

stations in the region supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Mr. President, 48,110 personnel are deployed to Iraq, with another 32,000 deployed to the region aboard ships at sea, on bases, and air stations; 4,469 have been killed in Iraq operations since 2003, and 1,638 have been killed in Afghanistan since 2001. These men and women continue to answer the call to serve a cause greater than themselves as those men did in Operation Husky 68 years ago this month. I ask my colleagues here today to join me in humbly honoring Lieutenant Kisters, and all those who have and continue to serve our Nation in uniform, for their inspirational service, selflessness, and sacrifice.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT NATHAN R. BEYERS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of a young Coloradan, SGT Nathan R. Beyers. Sergeant Beyers died on July 7, 2011, when insurgents attacked his convoy with an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq. Sergeant Beyers was serving in support of Operation New Dawn. He was 24 years old.

Sergeant Beyers loved the Army and he was proud to be serving our country. Born and raised in Littleton, CO, Sergeant Beyers graduated from ThunderRidge High School. He joined the Idaho National Guard a few years ago, and he was assigned to Bravo Company, 145th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team.

He is remembered by family, friends, and servicemembers as a brave soldier, dedicated husband, and proud father. Sergeant Beyers and his wife, Vanessa Mary Beyers, recently had their first child. Vanessa said that he died "doing something he loved." Hundreds gathered at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver to honor and remember Sergeant Beyers.

Sergeant Beyers' commanding officers immediately recognized his exceptional bravery and talent. He earned, among other decorations, the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Sergeant Beyers's service was in keeping with this sentiment: by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

Mr. President, I stand with Colorado and people nationwide in profound gratitude for Sergeant Beyers's tremendous sacrifice. He served proudly and honorably in Iraq when his country needed him most. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Sergeant Beyers's family.

#### MARDI GRAS INDIANS HALL OF FAME DAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, most of my Senate colleagues are aware of the rich culture and heritage that is on display in Louisiana during the days and weeks before Lent. Parties and parades mark the end of the Mardi Gras season and the beginning of fasting and sacrifice. But few outside of Louisiana are familiar with the unique tradition of the Mardi Gras Indians.

I rise today to celebrate this unique Louisiana tradition and recognize the Mardi Gras Indians Hall of Fame Day to be celebrated at Oretha Castle Haley Elementary School in New Orleans, LA, on August 7, 2011.

The history of the Mardi Gras Indians dates back to the late 1800s, but their origin remains a mystery. Because most of their history and practices have been passed from generation to generation orally, we may never know if the Mardi Gras Indians came about to pay homage to Native Americans for hiding runaway slaves or simply as an expression of the connection between Native Americans and African Americans. What we do know is that their tradition adds an incredible story to the history of New Orleans and Mardi Gras.

Today, the Mardi Gras Indians consist of more than 40 individual tribes. These tribes compete against one another using chants and music along with their elaborately decorated costumes called "suits." The suits are each hand sewn by the tribe members and typically take an entire year to complete. Ornaments on the suits can include feathers, ostrich plumes, beads, velvet, rhinestones, and sequins, all beautifully sewn together to tell the story of the individual tribe member and contribute to the tapestry of whole tribe. Native American, Aztec, Caribbean, and West African cultures have all greatly influenced the work of art that is the Mardi Gras Indian suit.

The traditions of the Mardi Gras Indians also include a hierarchy structure consisting of a "big chief," a "big queen," "chiefs," "spy boys," "flag boys," and "wild men," just to name a few. Every member of the tribe has a specific set of duties culminating in the big chief who represents the tribe against all other tribes.

In addition to being a key part of Mardi Gras, Mardi Gras Indians are strong community leaders in New Orleans and the surrounding areas. The Mardi Gras Indians have worked to preserve, celebrate, and advance the cultural arts and music of their tribes and communities. By doing this, the tribes have also continued to encourage the younger generations to learn and embrace the tribes' histories. One tribe, the Guardians of the Flame, has established a nonprofit called Guardians Institute to educate New Orleans children on the importance of art, music, and history in order to keep these traditions alive.

Dr. Roslyn Smith, former principal of Oretha Castle Haley Elementary

School in New Orleans, summarized the Mardi Gras Indians best by saying, "the Big Chiefs are community leaders, and in many ways they are social warriors, struggling to preserve traditions of beauty in the community while working to make the communities better places." Please join me in honoring and celebrating the Mardi Gras Indians and especially the Mardi Gras Indians Hall of Fame Day on August, 7, 2011.

#### CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the Centennial of Campbell County, WY.

The citizens of Campbell County are blessed to live in this beautiful environment. Located in northeastern Wyoming and nestled in the Powder River Basin, the county is bordered by the Black Hills and the Big Horn Mountains. Its 39,000 residents live in the communities of Gillette, Wright, Weston and Rozet. Land was taken from previously established Weston and Crook counties to create the new district. Officially recognized on May 23, 1911, the county was named after John A. Campbell, Wyoming's first territorial Governor.

Campbell County as we know it today is vastly different from 100 years ago, but it is this shared history between today's residents and those of the past that creates a special bond. It has been host to Native Americans, fur trappers, mountain men, homesteaders, ranchers and oil men. The basin area was first used by members of the Sioux, Crow and Arapaho Native American tribes. They used the wide plains and grasslands as hunting grounds, and evidence of their presence can still be found today. Fur trappers and mountain men also traveled in the county. One such frontiersman, Robert Campbell, was a successful trader and explorer of the Rocky Mountains. He travelled through the county on his way to the Wind River Mountains.

The construction of the railroad had a major impact on the development of Campbell County. As the desire to move west increased, the residents of the county recognized the need to lay tracks of their own. Incorporated as a town in 1891, Gillette was originally developed as a transfer point for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. It was named after Edward Gillette, who was in charge of an early survey for the railroad. The addition of the railroad, along with the emigrant trails in the area, was essential to the establishment of the county.

Campbell County has since capitalized on these rich opportunities for growth and development. While ranching and agriculture are important industries, the extraction of coal, oil and natural gas is widely acknowledged as the principal industry within Campbell County. The residents proudly recognized their county as the Energy Capital of the Nation. The Powder River Basin is the largest supplier of coal in

the United States, providing nearly 40 percent of the Nation's coal. Coal mining has had an important role in the development of the county's infrastructure. For instance, Wright was built in close proximity to the Black Thunder coal mine, the second most productive coal mine in the United States. Improved technology in extraction methods has increased the production of coal bed methane gas and oil. These advancements will continue to serve the nation's growing energy needs well into the future.

This year, the Campbell County Centennial Committee has planned several countywide celebrations, including the installation of a Survey Plaque in the Campbell County Courthouse. In addition, the Centennial Ranch Committee plans to honor the members of 33 ranches that have been in operation for 100 years or longer. It is my pleasure to recognize the following ranches and their commitment to preserving Wyoming's ranching way of life: the Brennan Ranch, T-Chair Ranch, Pumpkin Butte Ranch, Christensen Ranch, Clabaugh Ranch, Collins Ranch, Daly Ranch, Fitch Ranch, 2 Heart Ranch, Hall Ranch, Innes Ranch, Kretschman Ranch, Little Buffalo Ranch, T7 Ranch, Maycock Ranch, Mooney Ranch, Morse and Harris Family Ranch, Have Not Ranch, Oedekoven Ranch, Pahasha Ranch, Parks Ranch, Parks Evans Ranch, Paul Rourke Ranch, Sorenson Ranch, Swartz Ranch, Thar Ranch, Underwood Ranch, Wright Ranch, Barlow Ranch, Bridle Bit Ranch, John Hines Ranch, Kuhbacher Ranch and West Cross V Ranch.

In honor of the centennial of Campbell County, I invite my colleagues to see this wonderful place in person. I applaud the residents of the county for their efforts to celebrate such rich history and to present it to visitors from all over the world.

#### BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, on Tuesday, August 9, 2011, I will have the honor of announcing the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming's Youth of the Year at their annual award and recognition breakfast. This event is a wonderful celebration. In addition to the Youth of the Year, the Boys and Girls Clubs will honor two of Wyoming's own: Vice President Dick Cheney and Lynne Vincent Cheney. They are being recognized for their devotion and commitment to the youth in our communities and across the State of Wyoming. While both of these distinguished individuals have received many honors and accolades, to be recognized by the Boys and Girls Clubs is very special to them.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming is a great organization that continues to have a positive impact in the lives of youth. They serve all children, regardless of economic circumstances. Dedicated staff and volun-

teers enthusiastically work with the students, creating an environment that fosters their positive growth and development. Young people are provided the tools and opportunities needed to succeed. Hundreds of kids benefit each year from the Boys and Girls Clubs.

The mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs is to create a better future for its members through focusing on positive outcomes: academic success, good character and citizenship as well as healthy lifestyles. At this year's awards and recognition breakfast, three outstanding young people will be honored and one will be chosen as the 2011-2012 Youth of the Year. These young citizens have excelled in all of the positive outcomes, and serve as excellent examples for other youth to follow.

Jessica Treto is a sophomore at Kelly Walsh High School. She loves to play card games with younger club members and admits she hardly ever wins. Jessica wants to be a counselor because she enjoys helping people.

Chrissy Stuft is also a sophomore at Kelly Walsh High School. She is a cheerleader and plays third base on her softball team. Her favorite television show CSI has inspired Chrissy to be a forensic scientist.

Anthony MacMillan is a junior at Natrona County High School. Anthony is an avid swimmer. Due to his love for cooking, he wants to be a pastry chef.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jessica, Chrissy, and Anthony. Knowing of these fine young people gives me the confidence that the future of America is in good hands.

#### TRIBUTE TO JORDAN BROWN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Jordan Brown for his hard work as an Indian Affairs Committee intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Jordan is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Sheridan High School. He attends Stonehill College in Massachusetts where he is majoring in political science and minoring in business administration. Throughout his internship, he has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the time he has been with us.

I thank Jordan for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO DANIEL DECECCO

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to

express my appreciation to Daniel DeCecco for his hard work as an intern in my Rock Springs office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Daniel is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Green River High School. He attends the University of Wyoming, where he is majoring in business economics and international studies. Throughout his internship, he has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Daniel for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRIAN LYNCH

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Brian Lynch for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Brian is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Encampment High School. He attends the University of Wyoming, where he is majoring in criminal justice with a concentration in pre-law. Throughout his internship, he has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Brian for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO ABIGAIL MULCAHY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Abigail Mulcahy for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Abigail is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Central High School. She attends the University of Wyoming, where she is majoring in political science and minoring in music. Throughout her internship, she has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Abigail for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will