

community through their roles as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, of the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission. Both have dedicated their lives to Delaware and its farming communities, benefitting and protecting the farming industry and the thousands of farmers and citizens who rely on our state's priceless natural resources.

As the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the 19-member Delaware Nutrient Management Commission since its inception in 1999, Bill and Dave have led the Commission through years of development—made up of innovation, labor and compromise—that resulted in Delaware's premier Nutrient Management Program—one that serves as a model for other States. Moreover, Bill and Dave helped guide Delaware through U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval of the State's controlled animal feeding operation regulations, helping to preserve our State's rich agricultural resources, while protecting farmers and their livelihood for generations to come. When I was Governor of the State of Delaware, I worked closely with both Bill and Dave on the development of the Delaware Nutrient Management Program and know well their passion and loyalty to doing what is right for the First State's agricultural community, as well as for our environment and our neighbors' environments.

The Delaware Nutrient Management Program was established in June 1999 as a result of the Delaware Nutrient Management Law. The mission of the Delaware Nutrient Management Program is to manage those activities involving the generation and application of nutrients in order to help maintain and improve the quality of Delaware's ground and surface waters and to help meet or exceed federally mandated water quality standards, in the interest of the overall public welfare. The responsibilities of the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission include: considering the establishment of critical areas for voluntary and regulatory programs; establishing Best Management Practices to reduce nutrients in the environment; developing educational and awareness programs; considering incentive programs to redistribute excess nutrients; establishing the elements and general direction of the State Nutrient Management Program; and, developing nutrient management regulations.

In 2001, under the team's leadership, the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission outlined a Memorandum of Understanding with the Delaware Department of Agriculture, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and the chief executives of all poultry companies operating in Delaware—an agreement that was the first of its kind. This unique partnership between the agriculture and environmental sectors in Delaware has helped contribute to the progress Delaware has achieved in

nutrient management. Currently, the First State leads the nation in nutrient management planning participation. Ninety-nine percent of all farmers who are required to have a nutrient management plan do, indeed, have one.

The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission's strong working relationships with the Delaware Department of Agriculture, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Delaware's Congressional delegation, and with Delaware's Governor and the State's General Assembly has contributed to the implementation of on-the-ground solutions for nutrient management that encourage environmental stewardship and have positive benefits to agriculture and its farmers.

A native of Harrington, DE, Bill Vanderwende is a man of family, faith and farming and serves as a proud, lifelong member of Delaware's farming tradition. For over 40 years, Bill and Ellen—his wife of almost 60 years—along with their 4 children, 10 grandchildren and several employees, have run a dairy, grain and vegetable farming operation in Bridgeville with 700 head of dairy and 3,000 crop acres. Bill has represented Delaware's dairy industry for decades.

Bill's leadership in the agricultural community stretches beyond the Nutrient Management Commission. Bill has been a distinguished member of the Sussex County Conservation District Board of Supervisors for 20 years, serving as chairman since 1992. In addition, Bill served as a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Agriculture, a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Soil and Water, and as Vice-Chairman of Delaware Aglands Preservation Foundation Board of Trustees. Bill and the Vanderwende family have also received numerous awards recognizing their positive impact and influence on Delaware's farming tradition, including Bill's honor as the recipient of the 2009 Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture given by the Delaware Department of Agriculture and the Vanderwendes' 1993 Farm Bureau award for the Farm Family of the Year.

Over the years, Dave Baker has made a remarkable contribution to Delaware's agricultural community through his work, leadership and thoughtful attention to detail. His commitment to Delaware's and our nation's farmlands, as well as his commitment to his family and community is unmistakable. Since moving to Middletown, DE in 1952, Dave Baker has remained close to his roots. Today, just outside of his hometown, Dave lives with his wife Barbara. Together, they have a son Erik and two grandchildren. There, Dave is the President of Baker Farms, a 3,000-acre grain farm. He also founded Delaware Egg Farm—now Puglisi Egg Farms Delaware—Delaware's largest egg producing operation.

In addition to his role of Vice-Chairman of the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission, Dave is Chairman of the Commission's Planning and Personnel subcommittees. Moreover, Dave's agricultural acumen and outstanding leadership in the field of agriculture has been recognized in Delaware and well beyond our borders. Most recently, he received the 2010 Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture given by the Delaware Department of Agriculture. During my term as Governor, Dave was the Chairman of the Nutrient Management Advisory Committee, the organization responsible for drafting Delaware's ground breaking nutrient management statute. He is also a past president of the Delaware Council of Farm Organizations. Nationally, he has served on the American Egg Board and the Poultry Advisory Committee for the Farm Bureau, and regionally, he is a past chair of the Egg Clearinghouse and the Northeast United Egg Producers.

Delaware is fortunate to have such an outstanding team led by Bill Vanderwende and Dave Baker to carry on a legacy of farming values that shape, honor and preserve our State's treasured agricultural heritage. Bill and Dave's leadership on the Nutrient Management Commission reaches those not just in our agricultural community, not just in our State, but the millions of Americans who are impacted by Delaware's decisions on nutrient management. The continued leadership of these two men will keep our farming industry prosperous, while protecting our natural resources for generations to come. It is with a genuine sense of honor and pride that I rise today to extend the heartfelt congratulations and thanks of our entire Congressional delegation to our friends and outstanding Delaware residents, Bill Vanderwende and Dave Baker.●

#### RECOGNIZING ORONO MIDDLE SCHOOL

● Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today, I commend Orono Middle School of Orono, ME, on being named a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This prestigious recognition of high accomplishment was bestowed by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools award is considered the highest honor an American school can obtain. Schools singled out for this national recognition reflect the goals of our Nation's education reforms for high standards and accountability. Specifically, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program is designed to honor public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

This award recognizes that Orono Middle School students achieve at the highest level academically. Orono Middle School is a top-performing school

on State-required assessments, and staff at the school use assessments throughout the academic year as a tool for improving and customizing instruction. The school also involves students in extracurricular activities, which helps forge a strong school community where students are connected and encouraged to pursue their interests.

I applaud not only the students but also the teachers, staff, administrators, and parents of Orono Middle School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate confidence and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens.

I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Orono Middle School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire community for this outstanding achievement.●

#### RECOGNIZING COOL AS A MOOSE

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, across the country the holiday shopping season is in full swing. For many, holiday shopping can be a stressful time, as picking out the ideal gift can often be overwhelming. Luckily, my home State of Maine has several small businesses which offer gift solutions in a fun and festive setting. Today I wish to commend and recognize one of these small businesses, Cool As A Moose, whose retail stores offer unique and creative gifts for the holiday season and throughout the year.

Cool As A Moose first opened its doors in 1986 in the coastal town of Bar Harbor. Whether a customer longs for a moose hat or an adorable stuffed animal lobster, this small business offers customers an array of clever products and creative apparel. The company, now owned by Maine resident Kip Stone, has expanded to include stores in Freeport, Portland, and most recently Brunswick. The retailer also has an online presence and two licensed locations in Halifax and Quebec City, Canada.

The establishment of a store and headquarters in Brunswick this past May was critical, as it brought jobs to an area of Maine that recently struggled after the closure of the Brunswick Naval Air Station. Kip's tireless search for an ideal location lasted 2 years, as he sought to find an environment that would allow him to open both a store and have space for his other company, Artforms, which supplies many of the designs for the retail store. Kip selected the Old Grand City restaurant and storefront for the flagship store. With this purchase and renovation, Kip furthered a critical mission by helping to revitalize the Brunswick downtown area.

As can be seen from this small company's expansion, since its founding, this store's friendly customer service and engaging atmosphere have led to

tremendous success. Most recently, Cool As A Moose was honored as the 2011 Merchant of the Year by the Maine Merchants Association. This honor is richly deserved as this small business consistently strives to improve each community it serves through volunteering and supporting area non-profits.

Small businesses such as Cool As A Moose are the heart of the economy, and this holiday season I hope Americans will gather with me in supporting these retailers. In these tough economic times, this small firm's willingness to expand and continually strive to put local communities first is especially refreshing. I am proud to extend my congratulations to Kip Stone and everyone at Cool As A Moose for their tremendous efforts and offer my best wishes for continued success.●

#### TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JAMES BONNEAU

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator LEVIN, I wish to pay tribute to James "Jim" Bonneau, a member of the Jackson Police Department in Jackson, MI, who has been posthumously awarded the Congressional Badge of Bravery.

Officer Bonneau was born in Canton, MI to Marc and Amy Bonneau. Growing up he always wanted to help others and become a police officer. After graduating from Canton High in 2002, he earned a degree in criminal justice from Eastern Michigan University. In 2007, he followed his dream and joined the Jackson Police Department, which put him through Lansing Community College's Mid-Michigan Police Academy.

Bonneau excelled at the academy and graduated at the top of his class. He was well liked by the faculty and his fellow classmates. Even though he was with the department for two short years, his excellence on the job and connection with the community he served made a difference and touched many lives.

On March 9, 2010, Officer Bonneau and Blackman Township Public Safety Officer Darin McIntosh responded to a domestic disturbance call. The suspect fired multiple shots at both officers wounding Officer Bonneau in the chest and Officer McIntosh in the leg. Though mortally wounded, Officer Bonneau showed bravery and determination while he relayed critical information to central dispatch regarding the incident. His actions ensured that the responding officers knew what to expect upon entering the home. Tragically, he later died from his injuries.

Officer Bonneau's exceptional acts of bravery and presence of mind while in the line of duty earned him a well-deserved nomination and award of the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery.

On behalf of the City of Jackson and the State of Michigan, we express our

gratitude to Officer Bonneau and his family for his bravery and commitment to law enforcement. He made the ultimate sacrifice so that others may live in safety.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:35 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. 3630. An act to provide incentives for the creation of jobs, and for other purposes.

At 2:38 p.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, without amendment:

S. 384. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 313. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify that persons who enter into a conspiracy within the United States to possess or traffic illegal controlled substances outside the United States, or engage in conduct within the United States to aid or abet drug trafficking outside the United States, may be criminally prosecuted in the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8 West Silver Street in Westfield, Massachusetts, as the "William T. Trant Post Office Building".

H.R. 3246. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

At 7:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At 7:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1905. An act to strengthen Iran sanctions laws for the purpose of compelling Iran to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons and other threatening activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2105. An act to provide for the application of measures to foreign persons who transfer to Iran, North Korea, and Syria certain goods, services, or technology, and for other purposes.