

understand that for much of the State of Maine, the environment is the economy.

The people of Maine have always been faithful stewards of our environment because we understand its tremendous value to our way of life. Maine's unique forests, landscapes, waters, and wildlife are an important part of our heritage and have helped shape the economic, environmental, and recreational character of our entire State. Protecting our Nation's air quality will positively benefit the natural beauty of Maine and will improve public health, protecting our children and enriching lives.

BICENTENNIAL OF THE WAR OF 1812

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the bicentennial celebration of the War of 1812. The U.S. Congress declared war on Great Britain 200 years ago this week. The State of Maryland is proud of its contributions to this "Second War for Independence," which reinforced United States sovereignty and gave birth to our national anthem.

A generation after the United States declared its independence from Great Britain, the mercantilist ties between the two countries were not fully severed. The British impressed American merchant seamen, enforced illegal and unfair trade regulations, colluded with certain Native American tribes to attack frontier settlements, and attempted to block westward expansion. The United States declared war to assert autonomy over its own affairs once again, establish free trade, protect sailors' rights, and ensure that our Nation could prosper from sea to shining sea.

President James Madison eloquently outlined these reasons 200 years ago when he called on "all the good people of the United States, as they love their country, as they value the precious heritage derived from the virtue and valor of their fathers . . . [to] exert themselves in preserving order, in promoting concord, in maintaining the authority and efficacy of the laws, and in supporting and invigorating all the measures which may be adopted by the constituted authorities for obtaining a speedy, a just, and an honorable peace."

The contributions of the U.S. Navy were instrumental in repelling the British during the War of 1812. The U.S. Navy hardly had a dozen warships compared to the hundreds of ships comprising the British fleet. British ships were undermanned, however, while well-trained and talented officers and seamen took command of American ships. These men were largely from coastal States, like Maryland, and were accustomed to seafaring. COMO Matthew Perry took on the British Navy on Lake Erie in 1813 with a scrappy fleet of light ships. Even though his force was seemingly decimated by the

British, Commodore Perry resorted to paddling a rowboat with a banner that read "Don't Give up the Ship." He then boarded the Niagara, double-loaded the carronades, and sailed directly into the British line, ultimately claiming victory.

The following summer, in 1814, the British Navy sailed up the Chesapeake Bay to attack our Nation's capital and seize the valuable port city of Baltimore. The British dealt heavy blows to Washington, DC, setting both the U.S. Capitol and the White House ablaze. British forces then moved toward Baltimore. Citizens of Baltimore, including free Blacks, quickly mobilized to protect their city. Barricades stretching more than 1 mile long were constructed to protect the harbor, hulls were sunk to impede navigation, and a chain of masts was erected across the harbor entrance. When the British fleet approached Baltimore at North Point, Marylanders fought the British Army and helped repulse the British Navy from Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore. It is important to note that American forces during the Battle of North Point were volunteer militia, heavily outnumbered by the highly trained British infantry, but managed to delay the British forces long enough for 10,000 American reinforcements to arrive, preventing a land attack against Baltimore. Following 25 hours of intense British naval bombardment at Fort McHenry, the American defenders refused to yield, and the British were forced to depart.

During the bombardment, American lawyer Francis Scott Key, who was being held on board an American flag-of-truce vessel in Baltimore Harbor, took notice of the American flag still flying atop Fort McHenry. Key realized then that the Americans had survived the battle and stopped the enemy advance. He was so moved by the sight of the American flag flying following the horrific bombardment, he composed a poem called "The Defense of Fort McHenry," which was published in the Baltimore Patriot and Advertiser newspaper later that year. This poem, and later the song, inspired love of country among the American people and not only helped usher in the "era of good feelings" immediately after the war, but became a timeless reminder of American resolve. "The Star Spangled Banner" officially became our National Anthem in 1931. The flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired this anthem is now a national treasure on display at the Smithsonian Institution, a very short distance from where we are today.

The War of 1812 confirmed the legitimacy of the Revolution and served as a critical test for the U.S. Constitution and newly established democratic government. Our young Nation battled against the largest, most powerful military on the Earth at that time and emerged with an enhanced standing among the countries of the world, both militarily and diplomatically. The U.S.

economy was freed of its dependence on British goods, which unleashed domestic manufacturing and spawned the industrial revolution. The U.S. Navy proved its worth and the U.S. Congress rewarded the Navy with funding for a permanent, more expansive fleet. A new generation of Americans too young to remember Lord Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown, which effectively ended the Revolutionary War, and an older generation proud of defending American independence twice in their lifetimes, were inspired by Francis Scott Key's words, which embody our universal feelings of patriotism and courage.

As a Marylander, I am proud of the contributions of my State in the War of 1812 and I have been involved in legislative efforts to bring greater attention to this bicentennial celebration. My colleague, Representative DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER, and I sponsored the Commemorative Coin Act, which President Obama signed into law in August 2010, directing the U.S. Mint to create coins commemorating this important anniversary. These gold and silver coin designs are emblematic of the War of 1812, particularly the Battle of Baltimore that inspired our National Anthem. The coins are on sale this year only and the surcharges from these commemorative coins will provide support to the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission to conduct activities, assist in educational outreach, and preserve sites and structures relating to the War of 1812.

I am proud that Maryland will lead the Star-Spangled 200 celebration, a 3-year celebration that just began with Baltimore's "Sailabration" this past weekend. The Navy's Blue Angels treated spectators to dazzling air shows; the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra premiered the "Overture for 2012," composed by Philip Glass; and dozens of tall ships and naval warships from around the world anchored in the Inner Harbor, open for public tours. Through 2014, Maryland will host numerous events along the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine to celebrate the bicentennial. This commemoration is an opportunity to showcase to the world that Maryland is an exceptional place to live, work, and visit.

I am also proud that the U.S. Senate unanimously adopted a resolution I sponsored to mark the bicentennial, to celebrate the heroism of the American people during the conflict, and to recognize the various organizations involved in the bicentennial celebration, including the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Park Service, and the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. As we recognize all of these ongoing efforts during this commemorative period, I encourage all Americans to remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives to defend our nation's freedom and democracy in its infancy, and to join in the bicentennial celebration of our victory in the War of 1812.

UNIQUE SIGNIFICANCE OF SHELburne FARMS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont boasts many gems that draw visitors to our Green Mountains. Among them is Shelburne Farms, known to many Vermonters—and many visitors to Vermont—for its work on historic preservation, agriculture, sustainability, and nutrition. And so it was with great interest and appreciation that I read an article about the Farm's caretakers in the Burlington Free Press.

I have been proud of the work Alec Webb and his wife, Megan Camp, have done at Shelburne Farms for the last many years. Through their leadership, Shelburne Farms has become a first-rate educational hub, promoting environmental conservation, food education and agriculture sustainability. The partnerships initiated by Alec and Megan with the National Park Service Conservation Studies Institute and with the University of Vermont Center for Sustainable Agriculture have furthered these goals.

Today, Shelburne Farms is a National Historic Landmark, a distinction I was proud to help secure in 2001 because they earned it. During this week's debate on the Farm Bill, I think it is fitting to highlight the important work being done at Shelburne Farms. Others can take a page from their successful playbook as we explore ways to bolster our green economy, put food on Americans' tables, and promote the environmental stewardship that continues to protect our farm lands and environment.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of this article, "A Vision Realized," 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, June 16, 2012]

A VISION REALIZED

ALEC WEBB IS LIVING—AND MANAGING—A
VISION HE RETURNED HOME TO CREATE
(By Sally Pollak)

SHELburne.—The summer Alec Webb turned 18, he ran his first camp. He pitched a tent in a field in his backyard—it was a big yard, about 1,000 acres—and camped out for six weeks with kids from Labrador, the Bronx, and a Cambridge, Mass., housing project. There were a couple of locals, too.

"It was a funky group of urban and rural kids," said Webb, who will turn 60 next month. It was the summer of 1970 and Webb, now president of Shelburne Farms, was a recent high school graduate. He had left Groton School, a prep school outside Boston, spring semester of his senior year and moved back home. Webb spent his last semester at the Shaker Mountain School, an alternative school in Burlington, where he earned credit to graduate from Groton.

"Instead of going abroad, I went to Burlington," Webb joked.

He left Groton because the school had become, to him, irrelevant.

"It was the '60s and that (Groton) environment didn't feel relevant to what was going on in the world," Webb said. "I wanted to be in an environment that was more real, more connected to what was going on in the world.

A place that was engaged with more meaningful social issues." In that context, Webb pitched a tent, built a campfire, and invited kids over. The campers even spent a solo night in the field, grown-up free (if you can call Webb, a newly minted 18-year-old, a grown-up).

"They all seemed to survive," Webb said.

The camp was the original manifestation of Webb's interest in "meaningful education" that is an intersection of agriculture, nature and environmental awareness. From these beginnings, at the boyhood home where Webb grew up the fourth of six siblings, Shelburne Farms would become a nonprofit (incorporated in 1972) whose various endeavors bring 140,000 people a year to the farm.

There are so many camps and school programs at Shelburne Farms these days, the child-centric activity prompted Webb to wonder on a recent walk—where packs of happy kids raced around the place—if summer camps had already started.

He's no longer sleeping in a field with the kids.

These days, you can find him in his corner office in a barn, surrounded by big maps and less-glamorous paperwork. He says he's part town manager, part town planner. And full-time fundraiser.

Webb lives with his wife, Megan Camp, the farm's vice president and program director, and their cats Fanta and Stella, in an 1850s shingled farmhouse that predates Shelburne Farms. Other animals sometimes wander onto their lawn. Chickens make regular appearances; goats jump the fence and hang at Webb's place. A donkey came by one morning last week.

The visitors come with the territory when you live where you work and work where you live: a teeming campus with activities including walking trails, a Brown Swiss dairy herd, environmental education programs, harvest festivals and a cheese making facility.

Shelburne Farms, a onetime private estate, was founded by Webb's great-grandparents and designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead in the 1880s. At the turn of the century, the lakeside property of Dr. William Seward and Lila Vanderbilt Webb encompassed nearly 4,000 acres. The barn they built for work animals was colossal—so big, in its reincarnated life it houses a cheese-making and packing operation, a school, a woodworking shop, a kid's farmyard, a bakery and offices.

In 1972, Shelburne Farms was incorporated as a nonprofit—a decision that was useful in setting the farm on more solid financial ground, Webb said. (His father had to borrow money to pay property taxes, he said.) In seeking a new direction for Shelburne Farms, Webb and his five siblings saw that the property could and should be a community resource and asset, he said. The six young Webbs did not want the dairy farm where they grew up to become a carved-up, high-end suburb of Burlington, Webb said.

"If we all had one-sixth of this place," he said, "we would've spent the rest of our lives dealing with that."

The common experience of growing up on the farm, a love of the land, and an interest in "responding to the context of the world we were living in at that time," helped shape the siblings' shared vision for Shelburne Farms, Webb said.

"Those threads of agriculture, youth, community, those were our intentions," he said the other day, eating lunch at a picnic table in the farmyard.

"We started Shelburne Farms because we were worried about all the things that are more pressing now," he said, noting climate change wasn't an issue people were thinking

about. "We wondered: 'How are we going to get ourselves on a path that could be more sustainable for people and the planet.' The farm would be an expression of a pathway to a better future. Not a model for that, necessarily, but an example of how things can work given a different set of intentions, around sustainability."

They wanted the land whole and accessible to the public.

Their father, Derick Webb, made that possible on his death in 1984 at the age of 70. Derick Webb—who had retired to Florida—rewrote his will before his death from a heart attack. In his revised will, he left the 1,000 acres he inherited to the nonprofit that was established by his kids 12 years earlier. An earlier version had given the property to the six children.

Though Webb and his siblings agitated for this change—including writing letters that Webb says make him cringe to read today—they didn't know their father had gifted the land to the nonprofit until after he died.

Now the integrity of the property was assured. Suddenly, the nonprofit was in a more formidable position.

"At that point, we were playing for real," Webb said. That meant fundraising, restoring and managing the property, building an organization and related programming.

Making the world a little bit better is something of a bureaucracy—with custodial work on the side.

"When I'm walking around, I'm always looking for deferred maintenance and potholes," Webb said. "It's not a downer. I kind of enjoy that."

His primary focuses are finances and farming; his brother, Marshall Webb, manages the woodland and special projects.

The farm was in disrepair when Webb was a kid, but he liked his father's Brown Swiss herd and chores related to dairying. In those days, a milk hauler rumbled up the long driveway to transport the milk to a creamery. Earlier still, the family delivered milk in cans to Shelburne.

Back then, the barn roofs leaked; plumbing didn't work in portions of Shelburne House, now called the Inn at Shelburne Farms; and Alec and his brothers, wearing plain white T-shirts, ate corn on the cob at picnic tables on a terrace, goats sniffing around the table for scraps. "It's a whole different scene down there now at 6 o'clock at night," Webb said.

At 6 o'clock these days, spiffy diners—guests, not family—eat dinner on the terrace at the inn, a dining spot that overlooks formal gardens, Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. The food they're eating, chef-prepared, was likely produced on the farm. Not counting work-related dinners, Webb said he eats at the inn about once a year.

He still prefers dairying hours, rising by 5 a.m. and eating a bowl of oat bran before heading to work. His commute is walking across the farmyard. With the exception of two years working for the state Department of Education—fulfilling duty required for his conscientious objector status in the Vietnam War—Webb's work has been connected to Shelburne Farms.

In his office is a black and white photograph of a young girl standing at a table of vegetables. It is the summer of 1973, before the existence of the Burlington Farmers Market. The table is set up on St. Paul Street in front of the original Ben and Jerry's.

It holds cabbages, cauliflower, and bushels of beans. Hand-lettered signs describe vegetables that are organically grown and reasonably priced. The girl grew the vegetables at Shelburne Farms. She's an early example of the farm's decades-long yield: sustainable agriculture, community connections, youthful energy and vision.