

National Guard, and especially MG John Libby, Maine's Adjutant General, who not only reached out to our veterans to encourage their engagement in the program, but who also participated in the Rockland District Middle School ceremony. In addition, joining with the Guard in bringing the History Channel's national award-winning program to fruition in Maine was Time Warner Cable, which sponsored the program and should be commended for its example and dedication to this outstanding endeavor.

Together, leaders of our military and our media have combined efforts in the noble undertaking of saluting our veterans through the Take a Veteran to School Day initiative, which brings veterans into our schools to share their personal stories of service and sacrifice for the Nation with students and educators. It has become an invaluable opportunity for students to learn what Veterans Day and serving our Nation in uniform truly means—and it provides a unique chance to express a heartfelt and well-earned "thank you" to the brave men and women who from generation to generation have woven the fabric of America's greatness.

And I couldn't be more pleased that more than 650 students and educators, 200 local community members, and 100 veterans from every military conflict since World War II made Maine's inaugural Take a Veteran to School Day program a resounding success. This year, in my State of Maine, three schools—York Middle School, Biddeford High School, and Rockland District Middle School—shared in paying tribute to our veterans in our first ever program.

I cannot thank the sponsors and supporters of this program enough for recognizing how vital it is that young Americans are able to hear the personal stories of service in the military, and to remember the sacrifices made by Maine veterans for our country. In fact, Time Warner Cable recorded 20 veterans' stories for the Library of Congress's Veterans' History Project, which will be added to its archives so that future generations will have an opportunity to hear veterans speak about their service to the Nation, bringing a personal perspective to military history that students otherwise would only learn about through books.

As The York Weekly reported, York Middle School Principal Steve Bishop introduced the veterans in attendance by saying, "my hope is that you gain a sense that the opportunities you have today are made possible by the veterans behind me." As you can imagine, I am looking forward to next year's program, and I hope that States and school districts around the Nation will follow suit in shining a spotlight on our veterans through this wonderful enterprise. Make no mistake, it is because of our veterans that America is the greatest Nation on Earth, and the Take a Veteran to School Day program is a shining testament to that immutable truth.

When we pay homage to our courageous veterans, we are demonstrating that we always reserve our deepest respect and praise for those who have summoned the courage to place themselves in harm's way on our behalf. That they have done so in order to ensure the blessings of liberty makes us grateful beyond words.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AIRBORNE

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, for the past 2 years I have had the honor and the privilege of joining with my colleague from Rhode Island, Mr. REED, and other colleagues, in bringing before the Senate a resolution honoring those who are serving and have served in Airborne units of our armed services on the occasion of National Airborne Day. Albert Caswell, an employee of the Capitol Guide Service, has penned a poem in honor of a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, SGT Jared Lemon who is recovering from injuries suffered from the detonation of an Improvised Explosive Device while deployed to Afghanistan. I ask that this poem be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

AIRBORNE

Airborne!
Men of Honor, who wear that uniform. . . .
Strength In Honor, who march on!
An Alaskan son. . . a Freedom Fighter,
Jared this one
Who marched off to war, to do what must be done!
All there, walking through the valley of death. . . .
Where courage crests!
As upon a battlefield of honor, lie dying. . . .
With his Brother in Arms Joseph, heroically dead beside him. . . .
As with tears he would find then!
As on the morning he awoke. . . .
As to him his fine heart so spoke. . . .
So spoke to him. . . .
About living for his fallen brother, whose blood that binds them!
As his new battle had begun!
To rebuild, as to new heights his great Alaskan heart would run!
And even though he had lost an arm, to heights he has flown!
For he's Airborne!
With a heart so bold, so warm!
For no mountain is too big to climb!
For there are new frontiers, in his heart which appears. . . .
Bringing us all to such tears!
For he's Airborne!
As yes Jared you so march on!
The 82nd, lock and load. . . .
As a man who so lives, so lives by such a most heroic code!
One of such selfless, as have all of those!
America's men and women in uniform!
Who are Airborne. . . .
As where the face of courage is worn!
And if I ever had a son. . . .
I but wish, that he could but be as heroic you Jared, the one!
For Jared, you will Teach Us, Reach Us and so Beseech Us!
For you are Airborne!•

REMEMBERING SENATOR TED STEVENS

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the loss of our dear friend, Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, last August touched everyone in this body and a great many Members of the Senate's extended family here in the Capitol complex. Albert Caswell, a member of the Capitol Guide Service, has penned a poem in honor and remembrance of this great American, patriot, husband, father and public servant. I ask that Mr. Caswell's poem be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

A GLACIER

America.
Our Country Tis of Thee . . .
Was but built, but by such most patriotic men as he . . .
Brave hearts of strength, pioneers of courage and liberty . . .
A trail blazer, as Ted was he . . .
A Giant . . .
A Glacier . . .
A mountain of a man . . .
A mirror of this great frontier . . . of this great land!
A magnificent Alaskan, who to greatness he ran . . .
Ted Stevens, is but an Icon of this great land . . .
A Founding Father, who helped this 49th State stand . . .
One of The Greatest Generation, who helped Save The World . . . as was this man . . .
The longest serving Republican Senator, in history . . .
'Oh what A Tour 'De Force, as upon the Senate floor was he . . .
Uncle Ted, was but the very height to which a public servant can be!
Don't get even, Get Stevens . . . to succeed!
Tough on the outside, but inside such a gentle heart would beat . . .
Words like, God, Family, Country, Alaska, Military, Courage, leadership, in his heart we see!
A Glacier died this day, as we cried this day . . .
Mountains may break apart, and fall to the sea . . .
But Glaciers like Ted, your memory will never . . . so be lost in history . . .
And all of those giants you walked with like, Dole, Byrd, Inouye, Simpson and Kennedy . . .
As your fine life of public service, will upon this floor forever speak!
Rise up now to Heaven our fine son, Alaska's and America's great friend . . .
For Angel's with Distinguished Flying Crosses, our Lord so needs them . . .•

RECOGNIZING FIBER MATERIALS, INC.

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, America has maintained its role as the world's most innovative and predominant economy in large part due to its 27.5 million small businesses. And many of these companies partake in significant Federal contracting and subcontracting opportunities, affording these businesses with the ability to participate in the development of new and cutting-edge technologies and products. I rise today to recognize one Maine company that has taken part in the Federal procurement process and

contributed tremendously to a number of highly advanced projects.

Fiber Materials was established in the southern Maine town of Biddeford in 1969 and has become a global leader in the design, manufacture, and testing of a variety of advanced composites in its 40 years of operation. The company produces a wide range of materials, from carbon/carbon composites used in the construction of heatshields and missile nosetips, to quartz products designed for printed circuit boards or electrical and thermal insulation. Fiber Materials now employs roughly 180 employees at its facilities in Biddeford and Presque Isle, and its Space Technology Division in Columbus, OH.

Fiber Materials has earned a number of financial awards to fund the development of critical projects through the Small Business Innovation Research, or SBIR, program at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA. The SBIR program provides funding to small businesses with innovative, early stage ideas that align with the research and development goals of 11 different Federal agencies, including NASA, the Department of Defense, and the National Institutes of Health. One of the most recent systems that Fiber Materials contributed to under NASA's purview is ORION Launch Abort System, which will allow the crew to escape the spacecraft in the case of an emergency. The system was successfully tested in May 2010.

In recognition of Fiber Materials' dedicated efforts to NASA, the Johnson Space Center recently recognized the company with its 2010 Small Business Subcontractor of the Year Award. According to NASA's Office of Small Business Programs, the award acknowledges "successful and innovative practices that promote small business participation in the initiatives that NASA undertakes." Fiber Materials has been an invaluable resource to the Federal government from the beginning, and I commend the company for playing such an integral part in some of NASA's most critical initiatives.

Small businesses that are versatile and multifaceted such as Fiber Materials will be critical as the United States seeks to continue in its role as a world leader. Undoubtedly, participating in programs like SBIR will provide the company with countless additional opportunities to simultaneously contribute to NASA's mission and create jobs in Maine. I thank everyone at Fiber Materials for their strong work ethic, ingenuity, and dedication, and I wish them continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN GEORGE M. VUJNOVICH

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I wish to honor an outstanding Serbian-American, Captain (Ret.) George M. Vujnovich, who was recently awarded the Bronze Star Medal, for his heroic actions during World War II.

The Bronze Star is awarded to military service personnel for bravery, acts of merit or meritorious service. When awarded for bravery, it is the fourth-highest combat award of the U.S. Armed Forces. Captain Vujnovich's determination to rescue and save the trapped airmen and subsequent participation in the planning and execution of Operation Halyard—resulted in one of the most successful air force rescue missions in history; and an operation so secret that the records were only declassified in 1997.

I was made aware of the Halyard Mission as a boy in 1946. I was in attendance at a social event in my parents' home to honor Captain Nick Lalich as one of the leaders who was part of the military team that parachuted into Serbia to execute and carry out Captain Vujnovich's plan to rescue and evacuate the airmen.

Captain Vujnovich served with the Office of Strategic Services; the predecessor of the modern Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, and the wartime organization charged with coordinating activities behind enemy lines for the branches of the U.S. military. Operation Halyard evolved in wake of the Allied bombing campaign to destroy Nazi Germany's vast network of petroleum resources in occupied Eastern Europe. The most vital target of bombing was the facilities located in Ploesti, Romania, which supplied 35 percent of Germany's wartime petroleum. Beginning in April 1944, bombers of the Fifteenth Allied Air Force began a relentless campaign to blast the heavily guarded facilities in Ploesti in an attempt to halt petroleum production altogether. By August, Ploesti was virtually destroyed—but at the cost of 350 bombers lost, with their crews either killed, captured, or missing in action.

The assault on Ploesti forced hundreds of Allied airmen to bail out over Nazi-occupied eastern Serbia, an area patrolled by the Allied-friendly Chetnik guerrilla army. When the Chetnik commander, General Draza Mihailovich, realized that Allied airmen were parachuting into his territory, he ordered his troops, as well as the local peasantry, to aid the aviators by taking them to Chetnik headquarters in Pranjani, Serbia for evacuation.

General Mihailovich's attempts to alert American authorities to the situation regrettably initially failed to produce action. Fortunately, fate would have it that when Mirjana Vujnovich, a Serb employee of the Yugoslav embassy in Washington, DC, heard of the trapped airmen, and immediately wrote to her husband, Captain Vujnovich, stationed in Bari, Italy. As an American, descending from Serb parents, Vujnovich knew the region intimately and also knew how to escape from Nazi-occupied territory: he had been a medical student in Belgrade when Yugoslavia fell to the Axis powers in 1941, and he and his wife spent months sneaking through minefields

and begging for visas before they finally escaped from Nazi-occupied Europe.

I was excited that someone with a name like mine was such a hero and was the genesis of my interest in Yugoslavia. In fact it left such an impression on me that my first paper in undergrad school was titled "How the U.S. sold out Yugoslavia at Yalta and Tehran".

Captain Vujnovich made it his personal crusade to get the airmen home. From the outset though, Operation Halyard encountered opposition from Allied leaders—from the U.S. State Department, from communist sympathizers in the British Special Operations Executive, SOE, even from British Prime Minister Winston Churchill himself. It was an operation that seemed condemned from the start, but Captain Vujnovich persevered rather than let the mission die. His persistence paid off. Even though the operation endured from August 9, 1944, through December 27, 1944, within only the first 2 days, Operation Halyard successfully retrieved 241 American and Allied airmen. By the time the Operation was officially ended, Vujnovich's team had airlifted 512 downed Allied airmen to safety without the loss of a single life or aircraft—a truly impressive accomplishment.

Captain George Vujnovich's recognition as a hero and valued asset to this country and the U.S. Air Force is long overdue. Frankly, had the records of the operation not remained sealed until 1997, I feel certain Captain Vujnovich would have received this honor years ago. Nevertheless, the decades do not and cannot diminish the valor and patriotism of this extraordinary man. I ask all my colleagues to join me now to honor this Serbian-American hero, to thank him for his dedicated service to our country and to congratulate him for winning the Bronze Star. Captain Vujnovich, I salute you.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by