

a mother of many Greek gods. The ancient Romans dedicated the March holiday Matronalia to Juno, mother of the gods, and gave gifts to mothers on that day.

In the United States, the origins of Mothers Day are rooted deep in the West Virginia hills. Anna Jarvis, the daughter of Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis, was born in Webster, WV, on May 1, 1864. Her family moved to Grafton during her childhood. On May 12, 1907, 2 years after her mother's death, Anna Jarvis held a memorial service to honor her mother's memory. From that small event began Anna Jarvis' eventually successful campaign to institute "Mothers Day" as a recognized U.S. holiday.

Today, the International Mother's Day Shrine, located in Grafton, continues to commemorate Anna Jarvis' accomplishment. Yet there are mothers who will not receive cards or flowers, or enjoy a Mothers Day brunch with their husbands and children. In Montcoal, WV, there are 29 families who are grieving the loss of sons, husbands, brothers, and friends. The Nation grieves with them, but that is little comfort for those mothers who will wake on the second Sunday in May to quiet houses and silent phones. Mothers Day holds little comfort for the wives and mothers who must now get on with raising children and paying bills alone following this tragic event.

Mothers Day is a lonely day as well for the "Gold Star" mothers, wives and families of soldiers lost to battle in Iraq and Afghanistan. First used in World War I, service flags—a blue star on a white background, surrounded by a red border—are hung to signify that the family has a loved one overseas in harm's way. Should the awful news arrive that their loved one had lost his or her life, a gold star replaces the blue star, signaling the supreme sacrifice that has been made.

Miners' mothers and soldiers' mothers, as well as the mothers of anyone facing dangerous working conditions on a daily basis, know well the constant stress and tension of having a dearly loved child in harm's way. Every day is a long, silent, chanting prayer: "Please, God, keep my child safe and bring him home to me."

Tragedy reminds us just how much mothers care, and how much their children mean to them. This Mothers Day, we once again have an opportunity to thank our mothers for that loving care, and to thank all mothers for the great generosity of spirit that marks a caring mother.

TIMES SQUARE BOMBING ATTEMPT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last weekend's close call is a wake-up call. The attempt to bomb New York City's Times Square should remind us both of the vigilance we must maintain to keep Americans safe, and the triviality of political fingerpointing.

I first want to once again thank the men and women who helped avert disaster—and saved untold lives—in one of America's most iconic and crowded spaces. The system in place appears to be working as designed: improved aviation security measures helped authorities apprehend the subject as he attempted to flee, and the suspect is now reportedly providing valuable information that could help disrupt and prevent future attacks. I am confident he and anyone else who contributed to this atrocious act will be held to account.

But I have been disappointed that some have tried to politicize this attempted attack on our homeland. Let's use this opportunity to pursue justice and make sure our law enforcement, military, and intelligence services have every tool they need to do their jobs. Let's also be sure we examine what worked and didn't so we can improve the system. But let's not mistake it as an opportunity to score political points or make baseless accusations that do nothing to ensure our citizens' safety.

A thwarted terrorist attack in the heart of our Nation's most populous city reminds us that we have enough real enemies—we need not be our own.

Let's also put this latest incident in context: It follows a successful series of steps the administration has taken to protect us here at home.

We have disrupted numerous terrorism plots and prosecuted dozens of terrorist suspects, including the ring-leader of a plan to bomb New York City's subway system last year. Attorney General Holder called that plot "one of the most serious terrorist threats to our nation since September 11th, 2001." That attack never happened; we cannot know how many lives were saved, and our country is safer because of this administration's swift and smart leadership.

Our Nation is also prosecuting David Headley, who is accused of plotting with the Pakistani terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba to launch the devastating terrorist attacks in Mumbai in 2008, as well as to carry out other plots in South Asia and Europe. Attorney General Holder has credited the criminal justice system for achieving both a guilty plea and valuable intelligence about terrorist activities from Headley.

And earlier this year, the FBI disrupted an international network of extremists operating through the Internet to plot attacks, raise funding for terrorism and recruit new terrorists. Two Americans—Colleen LaRose and Jamie Paulin-Ramirez, also known as Jihad Jane and Jihad Jamie—were arrested along with six foreign co-conspirators. The two Americans will soon be tried in Federal court.

That's not all. We have also enhanced intelligence sharing, strengthened aviation security and boosted human-intelligence collection capabilities. We have fully implemented the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. And we

have significantly increased funding for the FBI, the Defense Department, the Department of Homeland Security and the intelligence community.

At the same time, we're keeping Americans safer at home by taking the fight to terrorists abroad. In recent months we have helped kill or capture the most wanted terrorist leaders across Iraq, southeast Asia, Africa and the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. We have disrupted al-Qaida's operations, finances and safe havens, and killed or captured more than half of its top 20 leaders. It is widely agreed that al-Qaida is the weakest it has been since 9/11.

We have also begun to reverse the Taliban's momentum in Afghanistan, in part by tripling the number of U.S. troops there. And we have strengthened our partnership with Pakistan, empowering it to mount major offensives against terrorists within its borders.

I am praising the administration's vigilance not because the President is a Democrat. I am praising it because it is, by any objective measure, successful. America is as prepared as ever to defend against any threat, domestic or foreign.

If, as this past weekend showed us, private citizens, street vendors, law enforcement and intelligence officials can work together in everyone's best interest, I would expect U.S. Senators to be able to do the same.

COMMENDING CONGRESSMAN DAVID OBEY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, we recently learned that DAVID OBEY, one of the longest serving Members of the other body, a friend, and a fellow member of the Wisconsin delegation, has decided to retire. To come here and try to sum up his record and accomplishments isn't easy to do; Congressman OBEY has achieved so much for Wisconsin, and for this Nation. He has been the dean of the Wisconsin delegation, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and a national leader on many issues affecting hard-working families.

Congressman OBEY understood the concerns of the people of the 7th District of Wisconsin, and he has been their champion for more than 40 years. He and I are both so fortunate to represent this beautiful swath of Wisconsin's north woods, including the magnificent Apostle Islands. In fact, Congressman OBEY and I worked together to protect the Apostles, designating almost 80 percent of the Apostles as federally protected wilderness.

That was just one of many ways that Congressman OBEY and I worked together. Recently, we were also proud to come together to honor our friend, the late Gaylord Nelson, on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. And through the years, I have had the chance to work with Congressman OBEY in areas where he has shown tremendous leadership,

including advocating for veterans, farmers, and seniors.

Wisconsin veterans have a terrific ally in Congressman OBEY, who has stood up for better funding and facilities for our veterans time and again. I have been so pleased to work with him to open new veterans' health clinics, push for more vet centers, and fight for the best possible care for those men and women who have sacrificed so much for our country.

Congressman OBEY has also worked tirelessly on behalf of the farmers of our State. He has fought for country-of-origin labeling and other issues critical to ginseng farmers, worked for emergency appropriations funding for direct payments to help shore up the safety net for dairy farmers in tough times, and pushed to create, extend and improve the Milk Income Loss Contract, MILC, Program. Those are just a few of the many things he has done for Wisconsin's farmers, and I was proud to join him in those efforts.

He is also a determined advocate for our seniors, and was a critical member of our effort to save the SeniorCare Program in both 2007 and 2009. Congressman OBEY also has a long and distinguished record on a host of other issues. He is committed to strengthening public education, improving our health care system, and a longtime advocate for political and congressional reforms.

There are so many things he has accomplished, and so many reasons he will be missed. I want to take this opportunity to recognize Congressman OBEY's outstanding service in the other body. I wish him all the best, and I thank him for his dedicated work for the people of Wisconsin and for every American.

RECOVERY OF SNOWBOARDER KEVIN PEARCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Kevin Pearce has been recognized as one of the best athletes that Vermont has produced. Like all Vermonters, Marcelle and I hold him in our prayers and thoughts after a devastating snowboarding accident while preparing for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

We have heard reports from his parents, Simon and Pia, about his recovery and like all Vermonters, and so many other Americans, we are so thankful he is back home and progressing every day in his recovery.

I watched Kevin's interview with Tom Brokaw on "The Today Show" and he discussed how well he was doing with Tom. I also wanted my fellow Senators to see the article about him in The New York Times and ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD that article at the completion of my remarks. I can only imagine how much Kevin enjoys being home with his parents and his brothers and how much we all appreciate his tremendous courage and abilities.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, May 3, 2010]

"NO PLACE LIKE THIS FOR SOOTHING CARE"

(By John Branch)

NORWICH, VT.—The renovated barn next to the family house was always one of Kevin Pearce's favorite places. There is a skateboard ramp out back and a giant recreation room inside, with three loftlike bedrooms above.

But Pearce, 22, did not move into the barn until he was a teenager, and soon he was off to snowboarding schools and then on the worldwide circuit. Home, and his room in the barn, became just somewhere to get away for a day or two.

Now it is the ultimate destination.

More than four months after sustaining a traumatic brain injury during a training accident, after missing the Olympics and living in hospitals in Utah and Colorado, Pearce has returned, indefinitely.

"It's the best thing ever," Pearce said Monday, sitting on a living room sofa while holding hands with his mother, Pia. Handwritten "welcome home" posters, balloons and streamers hung about the house. "There's nothing I could think of that's any better than coming back home."

And for a moment or two, it was easy to imagine that nothing extraordinary had happened to Kevin Pearce at all. He laughed with his family. He talked about snowboarding. He discussed the Olympics. He smiled, big as ever.

"Things feel very normal to me," Pearce said.

The past few months, much of which Pearce does not remember, have been anything but normal. On Dec. 31, Pearce, a rising rival to Shaun White who was expected to make the United States Olympic halfpipe team and compete for a medal, fell and hit his head (he was wearing a helmet) while practicing a trick in Park City, Utah.

A helicopter flew Pearce, unconscious, to the University of Utah Hospital in nearby Salt Lake City. The front half of his shoulder-length hair was shaved so the recesses of his brain could be drained of fluid. His family was summoned immediately. Painful questions about whether he would live slowly gave way to uneasy ones about how his life would be.

This is how, for now, Pearce walks without assistance, a little gingerly but sturdily enough to navigate the stairs to the familiar bedroom in the barn. He looks a little different now, too. His hair, after being shaved to one length, has grown back to the top of his ears. He wears bold, dark-rimmed Oakley Frogskin frames with prismlike lenses. The vision in each eye is fine, but the eyes themselves are a bit out of sync, not quite tracking together.

"My eyes are a little sketchy," he said. "But they're better than they used to be. They used to be scary blurry."

Pearce says he does not remember the accident. He does not remember much from the weeks before the injury, including Christmas at home. He remembers nothing after the injury until the first week of February, when he was flown from Utah to Craig Hospital, a brain and spinal cord rehabilitation center near Denver.

He does remember watching White win the Olympic gold medal. Scotty Lago, a good friend of Pearce's who had had far less big-event success, won bronze. It was tough, Pearce admitted.

But there is no memory of the moment when he learned just how severe his injury was.

"I never felt sorry for myself," Pearce said. "This is kind of what I signed up for when I started snowboarding."

He vows that he will snowboard again.

"Obviously, I won't be doing all the things I was doing," Pearce said. "Hopefully, I can still do some of the tricks."

Pearce's promising comeback has not included a recalculation of his long-range ambitions. His family is consciously keeping him concentrated on the here and now.

"There is little use thinking about the past, what could have been, or what may be in the future," Simon Pearce, his father, said. "He has stayed focused on the present moment. And it feels like it is working."

For months, Pearce has undergone rehabilitation and therapy, both mental and physical, often for six or more hours a day. More recently, he went to a Denver-area gym, too, riding stationary bikes and playing basketball. He left only after making at least 7 of 10 free throws. That sort of therapy will continue at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in nearby Lebanon, N.H., and at a local athletic club. Pearce's rehabilitation continues to focus on vision, balance and memory.

Pearce cannot fully appreciate how far he has come, however often he watches videos that his family shot of him in the hospital in January. But his parents and three older brothers—Andrew (28), Adam (25) and David (24)—are still amazed.

That hit home when the traveling party—Kevin, Adam, their parents and their snowboarding friend Jack Mittrani—arrived at the airport in Boston. Pearce walked through the airport and carried his own bag.

They arrived at the family home about 9 p.m. Saturday. About 30 friends and family members greeted them with cheers, hugs and a few tears.

On Sunday, after a short hike up Gile Mountain, the family gathered for supper. It was a rare reunion. Simon and Pia generally alternated trips out West. Andrew, a manager for the glass-blowing company founded by Simon Pearce, went back and forth, too. Adam left his job as a snowboarding instructor in Utah and has barely left Kevin's side, even moving back to the barn. (Among other things, Adam provided updates on a get-well Facebook page for more than 48,000 fans.) David, who has Down syndrome and has long provided perspective and inspiration, mostly stayed in Vermont and worked for the family business.

But one horrific accident, and one celebratory homecoming, brought them together again.

"Sitting at the table, for me, was a big thing," Pia Pearce said. "Wow, here we are, back at our round table, sitting together."

On Monday afternoon, everything seemed normal. Kevin Pearce, after taking a nap in his old bedroom in the barn, was sitting in the grass out front with the snowboarder Ellery Hollingsworth. The sun was shining. Pearce was smiling.

Yes, it was good to be home. Awfully good.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am delighted to recognize the Dossin Great Lakes Museum as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. This institution has graced the shores of Belle Isle, MI, since 1960, when the Dossin family generously helped to transform the deteriorating Maritime Museum into an enduring tribute to the Great Lakes. For