leader Tom Humphries, to dozens of teachers, small business people, workers, and citizens.

It is easy to see why Entrepreneur Magazine lists Youngstown as one of the top 10 U.S. cities to start a business. On the cover it says: "Youngstown, Ohio, anyone?"

In their August issue, Entrepreneur Magazine describes Youngstown as a "dreamer," where technology innovation is driving job growth and sustaining economic activity.

Bold plans and visionary leadership have set the stage for sustained economic growth. Youngstown's healthy dose of all-American grit and hard work will turn economic potential into economic reality, driving regional economic expansion that can strengthen Ohio's middle class.

It takes what Entrepreneur Magazine called a "concept revolutionary enough to help ignite a renaissance in this small city."

It takes a community that understands a transformation must take place from within—from the educators to innovators, from community activists to the industry leaders. Faced with a choice, it takes the foresight to invest in the future and not dwell on the sometimes troubled past.

Today, we are seeing the results of a decade-long process of renewal and rebirth for Youngstown, in Warren, and the entire Mahoning Valley.

More than a year ago, I made my first trip to the Youngstown Business Incubator, which is an example of community and business leaders nurturing startup companies that can strengthen the regional economy.

Nurtured in the Youngstown Business Incubator in 2002, Turning Technologies, for example, has become one of the fastest growing technology companies in the Nation, according to Entrepreneur Magazine.

This is no accident. Mike Broderick, from Turning Technologies, and other emerging businesses, say they have relied on the affordable startup costs, accessible resources, the transportation network that criss-crosses western Pennsylvania and Ohio, and the community involvement that allowed businesses to thrive.

An important part of Youngstown's favorable business climate is access to talented workers and students. Kent State's Trumbull campus is a model for workforce training among Ohio's colleges and universities. Their educators are training a legion of highly skilled workers for Ohio's emerging high-tech industry.

But more must be done to close the gap between high unemployment in that part of Ohio. My whole State is still afflicted by high unemployment

and this terrible recession. More must be done to close the gap between the high unemployment and the shortage of skilled workers and emerging industries.

Congressman TIM RYAN, with whom the Presiding Officer and I both served in the House of Representatives, and who represents Youngstown in the House, and I recently introduced the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success, or SECTORS Act.

SECTORS would help allow businesses, workforce development boards, labor unions, and community colleges to connect skilled workers with workforce and community needs. We will see that with Youngstown State University in Youngstown, and with the Trumbull County branch of Kent State University.

SECTORS is not only a jobs skill bill, but an economic development bill. It is only one part of the citywide strategy to harness the talented workforce and students.

Youngstown State University is training engineers and contributing to workforce needs of an emerging advanced materials sector, involving advanced chemical and composite engineering and nanotechnology. I have seen some of this technology in the Mahoning Valley, and it is ready to take off.

YSU's science, technology, engineering, and math program, or STEM, teaches students the critical skills in the fields of advanced sciences, information technology, and engineering.

If our students succeed in the 21st century global economy, we must invest in our young people, who will create the businesses and opportunities for future growth.

We must also ensure that our communities are part of economic revival around the State.

I met with the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative at one of my roundtables. We sat for an hour and a half in the basement of a church, with 15 community activists, who have a focus you wouldn't believe. This is a collective effort of neighborhood groups, churches, and labor unions. It is another example of citizens taking ownership of their community. It is revitalizing neighborhoods, surveying land to determine future economic use, and cleaning up crime-ridden neighborhoods. Ordinary citizens are organizing to make a difference, and it is working.

Yet another example of strategic economic development is the Youngstown 2010 Citywide Plan, which aims to revitalize the city of Youngstown with carefully planned economic development and urban planning.

As Ohio cities experience population loss, Youngstown's efforts to modernize infrastructure to serve current population needs is a harbinger of economic growth in the State.

All of these efforts are part of a collective strategy by workers, entrepreneurs, educators, and elected offi-

cials to tap into the region's rich resources and innovative spirit. That is why Entrepreneur Magazine wrote about Youngstown, calling it the "dreamer." Out of these 10 cities, the other 9 are significantly larger than Youngstown, but none could equal Youngstown in hope, focus, and energy.

I will read some things they said:

In the last decade, something special happened in this northeast Ohio city. A new generation is envisioning things we wouldn't have talked about 10 years ago. "Let's clean the slate and start over again" is the radical transformation going on in Youngstown right now.

Mike Broderick, of Turning Technologies, said:

I believe in most places we wouldn't have been able to expand with the speed we did. The affordability here really helped fuel our growth. I found Youngstown to be a brilliant place for a startup.

It has been my pleasure to work with Congressman RYAN, Mayor Williams, the Youngstown Business Incubator, Turning Technologies, and all of the community activists who are working hard to create new opportunities for a better and stronger Youngstown.

Ohio's dedicated workforce and hard-working community leaders are leading examples of how we can turn around our economy, create new jobs, and how we can, across my State, and across the Mahoning Valley in Ohio, and across this country, rebuild our middle class.

Mr. President, before yielding the floor, I add that all of us who do this work and are, frankly, blessed enough to get to serve in the Senate spend much of our time away from home or our families are back, in my case, in Ohio, or in Washington. Either way, we are away from families more than we would like. I would like to, because today is my wife's birthday, wish her a happy birthday, if she is home watching this. If she is not, I will tell her later. I could not be with her today in Ohio. I look forward to coming home this weekend.

I yield the floor.

REMEMBERING MASON RUDD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today with sadness to honor the life of Mr. Mason Rudd, a good friend who died on July 5, 2009, at the age of 90. He was loved by many in my hometown of Louisville, KY, and he will be missed.

Mason will be remembered as an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and family man who did so much to make his adopted hometown a better place.

His American dream began at the University of Minnesota, where he funded his college education with help from a tennis scholarship, participation in ROTC, and by selling doughnuts. In 1939, he graduated with a degree in geology and petroleum engineering. After college, his service in World War II led him to believe that he survived the war for one reason—to

help others achieve and live better lives. And this he did.

Mr. Rudd spent a few years working as an engineer for Shell Oil and then selling fire engines in Iowa until 1952 when he moved to Louisville. There he established Rudd Equipment Company, which distributed heavy construction equipment. The company he built brought him a large fortune which would serve him well when he undertook his many altruistic pursuits.

Mason grew to love the city and especially the local university—the University of Louisville. He contributed \$1.4 million to the creation of a neurology professorship at the University of Louisville after his first wife Mary suffered a fatal stroke. His help facilitated the \$3.6 million Bass-Rudd Tennis Center at the University of Louisville as well as the endowment for the Rudd Program for Young Artists at the Kentucky Opera to train young singers.

However, more important than the money, Mr. Rudd contributed invaluable time and effort to the causes of health care and education.

Thirty years ago, this passion was clear to me when I served as Jefferson County's judge-executive and it was my responsibility to appoint someone to the county's board of health. I reappointed him to the board, just as those serving before me had and those after me did.

While serving on this board as well as in leadership positions at Louisville General Hospitals and Louisville's Jewish Hospital, his efforts provided everyone in the city with a healthier, safer life. His fellow members credit him with creating lead poisoning education programs, a hazardous-materials task force in the health department, a mandate on sewage treatment, and primary care clinics for the uninsured.

His efforts also extended to helping the Louisville Free Library Foundation during his 16 years on the board there. Because of him the library's book endowment is stronger and the children's reading program continues to grow. Most notably, in the year 2000 library fundraising efforts under his leadership made it possible to purchase computers for the library.

Mr. Rudd leaves behind his wife Peggy; his daughter Betsy; and his son Michael. The life he led in his 90 years stands out as an example of service to his community and country which all Americans should honor and strive to achieve. He will be missed.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
JEFFREY JAMES GARBER

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Navy Command Master Chief Jeffrey James Garber who passed away aboard the USS *Eisenhower* on June 20, 2009.

Originally from Hemingford, NE, Master Chief Garber enlisted in the Navy in December 1983. His career was an impressive one. At sea his assign-

ments included time aboard the USS *Worden*, USS *Nimitz*, USS *Portland*, and Strike Fighter Squadron 34; and he had been assigned to the USS *Eisenhower* since June 2008. The *Eisenhower* is currently operating in the Arabian Sea in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and maritime security operations.

Master Chief Garber's military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal; Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal; Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, six; Meritorious Unit Commendation; Good Conduct Medal, five; Navy Expeditionary Medal; National Defense Service Medal, two; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, two; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, six; And Navy Recruiting Service Ribbon.

On June 20, Command Master Chief Jeffrey James Garber was found unresponsive in a berthing space aboard the carrier, USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*. When he was found unresponsive in his stateroom at approximately 8:15 A.M. local time, a medical emergency was declared; and medical personnel were on the scene within minutes. Sadly, all efforts to revive him were unsuccessful, and Master Chief Garber was pronounced dead of natural causes at 8:23 A.M. He was 43 years old. Command Master Chief Garber has been posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit medal, recognizing his accomplishments as Command Master Chief and his 24 years of service to our Nation.

Command Master Chief Garber leaves behind his wife Amy, (Vogt) Garber, and his three children, Tayler, Paige and Josh, all of Virginia Beach; his parents Larry and JoAnn Kuester of York, NE; and his brothers Joel and Jon. Throughout his career, those who knew him, admired Master Chief Garber's professionalism, but also, genuinely liked him. He will forever be remembered by his family and friends as not only the epitome of what a command master chief should be, but primarily a loving husband, father, and son. I join all Nebraskans today in mourning the loss of Command Master Chief Garber and offering our deepest condolences to his family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHWOOD, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 23–26, the residents of Northwood will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Founded in 1884, Northwood is located in Northeastern ND, and was named after Northwood, IA, a common starting point for pioneers settling in the Dakota Territory. In its early years, the town grew rapidly, and continued to expand over the next century. It was honored in 1993 by the

North Dakota League of Cities as City of the Year.

In 2007, Northwood was devastated by an EF4 tornado. Not a single building was left untouched by this monstrous storm that wreaked havoc on everything in its path. Homes and businesses were destroyed, yet amidst all of the destruction, this community banded together, and with the assistance of the federal government, it has successfully rebuilt.

Today, Northwood is a friendly and welcoming community that includes a nine-hole golf course, a swimming pool, a strong business community, and a high quality education system. Additionally, the town remains true to its agricultural roots through its farming population.

The central point of Northwood's 125th anniversary celebration will be the dedication of the new Northwood Public School and the Veteran's Memorial. Other activities, to name a few, include a community picnic, a tractor pull, a teen dance, karaoke, a 5K walk and run, a craft show, a kiddie parade, and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Northwood, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Northwood and all other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Northwood that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Northwood has a proud past and a bright future.●

COMMENDING ABIGAIL KIMBELL

• Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a leader in American forestry.

In February of 2007, Abigail Kimbell became the 16th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. She was the first female in this role, a job she held until July 5, 2009. During those 2½ years, she served with distinction and accomplished much for the forests, grasslands, and people of the United States.

Gail is credited with renewing the emphasis behind the Forest Service's mission of "Caring for the Land and Serving People" and reconnecting programs and functions to that mission. She improved firefighter safety and fire suppression cost containment. Gail showed great vision and leadership, pressing the agency to continually strive to meet a standard of excellence in its operations, both internally and in service to the public.

Gail emphasized the importance of quality water to the environment and our communities. She directed the agency's investment in the education of children and youth, particularly those in underrepresented communities, to enhance their connection to the natural world.