

"We didn't say, 40 years ago, we're going to have an inn," Webb said. "We had the intention of seeing this place being used as a place for learning—creating a living/learning environment for kids and others to increase their awareness of the environment and community."

"There was something that would seem wrong about doing anything other than treating Shelburne Farms as a community asset. Maybe it's Olmstead's design: (But) the importance of conserving this land was not as clear as it is now."

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL BARRY GASDEK

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor LTC Barry Gasdek, Retired, for his decades of service to Wyoming and to America.

As Walter Lippmann once said, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on." In his 49 years of service to our country, Barry's proven dedication and loyalty have touched hundreds of lives. From his extensive active duty service in the U.S. Army to his quest to aid the veterans of Wyoming, Mr. Gasdek is a true Wyoming hero.

Barry's path to Wyoming is similar to the historic trails that cross Wyoming's terrain—he started out in the east and eventually headed west. Barry showed the strong will and discipline of a natural born leader. Growing up in Pennsylvania, he excelled as an athlete and a scholar. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in high school. At the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated with a B.S. in education, he earned letters in three sports. All of these honors prepared him for a lifetime of service to his country.

Barry's passion and devotion to the armed forces sparked a distinguished career with the U.S. Army. Barry started his career serving in Germany, fresh from the ROTC program, where he gained firsthand experience of Cold War tensions. Later, he was called to serve in Vietnam as the conflict there worsened. Barry proved himself in Vietnam. He flew observation missions and eventually returned for a second tour of duty. One of his commanders joked that he was like a magnet for drawing fire. Despite the adversity he faced, Barry met his challenges head-on and with fortitude. He continued his military service well after Vietnam by training to become both a Ranger and a Pathfinder and by serving at a number of Army bases around the world.

He is a qualified leader, and his military achievements reflect his success. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, an award second only to the Medal of Honor. In addition, Barry received the Silver Star for his service in Vietnam, 5 Bronze Stars, 2 Purple Hearts, the Soldier's Medal, the Legion of Honor, and 17 Air Medals. These awards are but a few of his military accomplishments.

After many years of successfully serving his country, Barry accepted an

other challenge—this time in Laramie, WY. He was assigned as a professor of military science at the University of Wyoming through its Army ROTC program. Barry was a natural for the title, given his own involvement in the ROTC program in Pennsylvania. He brought the same level of talent and perseverance to this position as he did on the battlefield. For years, he encouraged his students to become our Nation's future leaders.

While many would be comfortable slipping into retirement, Barry knew his mission in Wyoming had not yet been completed. This time, he took up the banner to fight for veterans' issues. He had experienced the lack of support for Vietnam's veterans, and he vowed to keep that from happening again. Barry served in leadership positions with the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. His goal was to support the State's current veterans while teaching the next generation about the important sacrifices our Armed Forces make each and every day. Eventually, his passionate advocacy led him to serve as a State veterans service officer for the Wyoming Veterans Commission, the UW Veterans Task Force, and as the Army Reserve ambassador.

LTC Barry Gasdek, Retired, has devoted his entire life to serving his country, his brothers in arms, and the people of Wyoming. He is a fighter, a mentor, a teacher, and a good man. He embodies the cowboy ethics and what it means to be a citizen of Wyoming. It is certain that the legacy of his leadership will inspire new generations of brave soldiers. On behalf of the State of Wyoming and the United States of America, I thank Barry for his service. His boots will be hard to fill.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, this week we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the passage of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. For over 40 years, this historic law has furthered gender equality in education and sports in schools so that young women, including my three daughters, Caroline, Halina, and Anne, who all play soccer, may enjoy the benefits that come along with sports participation.

On October 29, 2002, title IX was renamed the "Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act" to honor the tireless determination and leadership of Congresswoman Mink of Hawaii in developing and passing title IX. If Congresswoman Mink was still with us today, I know she would be proud of the remarkable gains that have been made to ensure equal opportunity for women and girls in sports, education, and professionally.

In my home State of Colorado, we are ahead of the curve with regards to opportunities for girls and women in

sports. The U.S. Olympic Training Center, located in Colorado Springs, was created by an act of Congress in 1978, just a few years after title IX was passed. It is encouraging to know that women, like Gold Medal Winner Lindsey Vonn, now make up nearly half of all U.S. Olympians competing at the games—representing more than 48 percent of the 2008 team. Jamie Derrieux, a senior at Grand Junction High School, was named to the 5A First-Team All-State team and will be playing basketball at the University of Northern Colorado this fall. The flagship all-girls charter school, GALS, Girls Athletic Leadership Schools, in Denver practices active learning that engages students in health and wellness activities in the belief that these are key contributing factors in optimizing academic achievement and self-development. The Colorado Women's Sports Fund Association works toward increasing the number of girls and women who participate in athletics and reducing and eliminating barriers that prevent participation.

Studies show that participation in sports has a positive influence on the intellectual, physical and psychological health of girls and young women. By a 3-to-1 ratio, female athletes do better in school, do not drop out, and have a better chance to graduate from college. Sports participation is linked to lower rates of pregnancy in adolescent female athletes, and according to a study from the Oppenheimer/MassMutual Financial Group, of 401 executive businesswomen surveyed, 82 percent reported playing organized sports while growing up, including school teams, intramurals, and recreational leagues.

Despite the vast improvements, inequalities and disparities still remain. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, schools are still providing 1.3 million fewer chances for girls to play sports in high school than boys. These numbers have an even greater impact on Latinas and African-American young women. It is because of such disparities that I signed on to the Senate resolution put forth this week by Senators PATTY MURRAY of Washington and OLYMPIA SNOWE of Maine to show my commitment to working toward a more equal future.

We have work to do. Please join me in celebrating the 40th anniversary of title IX by supporting efforts to expand equality in sports participation and education for women and girls around the country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED WAY

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to congratulate the United Way on its 125th anniversary. The organization began in 1887 as a community

endeavor in Denver, and it spread throughout the country.

Today, the United Way includes almost 1,800 community-based organizations in the United States and 40 other countries and territories. It applies the nearly \$5 billion it raises annually to provide for the common good in communities all over the world.

I am proud that my State of Mississippi is home to dozens of nonprofit United Way organizations. With their network of partners, these groups do remarkable work to gather private resources and generate volunteer services from all ages to address the educational, health, and income problems faced by children, families, and seniors.

Projects such as the Back 2 School Resource Fair hosted by the United Way of Northeast Mississippi, the Summer Youth Corps volunteer program run by the United Way of the Capital Area, and the Literacy Kit Workshop sponsored by the United Way of Southern Mississippi are just a very small sample of ongoing activities carried out to help improve our State.

In addition, Mississippians are grateful for the helping hand the United Way provides when disasters strike. United Way volunteers from Mississippi and around the Nation were among the thousands of people who came to the aid of my State following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. More recently, the United Way stepped up to assist those hurt by tornadoes in northeast Mississippi and historic flooding throughout the Mississippi River delta.

The United Way has recorded an outstanding history of accomplishment in its 125 years. It has done so by joining forces with everyone from the individual giver to Fortune 500 partners.

I am pleased to be able to join in commending this organization for its good works, and I look forward to its continued success.●

SOURIS RIVER FLOOD ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, it has been nearly a year since the city of Minot and surrounding communities were devastated by a historic flood along the Souris River in North Dakota.

As we recognize this anniversary, we are reminded of the devastation it brought to thousands of families throughout the Souris River Basin, the extraordinary leadership of local officials, the valiant efforts of residents and businesses, the outpouring of support, and the perseverance and determination of the region to rebuild.

On June 22, 2011, the sirens sounded in Minot signaling the mandatory evacuation of nearly a quarter of the city's residents. A wall of water was coming at us, and we knew the existing levees would be overtopped. Work continued around the clock on temporary, secondary levees to protect as much of the city as possible, but we knew thou-

sands of homes would be impacted by floodwaters. On June 23, the river overtopped the levees in Minot, spilling into neighborhoods and businesses. When the river finally peaked, it had surpassed the record set in 1881 by more than 3.5 feet and crested more than 12.5 feet above flood stage. While the flood damaged homes, businesses, schools, parks, the zoo, and many other things, it did not dampen the spirit of those in Minot and the surrounding communities or their resolve to rebuild.

In those days leading up to and following the flood, many Federal agencies were on the ground assisting the region with response and recovery. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency were there from the beginning, and both are still there today helping residents recover and repairing levees. Many other Federal agencies also provided critical support throughout the disaster. For that, we are forever grateful.

I also want to thank my colleagues for the disaster assistance provided through the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Economic Development Administration, and Emergency Relief to respond to this and other disasters in 2011. This funding is providing important resources for the region and a key part of its foundation for recovery.

The city of Minot and surrounding communities, including Burlington, Velva, and Sawyer, have come a long way since those dark days last year. While the recovery will continue for some time, I am so proud of the spirit and can-do attitude of all in the basin as they rebuild their communities.

Officials and residents will gather together this weekend to celebrate a "Weekend of Hope: Return to Oak Park." It will be a time for reflection on how far the region has come and to focus on the region's continuing recovery. Hope is guiding the region's recovery and ensuring that Minot, Burlington, and the other communities will be back better and stronger than ever.●

FULLERTON, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor an active community in North Dakota that will soon commemorate its 125th anniversary. From June 29 through July 1, the residents of Fullerton will be celebrating their community's history and founding.

The history of Fullerton is closely connected to early American history. Fullerton was founded in 1887 on land donated by Mr. Edwin F. Sweet, an investor from Michigan. Sweet, who later served as a U.S. Congressman and Assistant U.S. Secretary of Commerce for President Wilson and President Harding, named the town after his wife's family, the Fullers. The Fuller family ancestry includes Dr. Samuel Fuller, who arrived in America on the

Mayflower as a physician for the Plymouth Colony. Edwin and his wife Sophia named their first son after one of their ancestors, Charles Carroll, an original signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Fullerton's most famous landmark, the Carroll House, has a wonderful history and has been a focal point of the community from the time its doors opened in 1889. Built by Edwin Sweet and named after Edwin and Sophia's first son Carroll Fuller Sweet, the hotel's ballroom was the meeting spot for all town social gatherings, including concerts, gala balls, and church meetings. Through the years, the Carroll House has undergone extensive renovations and is now recognized as a national historic landmark. Visitors from all over the country stay at the Carroll House, and the hotel continues to host town events, like ice cream socials and silent auctions.

Fullerton is a fun and friendly community. The residents take great pride in their dining, recreation, hotel, and park facilities, in addition to their agricultural background. To celebrate the 125th anniversary, the community is holding an all-school reunion. Other planned activities for the weekend include the memorial tree planting ceremony, an all-community reunion banquet, a community choir concert, an apple pie contest, and a parade.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Fullerton, ND, and its residents on their 125th anniversary and in wishing them a warm future.●

MONROE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the community of Monroe, SD, on reaching the 125th Anniversary of its founding. This tightly knit community will have a chance to reflect on its past and contemplate its future. I congratulate the people of Monroe for reaching this milestone in their history.

The eastern South Dakota townsite that became Monroe was founded in 1887 while it was still the Dakota Territory. Its location along the Chicago and North Western Railroad fueled the town's growth, and it was incorporated as Monroe in 1901. The first building in the town was a grain house, which was soon followed by a general store, which included a post office. In the early 20th century Monroe experienced a great deal of development and growth and that energy is still evident to this day.

Monroe sought to preserve their spirit of togetherness by constructing a community center in 1990. The center houses the senior center and city office and was built using community funds and donations from the alumni of Monroe High School. Many events are held at the center, and it is a point of pride for the community.

The people of Monroe plan to commemorate their town's anniversary with many community events including a craft fair, poker run, all-school