

again was simple: The law is working well, but it needs more funding to keep up with rising costs and a growing senior population. We must protect and expand funding for these important programs.

The simple fact is the amount of funding dedicated for these important programs is a disgrace. As a point of comparison, while funding for other programs has risen by 11 percent since 2009, Older Americans Act funding has dropped 7 percent over that same time. Funding for these crucial programs has not even kept up with inflation. That is why, for the past several years, I have led an appropriations request letter asking for a 12 percent increase in funding for the Older Americans Act. A 12 percent increase would make a meaningful difference for states struggling to provide services to their growing senior populations.

Some of the most important and well-known services funded by the Older Americans Act are the meals programs, often provided by Meals on Wheels. A Government Accountability Office, GAO, report I requested last year found that fewer than 10 percent of low-income seniors who needed a meal delivered to their homes in 2013 received one. The study also found that one in three low-income seniors are "food insecure," yet fewer than 5 percent receive a meal at home or at a senior center. That is unacceptable.

Investing in senior nutrition programs is not only the moral thing to do, it is the financially smart thing to do. Proper nutrition can keep people out of long-term care and emergency rooms. Meal delivery is also a good opportunity for visiting with an isolated senior who might otherwise go days without seeing another person.

Another critical OAA program is the Senior Community Service Employment Program, SCSEP, which provides job training and employment services for older adults. Seniors are matched with part-time jobs at organizations in the community and many times these positions turn into permanent employment, increasing seniors' financial security.

Senior centers are another important way the Older Americans Act supports the needs of seniors in our communities. The reauthorization includes some policy changes to modernize senior centers to help ensure people are taking part in activities like group meals, afternoon activities, and exercise classes.

Another crucial service I strongly hope receives full funding is the Senior Medicare Patrol Program, SMP, which helps protect seniors and their families from health care fraud, errors, and abuse. We have bipartisan agreement that this is an important, cost-saving program, and if Congress does not appropriate sufficient funding for SMP, then those funds should be distributed from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program so the program does not experience a cut.

I am pleased that this title II of this bill continues funding for several important resource and information centers, including the Pension Counseling Program and the National Education and Resource Center on Women and Retirement Planning. These programs serve older adults across the nation by providing much-needed information on pensions, retirement issues, and avoiding poverty and financial fraud.

The number of Americans age 60 and over will grow from about 65 million today to 92 million by 2030. Our most vulnerable populations need to see that we care and are here to serve and support them.

Funding must keep up with the increases we see in the cost of living for seniors, including housing, food, transportation, and prescription drugs. The Older Americans Act reauthorization had the unanimous consent of all Senate and House Members and committed to a 7 percent increase in funding over the next 3 years. I am hopeful my colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee will use their authority to continue to meet or exceed this funding goal for these critically important programs. I will continue to advocate strongly for these funding increases.

The truth is that the priorities we hold—treating seniors with respect, making sure seniors have the support they need—have the overwhelming support of the American people. These principles are among the foundations of a just and fair society where people look forward to growing old. I thank my Senate and House colleagues for their support of this important reauthorization bill and President Obama for signing it into law. I am pleased to recognize the anniversary of the passage of the Older Americans Act today.

95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, July 9, 2016, marked the 95th anniversary of the enactment of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, legislation that has changed the lives of thousands of native Hawaiians in the State of Hawaii.

This legislation was made possible by the vision of Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole.

After the annexation of Hawaii, Prince Kuhio continued to serve his people as Hawaii's second delegate in Congress.

When Prince Kuhio took office in 1902, he was determined to improve the lives of native Hawaiians. Although he served as a nonvoting delegate, he championed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to create a trust of nearly 200,000 acres of land that previously belonged to the monarchs of the Hawaiian Kingdom. By setting aside this land, Congress intended to ensure the livelihood of native Hawaiians, whose population had been reduced from as many as, according to some estimates, 800,000 prior to 1778 to a little over 20,000 by 1920.

In a letter that Prince Kuhio circulated to the Senate in 1920, he shared the results of an extensive investigation and survey that noted the exceedingly high mortality rate of native Hawaiians. The survey justified the need to return native Hawaiians to the land, to reconnect with their sense of place, and elevate their well-being by providing stable housing and opportunities to improve their livelihood. Prince Kuhio shepherded the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act through both the House and Senate, and President Warren Harding signed the bill into law on July 9, 1921.

In 1924, the first homestead in Kalamaula on the island of Molokai became home to 42 Native Hawaiians who began harvesting vegetables and raising animals to sell at local markets.

Today nearly 10,000 Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and their families live on agricultural, pastoral, or residential homestead lots in over 60 communities across Hawaii.

With Hawaii's admission into the Union in 1959, the State of Hawaii was tasked with administering the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, a responsibility primarily led by the State's Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. At the Federal level, Congress has continued to live up to its commitments to the Hawaiian community, first established by the HHCA, through continued funding for programs focused on planning, development, housing construction, and home loan programs to support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in its mission, as well as home loans and guarantees to support Hawaiian Homes beneficiaries.

On the 95th anniversary of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, we recognize and thank Prince Kuhio for his vision and sincere aloha for the well-being of Native Hawaiians.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act has made a difference in thousands of lives and set the foundation for acknowledging the trust relationship between the Native Hawaiian community and the Federal Government. Today the Federal Government continues this trust relationship by providing funds to support housing, health care, education, and other resources for the benefit of the Native Hawaiian community.

However, there is still much to be done to assist Hawaii's indigenous population. I will continue to work with Congress, the executive branch, the State of Hawaii, and the Native Hawaiian community to not only safeguard Prince Kuhio's landmark legislation and legacy, but to ensure it, and the community he worked so hard to assist, will continue to thrive.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL, during its 75th anniversary year.

MacDill's humble start began during its construction when aircrews of the 29th Bomber Group landed their B-17 Flying Fortress bombers on a nearby dirt airstrip in farmer John Drew's fields after flying antisubmarine patrols in the Gulf of Mexico. Later named Drew Field, this strip is now known as Tampa International Airport.

Formally dedicated on April 16, 1941, MacDill was primarily known for training bomber aircrews of the III Bomber Command. Intrepid but inexperienced crews learning to fly B-26 Marauder bombers at MacDill were glad of Tampa's warm climate when ditching their aircraft in the waters surrounding the field. The regularity of this occurrence prompted air crews to jokingly coin the phrase "Once a day in Tampa Bay."

MacDill proved its strategic significance during World War II as an anti-submarine patrol and air defense base home to B-24A Liberators of the 44th Bomber Group and Seversky P-35 aircraft of the 53rd Pursuit Group. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, MacDill again displayed its geographical importance, serving as a prime location for staging B-47 Stratojet and B-52 Stratofortress bomber aircraft.

Transitioning from a primarily bomber base once home to the famed B-17 Memphis Belle, MacDill became a Tactical Air Command installation flying the F-84 Thunderstreak jet fighter. From the 1960s through the early 1980s, F-4 Phantom II fighters filled its skies, followed by F-16 Fighting Falcons in the 1980s and 1990s. The base is now an Air Mobility Command installation, home to the 6th Air Mobility Wing and its 310th Airlift Squadron and the 91st Air Refueling Squadron.

MacDill is also home to the headquarters of two of the U.S. military's unified combatant commands: U.S. Central Command, whose area of operations encompasses the Middle East and parts of North Africa and Central Asia, and U.S. Special Operations Command, tasked with oversight of the component special operations units of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

Non-Department of Defense tenants of MacDill Air Force Base include the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center, which operates the NOAA "Hurricane Hunter" fleet of WP-3D Orion and Gulfstream V aircraft. The U.S. Department of Agriculture also conducts its antimedfly operations out of MacDill.

More than 13,000 military and civilian personnel are involved in operations at MacDill, and the surrounding community is home to approximately 170,000 retirees who use health and welfare services on the base. MacDill is a vital economic driver for the Tampa Bay area and is not only a source of jobs for the community, but also a welcome source of pride in our Nation's Armed Forces.

I am confident that MacDill Air Force Base will remain an important strategic installation for our military and continue to play an important role in protecting the safety of Floridians and all Americans. I am proud to honor its 75 great years of service.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEST BUY

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to speak to honor the 50th anniversary of Best Buy.

Best Buy was founded in 1966 as a stereo store called the Sound of Music in St. Paul, MN. Since then, it has grown from that one store into a Fortune 100 company with over 1,000 locations across the U.S., as well as Canada and Mexico.

In 1966, Richard M. Schultze—a Minnesota native and former member of the Minnesota Air National Guard—and Gary Smoliak opened the Sound of Music on the corner of Hamline and St. Clair Avenues in St. Paul. By 1969, Schultze assumed sole control of the company, which had grown to three stores and was listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market.

Then in 1981, disaster and inspiration struck. The Sound of Music store located in Roseville, MN, was hit by a tornado which tore the roof off the building and destroyed the showroom. Schultze showed the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit characteristic of Minnesota. He decided to have a "tornado sale" in the Roseville's store's parking lot and promised "best buys" on everything. Needless to say, the sale was a success.

The Sound of Music was renamed Best Buy Company, Inc., in 1983 and had grown to seven stores and \$10 million in annual sales. Later that year, Best Buy opened its first megastore in Burnsville, MN.

By 1992, Best Buy had reached \$1 billion in revenues. In 1999, Best Buy was added to the Standard and Poor's 500 index. Best Buy has consistently been one of the Minnesota-headquartered companies in the Fortune 500 and currently ranks 71st on the Fortune 500 nationally. And Best Buy was named company of the year by Forbes in 2004.

So why do people shop at Best Buy? Maybe it is because they have updated their showrooms and a commission-free salesforce. Or maybe it is the wide range of products, interactive touchscreens kiosks and the demonstration areas for home theater systems and computer software. Best Buy also pioneered the concept of specialized in-store customer service areas by establishing a Geek Squad unit in each store.

Best Buy has also been a good corporate citizen in Minnesota. Since 2007, Best Buy Company has generously given over \$50 million and over 140,000 volunteer hours to Minnesota nonprofits. And they don't just care about

people, they also care about the planet. Best Buy operates the largest retail consumer electronics and e-waste recycling collection program in the U.S. Over 1 billion pounds of recycling has been handed over to certified recyclers helping to keep the environment clean. Best Buy has also been named to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency top-100 list of green-power purchasers.

• Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I join my colleague in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Best Buy.

Best Buy's innovation and leadership has turned a once small, Minnesota company into the successful and responsible multinational corporation it is today. They are a vital component of the Minnesota economy and integral to our communities, and in celebration of their anniversary, I would like to take some time to recognize their important work to tackle one of the most pressing issues facing our society today: climate change.

Climate change is a very serious threat to our planet, and Best Buy has risen to the challenge by taking proactive steps to reduce their carbon footprint. They have joined with other major American companies in signing the White House's American Business Act on Climate Pledge. As part of the pledge, Best Buy has committed to reducing carbon emissions in their operations by 45 percent of 2009 levels by 2020, which builds on the 26 percent emissions reduction they have already achieved. As a company committed to delivering sustainable technology solutions, Best Buy also committed to continue offering an assortment of energy-efficient products to help consumers reduce their carbon footprint, too. Best Buy's pledge represents a collaboration between government and industry to address climate change and take serious action now.

They have also taken steps to protect our environment by helping consumers responsibly dispose of their electronic goods. Their recycling program has grown into the largest retail recycling program in the nation and, to date, has processed over 1 billion pounds of consumer electronic devices and appliances. Their dedication to sustainable practices has a meaningful impact on the future of our planet.

Best Buy's continued excellence serves as a model to other businesses throughout the State and across the Nation, and I congratulate them on 50 years of business.

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I thank my colleague for his statement and agree.

Best Buy started with one store in St. Paul 50 years ago. It is now a multinational company with 125,000 employees who give back to their communities and work to reduce the impact of used electronics on the environment.

For 50 years, Best Buy has brought the latest consumer technology and electronics products and services to its customers and remains a proud Minnesota company. That is why I am proud to honor Best Buy. •