

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

50 years, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum has offered visitors from across the state and beyond the opportunity to explore and experience firsthand much of our State's 300-year maritime narrative.

Michigan's rich history is inextricably linked to the Great Lakes. In fact, Michigan's name is derived from the Ojibwa word for "large water," a root that speaks to the lakes' defining influence on our State's evolution. The lakes are integral to Michigan's social, cultural, and economic character. Native American tribes established trade routes through these inland seas, which European settlers, led by the French, relied on to develop a thriving fur trade beginning in the late 1600s. During the War of 1812, American and British soldiers fought to wrest control over these precious waterways. Today, the Great Lakes are a superhighway across which giant freighters glide. Some of these great ships have become the stuff of maritime legend, such as the famous *Edmund Fitzgerald*, whose tragic tale has captured the imagination of Michiganders for generations.

The Dossin Great Lakes Museum is a lens through which visitors can study and appreciate the tremendous importance of the Great Lakes. Its permanent exhibits include the enormous bow anchor of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, the pilot house of the S.S. *William Clay Ford*, and one of the largest known collections of scale model ships in the world. Located on Belle Isle in the middle of the Detroit River, facing the Canadian shore, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum devotes many of its resources to explaining Detroit's prominent role in the rich international history of the Great Lakes. The museum's dedicated staff are committed to providing visitors with an exciting and educational experience, and to ensuring that residents of Michigan and visitors to our State continue to learn about the rich heritage of the Lakes.

For 50 years, this Detroit landmark has served an important role in illustrating Michigan's enduring ties to the Great Lakes. It offers the prospect of adventure and knowledge for those who walk through its doors, and its exhibits tell stories that transport visitors through three centuries of maritime history. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating all those affiliated with the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on its 50th anniversary and in wishing them the best for another 50 years of navigating the course of our history.●

#### 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.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:18 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5019. An act to provide for the establishment of the Home Star Retrofit Rebate Program, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4899. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief and summer jobs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

H.R. 5019. An act to provide for the establishment of the Home Star Retrofit Rebate Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio):

S. 3329. A bill to provide triple credits for renewable energy on brownfields, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 3330. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the administration of medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3331. A bill to establish a Native American Economic Advisory Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. McCAIN (for himself and Mr. KYL):

S. 3332. A bill to implement a comprehensive border security plan to combat illegal immigration, drug and alien smuggling, and violent activity along the southwest border of the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 3333. A bill to extend the statutory license for secondary transmissions under title 17, United States Code, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. Res. 515. A resolution designating the week beginning May 2, 2010, as "National Physical Education and Sport Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. DODD):

S. Res. 516. A resolution recognizing the contributions of AmeriCorps members to the lives of the people of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

S. Res. 517. A resolution in support and recognition of National Train Day, May 8, 2010; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. Res. 518. A resolution designating the week beginning May 9, 2010, as "National Nursing Home Week"; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1012

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day.

S. 1275

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1275, a bill to establish a National Foundation on Physical Fitness and Sports to carry out activities to support and supplement the mission of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

S. 1317

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1317, a bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms or the issuance of firearms and explosives licenses to known or suspected dangerous terrorists.

S. 3141

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3141, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules for treatment of low-income housing credits, and for other purposes.

S. 3288

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3288, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to reduce tobacco smuggling, and for other purposes.

S. 3302

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3302, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish