

Shoshones, the Hidatsa, and sold to a French-Canadian trapper named Tous-saint Charbonneau. Charbonneau married Sacagawea and the two lived among the Mandan and Hidatsa tribes of the upper Missouri river in present-day North Dakota. When Lewis and Clark came to the area on their journey in November of 1804, they commissioned Charbonneau and Sacagawea, who was with child, to serve as interpreters. With the help and knowledge of Sacagawea, the Lewis and Clark expedition reached the Pacific Ocean in November of 1805.

It was reported that Sacagawea died on December 20, 1812, at Fort Manuel Lisa, which overlooked the Missouri River near the present-day city of Kenel, in Corson County, SD. John Luttig, the trading post's clerk, wrote: "This evening the wife of Charbonneau, a Snake Woman, died of a putrid fever. Aged about 25 years. She left an infant girl."

Though Sacagawea had a short and difficult life, her legacy still lives on. The celebration of her life also gives us a great opportunity to recognize the rich culture and heritage of our Native American tribes. As we bear in mind her life, death, and impact, I encourage everyone to join in also commemorating the unique culture of the indigenous peoples of the United States.

Later this month, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation will be holding their regional meeting in Fort Pierre, SD. The South Dakota Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Encounters on the Prairie, will be hosting this regional meeting which will be commemorating the 200th anniversary of Sacagawea's reported death. I am proud to speak about the rich piece of our Nation's history she was a part of. Her memory and the heritage in which she embodies, continues to inspire us in South Dakota and across the Nation.●

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 200th Anniversary of the reported death of Sacagawea within the borders of what is now South Dakota. At this time I would like to commemorate her for her contributions to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Sacagawea accompanied Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on the Northwestern Discovery Expedition to the Pacific Coast for the U.S. President Thomas Jefferson's Corps. In recognition of her service and bravery, the Central South Dakota Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, known as Keepers of the Story, Stewards of the Trail, are hosting a regional meeting September 28, 29, and 30, 2012. The meeting will be open to the public in the cities of Fort Pierre, Pierre, Mobridge, and Kenel, SD. To help commemorate the bicentennial of the reported death of Sacagawea, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation will travel to Fort Manuel Lisa.

The story of Sacagawea, while short, is one of great success and worthy of

remembrance. Her guidance and interpretation were vital to Lewis and Clark's journey. I hope my fellow colleagues will help me commemorate the 200th anniversary of the reported death of Sacagawea by recognizing her sacrifice and efforts.●

NATIONAL CITY, CALIFORNIA

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the 125th anniversary of National City, located in San Diego County, CA.

National City was founded in 1868 and incorporated on September 17, 1887, making it the second oldest city in San Diego County. The land on which it stands had earlier been an Indian rancheria, home of Apusquele band of the Hamacha tribe. In 1769 it had become one of the ranches used by the Mission San Diego de Alcalá, and the padres called it La Purísima Concepción.

In the late 19th century, National City pioneered the shipping and transportation systems for San Diego, constructing the area's first wharf and introducing the first transcontinental railroad terminus; the National City Depot, built in 1882, is the last one standing out of the original five transcontinental terminus railroad stations and is designated as a California historical landmark. Another local cultural treasure "Brick Row," built in 1887 is the only Philadelphia-style row housing in the southwestern United States and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, National City's 3-mile-long port along San Diego Bay is part of Naval Base San Diego, the largest U.S. Navy base on the west coast. In addition to its leading role as a naval gateway, National City is considered a symbolic link between San Diego and Mexico.

On September 22, residents of National City will gather for a citywide 125th anniversary picnic at Kimball Park. I congratulate the people of National City on this special occasion and salute their rich history and wonderful community spirit.●

REMEMBERING JOE GARLAND

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, last summer Massachusetts lost a gentleman, the fishing industry lost an icon and I lost a friend. For years Joe Garland served as the unofficial historian of Gloucester, MA—its fishermen, its boats and its life. If you visit the Fisherman's Memorial on Gloucester's waterfront on a stormy winter day, the statue of the Heroic Mariner seems to be steering the whole town into the wind toward fair weather. And if you look closely at the statue, you can almost see Joe Garland in its carved granite face, full of grit and determination, guiding his beloved Gloucester through headwinds and troubled waters.

He's been gone for more than a year now, but his memory lives on through his loving wife Helen, his family, his friends and through the continuing legacy of the schooner Adventure.

In my Boston office, I have a copy of his book about the Adventure, which he helped to restore. When I received it many years ago, it arrived with an invitation from Joe to tour the schooner and, of course, I didn't waste any time accepting his invitation. He welcomed me aboard, and his tour made the Adventure's history come alive—from its construction in 1926 through its career as a "highliner," the biggest money-maker of them all, landing nearly \$4 million worth of cod and halibut during her career.

As Joe himself once wrote, "The Adventure is a survivor, not a vision. She is here, real and beautiful . . . I can stand on those decks with the whole-sail breeze, arms hooked into the rigging, and watch her go, watch the miles bubble out from under the stern as they have done now for more than fifty [now nearing 100] years. She is fantastic!"

As we celebrate the historic restoration of the Adventure, and celebrate Joe's incredible life, I know that he is smiling down on us today, on what would have been his 90th birthday. Mr. President, the world weathers so many storms, but at the center of each we find people of character who revive our hope and give us strength. Joe Garland was such a man, and we are all blessed to have had his strength and his character as an example, and we are equally blessed that he left us with such a marvelous schooner, the Adventure, as an enduring reminder of his life.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID WOOD

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the career of David Wood, the founding Executive Director of Affordable Housing, Education and Development (AHEAD), Inc. in Littleton, New Hampshire. After over 20 years of hard work to make affordable housing and home ownership a reality for hundreds of NH families, David will step down from his position at the end of this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his remarkable commitment to helping those in need.

Since 1991, AHEAD has provided safe and affordable rental housing, family support, and financial education to thousands of people living in rural northern New Hampshire. Under David's direction, the organization now owns and operates 304 units of affordable multifamily rental housing in nine communities in our State. Furthermore, AHEAD has assisted more than 600 families buying their first homes and helped rescue another 250 households facing foreclosures.

AHEAD has received numerous awards over the last 20 years in recognition of the positive impact that David and his staff have brought to our

North Country. These accolades include the USDA Rural Development New Hampshire Partner of the Year in 2002, the Federal Home Loan Bank-Boston Partner of the Year, and the Citizens Bank Champion in Action in 2005.

In addition to his full-time responsibilities at AHEAD, David has served on the Board of the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority for 20 years, spending four of them as its chair. He has been an active member of the National Neighbor Works Association and spent 6 years on the Advisory Council for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston. David has also been a crucial voice in Housing Action New Hampshire's advocacy efforts to promote affordable housing across our State.

These impressive accomplishments demonstrate David's dedication to improving the lives of families in Coos and northern Grafton Counties. I am sure that David will modestly attribute this success to his talented and dedicated team of staff and supporters, but it was his vision for community development that led to the founding of AHEAD. His belief in stable families as the foundation of a vibrant community resulted in projects like the McKee Inn in Lancaster and Littleton Town & Country Family Housing. Because of his commitment to this cause, hundreds of families in New Hampshire now have access to safe, warm, and affordable homes.

Put simply, Mr. President, David has made New Hampshire a better place to live and raise a family. I know that the great energy and spirit with which he has led AHEAD for the past 20 years will endure at this enormously successful non-profit organization. I congratulate David on all his achievements and wish him the best in his retirement.●

RECOGNIZING BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MASSACHUSETTS

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the accomplishments of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA), a company that has provided affordable health insurance options for families in the Commonwealth for the past 75 years.

As our Nation's health care system has evolved, BCBSMA has remained a leader in the industry by focusing on the principles of service, leadership, and innovation. In fact, it was the first organization of its kind to offer statewide insurance coverage for hospitalization—providing all working families a financially realistic option so they could afford a hospital stay when it was needed. And decades later, BCBSMA was instrumental in helping to create several of the State's best-known health maintenance organizations (HMOs).

BCBSMA has been actively working to improve the health of their members through an innovative benefit design that focuses on prevention and customized wellness programs, encourages

community-based care, and improves care coordination.

Additionally, they have been national leaders in payment reform by designing an innovative model that has demonstrated the ability to improve the quality of patient care while simultaneously slowing the growth of health care spending. In 2008, BCBSMA created a new payment system called the Alternative Quality Contract (AQC). This model rewards physicians and hospitals for the quality and outcomes of the care they provide to patients. Providers receive a global budget for their patients and are responsible for any excessive spending and are rewarded for quality. This combination of the global budget and pay-for-performance incentives establishes provider accountability for both the quality and cost of care.

BCBSMA isn't just committed to its members; they are leaders in the community with a distinct focus on corporate citizenship and civic engagement. They spend countless hours working within the community to make a measurable and sustainable impact on issues such as child development, healthy environments, and family nutrition. During the last year, BCBSMA associates volunteered to perform more than 26,000 hours of community service throughout Massachusetts. In their tradition of supporting the work of not-for-profit organizations, BCBSMA is commemorating their 75th anniversary by providing grants to community stakeholders working to advance the health and nutrition of families facing economic hardship.

BCBSMA founded the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation in 2001, one of the largest health-focused private philanthropies in New England, to expand access to health care. The Foundation played an important role in the passage of Massachusetts health reform in 2006 by providing reliable data and objective analysis to policy-makers and convening stakeholders for sessions of public debate. Massachusetts now has the best health care coverage rate in the Nation with 98.1 percent of residents having health insurance, including 99.8 percent of all children.

Not only did BCBSMA work to expand health care coverage in the Commonwealth, they were a leader in the national effort to expand health care coverage to all Americans. BCBSMA was the only health plan in the Nation to file an amicus, or "friend of the court", brief in support of the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act when it was considered by the Supreme Court earlier this year. They believed the health reform law was critical to ensure that all Americans have the same health care benefits and protections that Massachusetts residents have known for years.

As we continue to implement the Affordable Care Act, I am confident that BCBSMA will be there every step of the way. They are rated among the na-

tion's best health plans for member satisfaction and quality and their commitment to both exceptional and affordable health care is clearly evident to their nearly three million members in Massachusetts.

I congratulate Andrew Dreyfus, President and Chief Executive Officer, and all the employees at BCBSMA who work together to advance the availability of quality health care on this remarkable milestone. I look forward to the innovation and leadership you will deliver over the next 75 years for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.●

RECOGNIZING THE LOWELL MILKEN CENTER

● Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the Lowell Milken Center's 2012 National Projects Kick-off. Located in Fort Scott, KS, the Lowell Milken Center discovers, develops, and communicates the stories of unsung heroes who have made a profound and positive difference on the course of history. The Lowell Milken Center was opened in 2007 as an international nonprofit organization focused on creating a better future by developing projects that teach respect and understanding. This approach has been built upon student-driven, project-based learning so that Americans and people around the world may learn that each of us has the responsibility and the power to take actions to improve the lives of others.

During its 6 years of operation, the center has hosted over 15,000 visitors and reached over 550,000 students in 5,000 schools by telling inspiring stories of unsung heroes to influence change in behaviors and attitudes. In May, I had the pleasure of visiting the Lowell Milken Center. During my visit, I was able to meet the center's visionary and founder Norm Conard and its program director Megan Felt. Both are outstanding Kansans who have helped shape the way we approach history and learning. Ms. Felt has been honored nationally and internationally for her projects with students, and she is the founder of the internationally acclaimed work, "Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project."

Irena Sendler was a devout Catholic who helped save the lives of 2,500 children during the Holocaust in Poland. She smuggled children out of a Warsaw ghetto and placed them with families not threatened by the Nazis. Toward the end of the war, she was arrested, severely beaten, and almost died for her actions to save these children.

In 1999, three high school students from Uniontown, KS, uncovered the remarkable story of Irena Sendler after Uniontown High School teacher Norm Conard tasked his students to compete in a National History Day contest. The students investigated an article published in 1994 mentioning Sendler and uncovered a heroic story that had gone virtually unreported. The students eventually met their hero and began exchanging letters.