

were accustomed to seafaring. Master Commandant Oliver Hazard 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, Master Commandant Perry resorted to paddling a rowboat with a banner that read "Don't Give up the Ship." He then boarded the USS 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 Executive Mansion—which we now know as 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 one 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 they 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 by more than 1,600 cannonballs, the American defenders refused to yield, and the British were forced to end the Chesapeake Campaign and withdraw.

During the British 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 had 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 M'Henry," which was published in the Baltimore Patriot & 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.

I am proud that Maryland will lead the Star-Spangled 200 celebration, a 3-year celebration that began with Baltimore's "Sailabration" in June 2012. The Navy's Blue Angels treated more than 1.5 million spectators to dazzling air shows; the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra premiered the "Overture for 2012," composed by Philip Glass; and forty-six tall ships and naval warships from around the world anchored in the Inner Harbor, open for public tours. Through the course of 2014, Maryland will host numerous events along the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail to commemorate the Chesapeake Campaign, and at the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine to celebrate the bicentennial of the Battle of Baltimore. This weekend, the Star-Spangled Spectacular celebration will conclude with a fireworks display over Fort McHenry that Francis Scott Key would be proud of. These ceremonies are an opportunity to showcase to the world that Maryland is an exceptional place with a rich, colorful, and important history.

I am also proud that the U.S. Senate unanimously adopted a resolution I sponsored in the 112th Congress—S. Res. 388—to mark the beginning of the bicentennial of the War, 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.

The Senate may soon consider another resolution I have sponsored, along with my colleagues, the senior Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the junior Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), to commemorate the bicentennial of the Battle of Baltimore and the creation of the Star-Spangled Banner, which officially became our national anthem in 1931. As we recognize all of these ongoing ef-

forts 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.

RECOGNIZING PAM HAZE

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I honor the distinguished career of Pamela K. Haze, who retired from the U.S. Department of the Interior this past August after 34 years of Federal service.

Ms. Haze served as the Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition for the past 5 years. Her most recent position was the culmination of many years of experience working in various capacities within the Department's budget office. Her career prior to that time was spent in other bureaus of the Department, where Pam worked as a biologist and hydrologist, and served in other management roles with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

As the primary liaison between the Department and the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations, Pam has been an indispensable and trusted adviser. I have had the good fortune as chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to both work and travel with Pam, most notably on a trip to Alaska that included our subcommittee's ranking member, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, and former Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. I have witnessed firsthand Pam's dedication to the Department's mission. She has worked tirelessly with me and my staff during the annual appropriations process and we have steadily relied on Pam's vast store of knowledge and keen insights to help resolve challenges that have arisen over the years.

The appropriations process simply would not be the same without her and the dedication, wisdom, and the good humor she brought to her work. I join with many in wishing her all the best as she begins a well-deserved retirement.

BETHEL MURDOCH CHURCH BICENTENNIAL

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I wish to recognize the Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church as it celebrates its 200th anniversary. The Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church was founded in Warren County, OH, by a small group of faithful and passionate Christians.

In 1814, the Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church began when 12 pioneer settlers to Warren County first met in a maple grove to worship. The location of their first meeting spot is the site of the Murdoch Cemetery, where many of the early members are buried. The congregation's current home is a 140-year-

old church building that was built with the financial assistance of James Murdoch, a well-known Shakespearean actor at the time.

On September 14, 2014, the church will be holding a Service of Celebration, during which this small but strong congregation will celebrate the anniversary of the church and all the good that it has brought to the community.

I would like to personally extend my congratulations to the Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church on 200 years of faith, service and worship.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE MCKINSEY

• Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I wish to honor Mrs. Jackie McKinsey of Springfield, MO, for her dedication and service to the Ozarks Technical Community College, locally known as OTC. Twenty-four years ago, McKinsey became a founding member of the board of trustees as the school began operations. McKinsey has been a guiding force in OTC's evolution into the dynamic school it is today, providing a wide range of technical, highly sophisticated curricula for post-secondary education for more than 14,000 students. Since 1990, OTC has transitioned into a modern campus with a series of new facilities in Springfield and the construction of a second campus with three additional education centers.

McKinsey led the search committee that resulted in the hiring of the current school president, Dr. Hal Higdon, in 2006. She has served in every office on the board of trustees, including chairperson, and has been a tireless advocate for community colleges in Missouri.

In fact, Jackie McKinsey has dedicated her life to activism in education. For 12 years she was a member of the Springfield School Board and spent 2 years on the Missouri School Board Association. She also served on the Missouri Special Education Advisory Board for 20 years. In 1996, she was appointed by the Governor to the Missouri Women's Council. Mrs. McKinsey is an experienced mediator and has served as a trained hearing officer in cases between parents of special education students and schools districts.

Jackie McKinsey announced her retirement last summer, and the board of trustees honored her with the title of trustee emeritus. McKinsey is the fifth individual to receive this honor, joining other founding trustees Dolores Brooks, Don Clinkenbeard, Frank Farmer, and Don Wessel. This team of Springfieldians gave OTC the steady direction to be a successful open admission, 2-year college dedicated to technical education. Offering students the opportunity to earn a 1-year certificate, a 2-year associate of applied science degree, A.A.S., or an associate of arts degree, A.A., OTC is now widely

praised for its professional faculty and diverse curriculum. I wish Jackie McKinsey all the best in this next chapter.

Jackie McKinsey has played a major role in that success, and her legacy will continue to impact future generations through the foundations she help put in place at OTC. I wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement.●

RECOGNIZING THE SPRINGFIELD LASERS

• Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, Philadelphia, PA; Boston, MA; Washington, DC; San Diego, CA; Austin and Irving, TX; and Springfield, MO, are the seven cities represented by teams in the World Team Tennis, WTT, league. For the second year in a row, the Washington Kastles and the Springfield Lasers met in the Mylan WTT finals. With similar results as 2013, the Kastles prevailed at the Springfield home court, Mediacom Stadium in the Cooper Tennis Complex. The Springfield Lasers were the WTT Western Conference champions in 1999, 2001, and 2009. This year's Springfield squad, led by head coach John-Laffnie de Jager, made the finals with a changing roster of 12 different players rotating in and out of 4 spots on the team.

The Springfield Lasers are a remarkable story. The franchise was purchased and donated to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board in 1996 by the Cooper family, who also donated funds for the municipal tennis complex. The complex includes 12 indoor tennis courts and 16 outdoor courts, including the center court stadium used for WTT events.

Now preparing for their 20th season, the Lasers are one of the oldest teams in the WTT league, and Springfield, by far, is the smallest market in the 40-year-old tennis league. However, the Lasers play in front of big crowds—an average of more than 1,400 turned out for the first six home matches this season. The James Blake-Andy Roddick match drew more than 2,400 spectators.

Harry and John Cooper and family continue to support the team as their biggest fans. The new Lasers' general manager, Paul Nahon, Jr., has worked on building a fan base with a growing demand for season tickets. Nahon has hinted at more innovations to grow that base for the upcoming 2015 season.

The Springfield Lasers continue to make the State of Missouri proud with their success, and I wish them many more years of great tennis, growing and building the fan base for tennis in my hometown.●

CONGRATULATING ELVIRA CENOZ

• Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I wish to congratulate Elvira Cenoz on her retirement from the Overland Hotel in Gardnerville, NV. Despite the name, the Overland is not actually a hotel, but one of the finest places for a traditional Basque meal in Nevada.

Since its construction in 1908, the Overland Hotel has been a stopping point for many travelers making their way through Nevada. Conveniently situated on America's First Transcontinental Highway, the Lincoln Highway, the Overland Hotel has a long history of welcoming local ranchers, politicians, civic leaders, and weary travelers. The Overland Hotel has since become a place for the Basque culture to be celebrated in Gardnerville. Nevada has a proud Basque history, and the Overland Hotel and Saloon embodies that long and rich tradition. The Basque people originally settled in Nevada due to our proud ranching traditions. Their hearty cooking and family-centric meals quickly became a staple of Nevada's local cuisine.

The Overland Hotel is known throughout the State and to all of its patrons for its authentic Basque cuisine and charm, which is greatly attributed to Elvira and her late husband Eusebio Cenoz. Eusebio bought the Overland Hotel in 1972 after many years as a sheep herder. He and Elvira were married in 1980, and she joined her husband to run the restaurant. She soon worked her way back to the kitchen, where she has remained until her retirement this year. Her love of cooking is exemplified in the menu of the Overland Hotel, which changes daily. The Overland Hotel is not just known for its great food, but also for its friendly service, further embodying the spirit of the Silver State. Patrons are often pleasantly surprised when Elvira herself greets them warmly at their table and takes their orders.

Throughout her years owning and operating the Overland Hotel, Elvira has demonstrated a commitment to preserving and sharing the Basque tradition. I am both humbled and honored by her many years of hard work and am proud to call her a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Cenoz on her much deserved retirement.●

CONGRATULATING JUAN GUZMAN

• Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I congratulate Juan Guzman on his retirement from his career as Carson City's open space manager. As a longtime resident of Carson City, I have had the pleasure of getting to know and work with Juan and have seen the impact his contributions have made within the Carson community. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate him on his retirement after 14 years of hard work and dedication to the Silver State.

Juan, a native of Puerto Rico, earned his degree in geography from the University of Puerto Rico and then went on to complete his graduate studies in the geography department with an emphasis on urban studies at the University of California. Upon the completion of his studies, Juan began his career as a planner in California. After a trip to