

his peers, earning the American Spirit Honor Medal during training.

Although his duty to the Marines ended in 1955, his desire to serve did not. He remained in the Reserves for the next decade, and then volunteered for service in Vietnam.

There, he cemented his reputation as an American hero, earning the Bronze Star, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and two Purple Hearts.

John's service in the Reserves lasted long into his political career. He didn't retire until 1990, at which time he was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal. But when he returned from Vietnam, he decided that serving the people of the State of Pennsylvania was another way to give back to his country.

He came to Congress roughly a year before I did, the first Democrat to hold that seat since World War II. As long as I have been here, it seems like John has been as much of a fixture in the House Chamber as the desks themselves.

John being a marine, it is probably not surprising that he never stopped fighting to give our troops in the field the resources they needed to do their jobs. He became the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and was a reliable advocate for our military—and for the people of his district.

His deep passion for our military and his commitment to making sure they had the resources they need reached as far as Connecticut, where we make the finest submarines and aircraft in the world. He knew that the products we make there are critical to the success of our military, and he was always there alongside me, standing up for our defense workforce and the fine products they make.

Many of us will remember with great admiration the courage John showed when he came to the floor in November 2005 to call for an end to a war he had supported. Colleagues on both sides knew that John Murtha would never make a statement like that lightly, and his bold stance played a large role in bringing towards an end that misguided war.

Of course, most Americans never got to know John Murtha's soft side. But his beloved wife Joyce—they were married for 55 years—and his three wonderful children knew him as his colleagues did: as a funny, warm man who loved his job, loved his constituents, and loved his country.

A colleague of his, Congressman BOB BRADY, said, "There will never be another Jack Murtha." And he is right. But we can all carry on his work, impressed by his long record of service and inspired by his deep patriotism and commitment.

I was proud to know John Murtha, and we were all lucky to have him.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ZACHARY LOVEJOY

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, in the almost 9 years our

Nation has been at war in Afghanistan, thousands of men and women have volunteered for service in defense of our country and the freedoms we hold so dear. These brave men and women sacrifice time with their families, with their wives and husbands and children and friends. They put their own safety on the line to protect the safety of others—to protect the safety of all who call the United States home. Tragically, some of these men and women make the ultimate—sacrifice giving their lives for a country and a people they love.

PFC Zachary Lovejoy was one of those brave soldiers. He was 20 years old when he died February 2, while serving in Zabul Province. His vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb. Private First Class Lovejoy spent the last day of his life doing what he loved. While his life may have ended too soon, his legacy will live on though the people who loved him, and through all of us who owe him our own lives and safety and freedom.

That is why today, I honor Zachary Lovejoy by telling the people of America about a young man who—from early in life—loved his country and dreamed of being a soldier.

Private First Class Lovejoy was born in Indiana but moved to my home State of New Mexico when he was three. He grew up in Albuquerque, the beloved son of Terry and Mike Lovejoy, and brother to Ashley. He was an active teen who loved football and wrestling and camping and skiing. He was an enthusiastic member of his school's ROTC program. Private First Class Lovejoy was a happy-go-lucky kind of guy, whose fun-loving attitude and zest for life was contagious, according to his family.

Even before he graduated from La Cueva High School, Private First Class Lovejoy knew what he wanted to do with his life. He enlisted in the Army during his senior year in high school and began basic training in August 2008. Private First Class Lovejoy was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. He received his first deployment to Afghanistan in August 2009.

Private First Class Lovejoy's dedication to our country and its ideals made his family, his community, and everyone who knew him proud. Upon hearing of his death, the people of New Mexico—especially those who knew Lovejoy from high school—were shocked and saddened. They turned out in droves to leave messages for his family in a special memory book. And it is those messages that offer an intimate view of the legacy Private First Class Lovejoy leaves behind.

"You had such a big and amazing heart," one person wrote.

"You put an incredible amount of living in your all too short life," said another.

"It is an honor to have been a part of a true hero's life," wrote a third.

But there was one message that I believe sums up Private First Class Lovejoy's life best: "Your last name described you so perfectly. You loved all your friends deeply, and spread joy around every place you went."

To Private First Class Lovejoy's parents and sister and grandparents and fiancée Kaitlin, I offer my deepest sympathies for your loss, and my deepest thanks for your loved one's service to our country. You are forever in our hearts, and we are forever in your debt.

49TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise to celebrate service—specifically the dedication of Americans volunteering in the Peace Corps, which this week marks its 49th year of connecting committed volunteers with meaningful work around the globe.

There are a lot of ways to give of ourselves. We donate food. We donate money. We donate time. But the Peace Corps takes community service—global service, really to another level, with volunteers committing 27 months to improve the quality of life in developing countries.

Some projects focus on agriculture; others business. Some improve health, while others emphasize education or the environment, but all programs build a unique international relationship with a spirit of volunteer service at its core.

As Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I recently saw one program up close during a congressional delegation I led to Morocco, which is an active Mediterranean partner country in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Meetings with local government officials there were informative. And the briefings from the embassy staff were important. But the time we spent with a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Aitourir was nothing short of inspiring.

The Youth Development Program there run by Peace Corps volunteer Kate Tsunoda, with help from local community volunteers, is giving children from kindergarten through high school critical education, language, and art skills.

Inside a small community center, below a library still in need of dictionaries and elementary schoolbooks, we sat down with a group of young men, some in college, some recently graduated. In a part of the world where unemployment tops 15 percent, these are the people one may see as most susceptible to recruitment by extremists, but not these men. They spoke of dreams that included higher education, better jobs, and a transforming of their local towns.

These men credit the Peace Corps program for empowering them and building their language skills. I credit the Peace Corps for something even greater—forging international understanding, something the Peace Corps

has excelled at now for 49 years in 139 countries through 7,671 volunteers.

On the other side of town, several members of our delegation visited a start-up small business, the brainchild of retiree and Peace Corps volunteer Barbara Eberhart, whose second career is dedicated to empowering the women of Morocco.

The group visited a fabric and embroidery shop developed by a community of Berber women aided by a micro-credit loan and Barbara's guidance and unbounded energy. These women, unable to read or write and essentially marginalized in Moroccan society, have formed a cooperative where they create fine embroidered goods and sell them in local markets. Their small business not only provides desperately needed income, but gives these women a stronger sense of themselves, their community and hope for their future and that of their children.

With Peace Corps volunteers coming from all backgrounds, ages and various stages of life, this program is as diverse as our country. The local citizen collaboration inherent in all Peace Corps work helps build enduring relationships between the United States and Peace Corps partner countries.

The Peace Corps invests time and talent in other countries, but it pays dividends back here in the United States as well. Those who are taught or helped by Peace Corps volunteers are likely to have more favorable opinions of the United States. More than that, many of the volunteers themselves are inspired to public service upon their return to this country, some becoming Governors and Members of Congress, including our own colleague and fellow Helsinki Commissioner, Senator DODD of Connecticut.

I left Aitourir thinking Kate was the exemplary Peace Corps volunteer with her welcoming smile, passion for service and genuine love for the Moroccan people. But aware of the success of so many other Peace Corps programs around the world, I know Kate is one of many volunteers—all of whom would have left as great an impression.

The Peace Corps is a program that works. Volunteers year in and year out continue to fulfill the Peace Corps mission of bringing training and education to interested countries and strengthening understanding between Americans and our neighbors in the global community. Congratulations to the Peace Corps for 49 remarkable years. I look forward to its continued success.

RECOGNIZING VISTA ON ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to speak on a resolution I have cosigned celebrating Volunteers In Service To America, or VISTA, on its 45th anniversary and recognizing its contribution to the fight against poverty.

This resolution will demonstrate the great appreciation this country has for its volunteers, specifically honoring

the 45th anniversary of the VISTA Program.

Last year nearly 50 VISTA volunteers provided service in Alaska. These citizens are vital to fighting poverty in our State. The success of this program is evident in the programs it has left behind such as Head Start, job training plans, and credit unions. From its beginnings in 1965 to today, VISTA has dedicated hard work, time, and innovation to lift Americans all over the country out of poverty.

While the mission to fight against poverty has a long history, VISTA has continued to adapt to various localities and challenges to provide new and inspired solutions. Alaska boasts many past and present VISTA volunteers. Many of them have become prominent in Alaska's public and private sectors.

In Alaska, John Shively came to the state with VISTA from New York State with the intention of staying for 1 year. He became involved in local government in Alaska and was involved in the Native lands settlements of early statehood. He later became the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, overseeing more than 80 million acres of State land. He has also been a regent for the University of Alaska, and the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce was proud to award John Shively the title "Outstanding Alaskan of the Year" in 2009.

Willie Hensley is an Alaska Native and one of the many successful residents of Alaska. He was a VISTA volunteer and went on to serve in the Alaska State Legislature. He founded the NANA Native Corporation after working hard to ensure equitable settlement of Alaska Native land claims. He is one of the founding members of the Alaska Federation of Natives and is a well known author.

John Shively and Willie Hensley are just two examples of the thousands of VISTA volunteers who have served Alaska and her people. VISTA is a program serving all Americans with the focus on lifting poor Americans out of poverty so their futures can be as bright as the northern lights. VISTA's 45 years of service to the country has made a difference in so many lives, in Alaska and across the Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA PROTHRO HEBERT

• Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize my constituent, Sylvia Prothro Hebert, who has been selected as a 2009 Great Comebacks Recipient for the West Region. This program honors individuals who are living with intestinal diseases or recovering from ostomy surgeries, procedures that reconstruct bowel and bladder function through the use of a specially fitted medical prosthesis. Sylvia is one of over 700,000 Americans, from young children to senior citizens, who have an

ostomy. The Great Comeback Awards celebrate the spirit and courage with which a patient embraces life after ostomy surgery. Sylvia and the other Great Comebacks Awardees are Americans who live life to the fullest despite the daily challenges presented by their respective conditions.

At age 9, Sylvia was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. She managed her symptoms with medication, but experienced constant flare-ups during college. At age 21, her intestines were punctured during a colonoscopy and she underwent ostomy surgery. Following this surgery, Sylvia was emotionally distraught; however, she entered counseling and learned how to cope with her stoma. Sylvia has since triumphed over her illness, and achieved her dream of becoming a flight attendant. By her records, she's the first Delta SkyTeam flight attendant with an ileostomy. Additionally, Sylvia joined the Delta Ski and Snowboard team and has earned ribbons in many competitions. Sylvia has also completed two half-marathons and a triathlon.

Today, Sylvia lives in Park City, UT, with her husband Paul and their children, Reese, Garrett, and Renee. I commend Sylvia and the other Great Comebacks Regional Award Recipients. Their personal stories are inspirational and will raise awareness about the great comebacks being made by those living with intestinal diseases or recovering from ostomy surgery. •

REMEMBERING HARRY AGGANIS

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, there is a mid-winter tradition throughout New England and across my home State of Maine—talking baseball. Not just any baseball, of course, but Boston Red Sox baseball.

These discussions, whether they take place around the kitchen wood stove or the office water cooler, range from the team's storied history to the prospects for the upcoming season. The heroes of the past, Yastrzemski, Williams, and so many more, are recalled, as are the more recent stars, such as Schilling and Ramirez.

At times, fans reminisce about a young man who, although his career was cut tragically short, continues to inspire through his athleticism, competitive spirit, and generosity. His name was Aristotle George Agganis. His friends called him Harry. He will always be remembered as the Golden Greek.

Harry Agganis was born in Lynn, MA, in 1929. Although he is known as a baseball player, he first made his mark in football as a star quarterback for Boston University. As a sophomore in 1949 he set a school record for touchdown passes. He left school in 1950 to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps.

When he completed his service to our nation, he returned to college, setting a school record for passing yards, winning the Bulger Lowe Award as New