

based out of his Burlington apartment into a more than \$12 million a year company. Based in Williston, VT, and now employing 55 people, MicroStrain's constant innovation and product improvement has earned the company numerous top awards in the industry.

I am proud to see to see Vermonters working on cutting-edge technology that will benefit both Vermont's and the country's economy. I thank Steve and all of the employees at MicroStrain for their hard work.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the recent Burlington Free Press article entitled *Vt. Tech innovator: Be in the moment*, be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Burlington Free Press, Nov. 2, 2011]

VT. TECH INNOVATOR: BE IN THE MOMENT  
(By Molly Walsh)

WILLISTON.—Back in high school, Steve Arms thought he might want to be a journalist. He'd grown up reading non-stop and often sneaked books and a flashlight under the covers when he was supposed to be asleep.

He changed direction shortly before graduating from Burlington High School in 1977. During his junior and senior years, a math teacher and a physics teacher ignited a fuse that prompted Arms to become an engineer, inventor and successful tech entrepreneur who runs a Vermont company with 55 employees and gross sales of \$12.8 million in 2010.

"I have a dream job. I can't believe I get paid to do this," Arms said during an interview at MicroStrain, the sensor company he founded and leads in Williston.

The company designs and sells tiny, highly sophisticated sensors used in U.S. military drones, NASA rocket tests, tracking devices and a range of industrial and medical products. Arms founded the company when he was a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Vermont, where he studied engineering and biomechanics. His first product was a mini-sensor used in arthroscopic knee surgeries that he began selling after writing the federal grant to help fund the development himself.

In the early days at his company, Arms typed up the invoices, answered the phone and hustled sales in addition to designing products. He slowly grew the company and says a careful, conservative approach to expansion—no outside investors and a pay-as-you-go approach as much as possible—allowed the business to thrive and continue developing cutting-edge products as requested by various customers. Because there were no outside money people demanding quick growth, Arms and his staff had the time to try, fail and retry new product design—in other words, innovate.

Now much of the work is solving problems for clients and continuously pushing for new designs—and that's what science education should teach as well, Arms said. Schools that help young people use science and math to find solutions—whether it's flood prevention or saving the rain forest—are on the right track. "Kids are amazingly creative and they really want to make the world a better place," Arms said.

It can take MicroStrain up to a year to find certain employees and the company regularly recruits out of state. But many employees are Vermonters or returning Vermonters. And Arms has had great success

with summer internship programs for college students, many of whom are studying electrical engineering at local colleges and out-of-state schools such as Clarkson, Stanford and MIT. Some interns spend three summers at the company before they graduate. MicroStrain regularly hires from the intern pool because the interns are up to speed on the work and because they've basically succeeded during an extended job interview.

As a student, Arms responded to teachers who were well organized, animated and happy to let a curious student run with questions. His foray into bioengineering happened largely because his UVM work study job put him in a department full of doctors and medical researchers. He loved talking to them and soon was writing grants as part of his job—a skill that came in handy when it was time for Arms to found MicroStrain.

His advice for students is similar to what he gives his three children, including a son at Reed College and twin daughters at Champlain Valley Union High School. Arms was never a grind who obsessed over getting As in everything and he left some homework undone. He worked, but not obsessively. One thing he did learn was to follow his interests and be efficient—by paying attention in class, for example. "Be in the moment. . . . Make the most of your time when you are there."

Schools could help inspire a love of science by making it real, he added. Simple props—chalk and a two-by-four, a bicycle wheel—are great ways to teach calculus, physics and other STEM topics. Computers are can be useful tools but they do not guarantee engagement in class, he said.

Bringing speakers from STEM employers is another way to reach students, as is career mentoring. Arms still remembers the conversation he had with Sir John Charnley, who pioneered modern hip replacement, after Charnley visited UVM to give a lecture in which he detailed the series of failures he experienced before his big medical breakthrough.

"For me, that was just all I needed," Arms said. The talk left him with the sense of: "I'm not giving up either."

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the work of a group of students enrolled in the Scholars Program at Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, MT.

As a member of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction charged with coming up with a plan to tackle the deficit, I asked my bosses—the people of the great State of Montana—to send me their ideas on how to reduce the deficit.

Montana was built upon hard work, sacrifice, and values born on the frontier that remind us: we are all in this together. It is the same spirit that the Joint Select Committee must tap into in order to succeed.

So far, I have received over 1,200 letters, calls, and e-mails from Montanans with thoughts on deficit reduction and ideas that implicate all aspects of the Federal budget.

Montanans sent their suggestions on programs to trim or eliminate, where we could find additional sources of rev-

enue, and where Congress should tread carefully, to not lose sight of those investments critical to the future of Montana and the entire United States.

The challenge facing the Joint Select Committee also poses an important opportunity for us to learn as a nation and as students of history.

That is why I invited Montana's colleges and universities to involve students in the discussions. Flathead Valley Community College took on this challenge with vigor.

FVCC decided to incorporate this project into its Scholars Program, an honors program for the college's top students. The students spent almost a month on the project.

As we have done in the Joint Select Committee, students started by reviewing reports issued by the Congressional Budget Office and the various bipartisan deficit-reduction plans. The students then met over a 2-week period to discuss their own ideas and debate the merits of each proposal. They all agreed that the group would come up with one plan to put forth to my office and to Congress.

Now, before I talk about what the students have produced, it is important to say a word about Flathead Valley Community College and the community it serves. Kalispell, MT, is located in the upper northwestern corner of the State of Montana. Glacier National Park sits to the east, and the tip of Flathead Lake is to the south.

There are few places in the world privileged to such natural beauty. But this area has not been immune to the tough economic climate. Far from it.

The Flathead area, once dominated by the wood products industry, has witnessed the closure of some of its largest employers.

While Montana's overall unemployment rate has remained below the national average, Flathead County is well above it, right now at almost 10 percent. Surrounding Lincoln, Sanders, and Lake Counties currently sit at 13, 13.3, and 10 percent unemployment rates, respectively.

Flathead Valley Community College has come to be viewed as the model for 2-year education, both in Montana and nationally.

And like many 2-year colleges across the country, FVCC has experienced a significant increase in enrollment as a result of the economic downturn. Both young and old are returning to school to enhance their skills.

Over the past 2 years, FVCC's enrollment increased by 43 percent. Last year, FVCC added 239 sections of classes and hired 89 new adjunct faculty members to meet increased demand.

This past spring, FVCC graduated the largest class in its history, with 388 students receiving 438 degrees. One-fourth of those students were eligible for assistance through trade adjustment assistance or the Workforce Investment Act.

I raise this because it is important to note that these students participating

in this project are living this economic recession. I asked them to discuss and come up with deficit-reduction ideas. But they have done so with a keen eye on how these ideas could affect their community and the long-term impact on good-paying jobs.

After all the discussions, debates, and, undoubtedly, some disagreements, the students came together and submitted a full summary of their proposal to reduce the deficit. The ideas are wide-ranging and span virtually all aspects of the Federal budget.

For example, the students recognized that health care costs in this country pose a threat to the fiscal stability of the Nation. The students identified a series of ideas that could help in reducing health care costs, including incentivizing healthier lifestyles. The group also agreed that Congress should consider ideas for revenue. They highlighted areas such as corporate tax loopholes to find new sources of revenue. The students said Congress should look at reducing fraud and abuse in current programs.

While the students devoted most of their time to finding ways to reduce the deficit, they also highlighted the importance of investment. The group agreed investment in education and scientific research is an important role for the Federal Government to play. As their report states, "many of the fiscal problems facing the country could be ameliorated by improving citizens' chances for a quality education." I could not agree more.

My hat goes off to the students and faculty for joining this important conversation for our families and for our country. It is clear from this report that they took this challenge seriously and understand the balance needed to address the deficit.

I would like to recognize the great work of those involved, including President Jane Karas, Ph.D., Scholars Program Director Ivan Lorentzen; Outreach Coordinator for Career Pathways Jeremy Fritz; and Executive Director for Institutional Research Brad Eldredge, Ph.D. And, most importantly, I would like to commend the students who took on this project: Ursula DeStefano, Tracy Lost-Bear, Lisa Steelye, and Heather Frayle.

It is my goal to make sure these students and their peers nationwide will be able to find good-paying jobs when they graduate. I am doing everything I can to address both our jobs deficit and our fiscal deficit so that we can leave our Nation in better shape than we found it for these students and their children.

I thank Flathead Valley Community College, the instructors, and students for their thoughtful ideas. I hope the experience inspired them to stay involved. They took this project seriously and worked hard to find agreement. We in Congress must do the same. The future for these students and this country is at stake.●

#### REMEMBERING GILBERT "GIL" CATES

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today, I honor the extraordinary life of Gilbert "Gil" Cates, a director, producer, mentor, and friend to not only California and New York, but the entire Nation.

Born Gilbert Lewis Katz on June 6, 1934, in New York City to Russian Jewish immigrants Nathan and Nina Katz, Gil soared to the top of the entertainment field with a focus in both film and theater.

Following his education at DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, Gil enrolled at Syracuse University, where he majored in theater.

In 1961, Gil made his producing and directing debut on the television game show "Camouflage."

He accomplished countless artistic achievements during his long career as a producer and director, and in 1990 he produced the "62nd Annual Academy Award," where he made his biggest mark on the industry he cherished so much.

Over the next 18 years, Gil served either as the producer or executive producer of 14 Academy Award shows. With broadcasts hosted by Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg, Steve Martin, and Chris Rock, Gil is credited with restoring the telecast as the entertainment industry's most important and widely watched event.

Gil also earned a reputation as an inclusive and creative leader. As a film producer, his credits include "Oh, God! Book II," "After the Fall," and "I Never Sang for My Father." He directed segments of "The Twilight Zone," "Hobson's Choice," "The Promise," and "Summer Wishes, Winter Dreams." As both producer and director, his body of work includes "Collected Stories," "Confessions: Two Faces of Evil," "Absolute Strangers," "Rings Around the World," and "World's Fair Spectacular."

Gil made his Broadway debut as the stage manager for "Shinbone Alley" in 1957. He made his producing debut on Broadway in 1967 with "You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running," and five years later made his directorial debut in 1972 with "Voices," an original play with music. In total, he was involved with nine Broadway shows. The most recent, "Time Stands Still," closed on January 30, 2011.

Beyond his film, television, and theater work, Gil served the entertainment industry in many leadership capacities. He was a two-term president of the Directors Guild of America, DGA, from 1983 to 1987. From 1990 to 1998, he served as founding dean of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, and then as a mentor and professor. He was also the founding and producing director of the renowned Geffen Playhouse in Westwood, CA. During his diverse career he served in various roles on the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Gil received many honors from the entertainment industry throughout his extensive career, including an Emmy Award for producing the "63rd Annual Academy Awards" in 1991. Gil was also Emmy-nominated for directing two television movies, "Consenting Adult" in 1985 and "Do You Know the Muffin Man?" in 1989.

As a result of his service to the DGA, he received the Directors Guild President Award, the DGA's Robert B. Aldrich Award for Service, and an Honorary Life Membership. He also received the Jimmy Dolittle Award for Outstanding Contribution to Los Angeles Theater, the Ovation Award for best play "Collected Stories," and finally, a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

The showman who was known for his undeniable charisma and witty ways, as well as his contributions to the entertainment industry, was above all an extraordinary person who was in a class all his own.

Please join me in expressing the sympathies of this body to Gil Cates' family, including his wife, Dr. Judith Reichman; his sister, Florence Adler; his children, David, Jonathan, Gil Junior, Melissa, and Anat and Ronit Reichman; and six grandchildren.

Gilbert Cates was larger-than-life and his legacy of remarkable talent, leadership, humor, and dedication to art will no doubt live on within the entertainment industry.●

#### RECOGNIZING ISAMAX SNACKS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, earlier this year members of the Maine Legislature proposed a bill to name the whoopie pie the official State dessert of Maine, later settling on naming it the "State treat of Maine." The whoopie pie, a baked good normally consisting of two chocolate cakes with creamy frosting in between, has been a New England tradition for nearly a century. Anyone who has tasted a whoopie pie knows exactly how special and delectable one really is. With Maine's official "treat" in mind, today I recognize and commend Isamax Snacks, a small business in Maine that has perfected the art of homemade whoopie pies.

Amy Bouchard always loved baking, and in 1994, she started a small business making whoopie pies, out of her home kitchen in the small town of Gardiner. Amy's whoopie pies were famous among her friends as "wicked," and therefore she thought it was only proper to name them "Wicked Whoopies." As any Mainer knows, "wicked" is a synonym for "great" and is commonly used to refer to any extraordinary item, which Amy's desserts most certainly are.

Originally, Isamax was started as a way to supplement her husband's income to assist in raising their two young children, Isabella and Maxx, from which the name of her company is derived. But as more people discovered her Wicked Whoopies, Amy's business