

this community can trace its roots to the brave Pilgrims who came to the New World to secure freedom. Its first permanent settler was Stephen Smith, a soldier of the American Revolution who fought for freedom. When the town was incorporated in 1813, American independence was again under attack, and the town's name—first Smithtown, then Beaverhill Plantation—became Freedom.

Decades later, when the Civil War threatened to divide our Nation and condemn millions to continued slavery, many young men from the town enlisted in the Union Army to fight for the freedom of all. One of them, Daniel Franklin Davis, became the 37th governor of our great State of Maine.

And when the town's oldest citizen, Roy Ward, is recognized at the bicentennial celebration on July 5th, his friends and neighbors will honor his courageous Navy service during World War II in freedom's cause.

Through the years, the people who built this community demonstrated the qualities that make freedom possible—determination, energy, and self-reliance. They harnessed the waters of Sandy Stream to power mills for grain, lumber, and textiles. They turned the untilled soil into productive farms. In 1836, they established Freedom Academy, the first secondary school in their region and a milestone in the history of public education in Maine.

The energy that so many have devoted to this year's exciting bicentennial celebration is but one example of the spirit that has been nurtured there for two centuries. The restoration of such landmarks as the Stephen Smith gravesite and the Mill at Freedom Falls, and the dedication of the gazebo at Freedom Academy all demonstrate widespread commitment by the people of Freedom.

Thanks to those who came before, Freedom has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE WESTERN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

• Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to the Western Research Institute in Laramie, WY. On July 15 to 17, 2013, the Western Research Institute will be hosting the 50th Annual Petersen Asphalt Research Conference. This highly acclaimed international forum promotes understanding of how asphalt chemistry, physical properties and interactions affect the performance of asphalt applications throughout their life cycle.

In 1963, Dr. J. Claine Petersen organized the first asphalt research conference, emphasizing how the chemical and physical properties of asphalt affect its performance as pavement over time. In 1990, the name of the con-

ference was changed to honor Dr. Petersen's efforts. Dr. Petersen remains an active and vital participant in this event each year.

Partnering with a pavement performance prediction—P3—Symposium has enhanced the ability of the conference to “dive deep” on key topics. This year, the topic for the symposium is “Innovations and Issues in Pavement Preservation and Durability.” The symposium links researchers, highway officials, producers, and others with a need to understand how asphalts may perform in a given application over time.

The Federal Government typically provides between 75 and 90 percent of the costs of federally supported highway projects. Federally supported asphalt research has been proven to yield substantial cost savings and return on investment. The Petersen Asphalt Research Conference continues to enhance this Federal investment by advancing the understanding and production of state-of-the-art materials, which improve pavement performance, durability, and safety.

The Western Research Institute is a nationally recognized research center for transportation and energy projects. The annual Petersen Asphalt Research Conference is one more example of the institute's leadership in transportation and energy research. Congratulations, again, Western Research Institute, and Wyoming is looking forward to hosting many more in the years to come.●

CONGRATULATING CLARK HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Las Vegas' Ed W. Clark High School Science Olympiad Team. This group of outstanding high school students from my home State of Nevada recently accomplished something truly extraordinary in the area of environmental science by earning a first-place gold medal in the Science Olympiad National Tournament.

The National Science Olympiad Tournament brings together students from all over the country to test their skills in a variety of scientific disciplines. This year, the competition included nearly 6,000 top science students from across the United States, including 42 students from Clark High School in Las Vegas. Clark High School's Science Olympiad Team, led by students Michael Zhou and Zachary Shattler, and coaches Sidney Lupu, James Miller and Jeffrey Viggato, took first place in the water quality event of the competition, marking the first time any Nevada team has won a gold medal at this national event. It is especially noteworthy that this award was given in an area of science that is of particular interest to my home State of Nevada, namely water quality.

Without a doubt, this scholastic achievement was earned through significant effort and teamwork on the part of these exceptional students and

educators, and they have made the State of Nevada immensely proud. I congratulate Clark High School's Science Olympiad Team, and Principal Jillyn Pendleton and Assistant Principal Joseph Winfield, on earning this well-deserved recognition.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB BOWLES

• Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, today I wish to commend a distinguished Virginian, Bob Bowles, for his extensive contributions to the success of the Senate Productivity and Quality Award, SPQA, Program and many Virginia governmental, business, and nonprofit organizations.

In 1982, the Senate passed resolution 502 to promote the creation of State-sponsored programs to improve quality in industry. As part of an effort to fulfill resolution 502's vision, the U.S. Senate Productivity and Quality Award Program, or SPQA, was established to promote quality in Virginia organizations. SPQA is an all-volunteer organization with a mission to promote and recognize high-performance organizations in Virginia. Since its founding 30 years ago, SPQA has recognized more than 200 Virginia city and county organizations, businesses, and nonprofits for their pursuit of organizational excellence. Today, SPQA continues to provide training and an award challenge to thousands of individuals and organizations in the Commonwealth. I am proud to say it is the oldest continuously operating productivity and quality awards program in the United States.

Bob Bowles has served as director and executive director of SPQA since 1994. He has devoted thousands of volunteer hours to SPQA, and his leadership has paved the way for SPQA to continue accomplishing its mission for Virginia into the future. On behalf of the Senate and the people of Virginia, I thank Bob for his invaluable service to SPQA and the Commonwealth.●

CLAIRE CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of the founding of Claire City, SD. The charming town of Claire City can be found in the northeastern corner of South Dakota, in Roberts County.

In 1913, a group of local farmers donated their land to establish the town site of Claire City. The town was named for one of the early organizer's wives, Edith Claire Feeney.

Before construction of the railroad, farmers in the area had to haul their grain greater distances, to Sisseton or Ligerwood. The railroad in Claire City became essential to the growth of the town. Securing the funding and the labor necessary to complete the railroad was a true collective effort. Much of the money came from local farmers and businessmen who bought stock. Early residents labored tirelessly with

the aid of horses to build the track. During this time, many of the women of Claire City would sell meals from their homes to help feed weary railroad workers.

After the railroad was completed in the fall of 1913, the town flourished, and many small businesses opened. By the 1930s, Claire City had a grocery store, meat market, drug and general store, a live stable, barbershop, bank, pool hall, and a hardware store. On weekend nights in the summers of the 1930s and 1940s, residents could catch a free movie and businesses stayed open until midnight. When the weather started to get colder, residents could watch a movie at the town hall for only ten cents.

Residents of Claire City plan to celebrate their centennial this weekend with a full schedule of fun activities that engage the community. Friday night there will be a large supper at the community center, accompanied by dancing and live music. Saturday there will be a number of outdoor activities, including a tractor pull, parade, and rides for children and adults alike. Sunday finishes up the celebration with a church service and brunch served at Deano's.

Claire City embodies the values that make South Dakota a great State. The hard work and determination of its residents, past and present, have made it possible for Claire City to reach its centennial anniversary. I congratulate Claire City on reaching this milestone, and I wish the residents the best in their future endeavors.●

WHITEWOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of Whitewood, SD. Located in Lawrence County, Whitewood is a tightly knit community, known for its rich history and hardworking people.

In 1877, the Pioneer Townsite Company bought an orchard from William Selbie, one of the early settlers of the Black Hills. This land would become the town of Whitewood, and was incorporated in 1888. The new town enjoyed trade from settlers to the north, as it was one of the few towns in existence at the time. Settlers came into town for machinery, feed, food, mail, as well as to ship their wool and livestock. In the early years, Whitewood was a hub of agricultural trade, particularly for wheat.

A railroad terminal opened in 1905 to accommodate the increase in commercial activity. Along with the railroad terminal, a water tank, coal chute, roundhouse, and a section house offered many jobs to town residents.

Whitewood is looking forward to celebrating its quasiquintennial anniversary. The last weekend of June will be packed with many activities that will bring the community together as they celebrate their humble beginnings. Festivities include children's

games at Memorial Park, a 5 kilometer run, a roast pig barbeque, and a historically themed parade through the town.

Whitewood was founded by a group of pioneers with an enterprising spirit. One hundred and twenty-five years after its founding, Whitewood continues to be a vibrant community and a great asset to the State of South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Whitewood on this memorable occasion.●

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH DAKOTA WHEAT GROWERS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the South Dakota Wheat Growers as it celebrates its 90th anniversary. Over the years, the Wheat Growers has faithfully served member-owners by promoting integrity through business transactions, providing customers with reliable markets, and practicing sustainability through the best applications of science and technology. The Wheat Growers aims to meet the food challenges our world faces by coupling the expertise of farmers in the Dakotas with state-of-the-art technology and facilities to improve production agriculture capabilities.

The Wheat Growers was established in 1923 as a response to widespread farm bankruptcies caused by depressed wheat prices. Through their collaboration and commitment to serving South Dakota farmers, the Wheat Growers endured the Great Depression and has since expanded its grain storage capacity and farming supply services. It continues to develop its industry as it seeks new opportunities for expansion and value-added potential for producers.

Today, the Wheat Growers serves 5,400 member-owners in eastern North and South Dakota, markets 160 million bushels annually, and operates in 37 locations. I would like to thank the Leadership Team, the Board, and delegates of the Wheat Growers who have committed their time and energy to helping member-owners succeed in agricultural production. On behalf of the State of South Dakota, I am honored to have this opportunity to congratulate the South Dakota Wheat Growers for 90 successful years of service in providing a healthy market for producers and consumers. Congratulations to the Wheat Growers as it celebrates its 90th anniversary in Aberdeen, SD, on Friday, June 28th.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO TERMINATE THE DESIGNATION OF BANGLADESH AS A BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRY UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) PROGRAM—PM 15

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)), I am providing notification of my intent to suspend the designation of Bangladesh as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. Section 502(b)(2)(G) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b)(2)(G)) provides that the President shall not designate any country a beneficiary developing country under the GSP if such country has not taken or is not taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights in the country (including any designated zone in that country). Section 502(d)(2) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(d)(2)) provides that, after complying with the requirements of section 502(f)(2) of the 1974 Act, the President shall withdraw or suspend the designation of any country as a beneficiary developing country if, after such designation, the President determines that as the result of changed circumstances such country would be barred from designation as a beneficiary developing country under section 502(b)(2) of the 1974 Act.

Pursuant to section 502(d) of the 1974 Act, having considered the factors set forth in section 502(b)(2)(G), I have determined that it is appropriate to suspend Bangladesh's designation as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program because it is not taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights to workers in the country.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 27, 2013.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1238. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the current reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans for 1 year, to modify required distribution rules for pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1241. A bill to establish the interest rate for certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.