

"In the future, there will be several \$50 million to \$100 million exits here," Mr. Lane said, "along with other larger ones mixed in."

He credits Vermont's community and socially conscious spirit with his success. "We didn't buy the philosophy that we had to be in a hot spot," said Mr. Lane, who returned to Vermont after working in Cambridge, Mass. "Even Zuckerberg realized that he could have been anywhere to build Facebook."

That can-do spirit also inspired Marguerite Dibble, 26, who began her firm GameTheory while she was still a student at Champlain College. Its mission is to use gaming to inspire behavior changes, such as teaching teens financial literacy.

"In Burlington, I can call anyone and learn from their experience," said Ms. Dibble, who was born in a small Vermont town with no ZIP code. "The degrees of separation are lessened here. There's a shared Vermontiness."

The energy to power GameTheory's innovation comes from Burlington's green grid, which is owned by the city. The state has long been one of the country's greenest. But in 2014, Burlington upped the ante by turning only to wind, water and biomass to power the city—one of the first cities in the nation to do so. There are also incentives for reducing energy. Landlords, for example, can choose to have free energy audits, and more than 100 have done so.

Other Burlington businesses also work hard to save energy on their own. Seventh Generation, which makes environmentally conscious household products and was founded in Burlington, gives its employees bonuses for helping reduce greenhouse gases. Like many other companies in Burlington, Seventh Generation also aims to be socially responsible and was formed as a B Corp, which means it has to meet social, environmental, accountability and transparency standards.

With this focus on energy efficiency, the city's electricity rates have not risen in eight years, said Neale Lunderville, general manager of the Burlington Electric Department. "And there are no rate increases on the horizon," he said, "since we're not chasing the next kilowatt-hour."

Electric cars even have their own parking spaces with chargers.

Burlington will eventually become a net-zero city, said the mayor, Miro Weinberger. "Our isolation promotes a commitment to pride and place," he said.

The city that helped propel Senator Bernie Sanders also has its own nonprofit urban farm called the Intervale Center. The land was once an abandoned dumping ground with old tires and cars. That space now contains 350 acres with bee hives, commercial farms, greenhouses and other projects. Through its food hub, local foods are delivered to area businesses and individuals.

Intervale's farm incubator, a five-year program, even teaches new farmers the ropes, said Travis Marcotte, executive director of Intervale Center. "They then transition out of the Intervale," he said, "So we're spinning off whole farms."

It is a hopeful message, Mr. Marcotte said.

MAKE THE LAW WORK FOR EVERYONE WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, the constituencies in North Carolina are as varied as any in America. I am honored to represent America's largest Army Post—Fort Bragg—as well as 45 percent of the U.S. Marine Corps at Camp

Lejeune and Cherry Point. Because of their presence and our proud military tradition, by 2020, one in every nine North Carolinians will be a veteran. We are also home to outstanding companies that serve our disabled citizens like the Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind. The confluence of these two communities—veterans and services for the disabled—and how each is treated by the Federal Government is of particular concern to me.

For decades, both the general disabled community and the disabled veterans' community have existed in a harmonious balance when it came to securing jobs and competitive contracts with the Federal Government. The Javits Wagner O'Day Act of 1938, the AbilityOne Program, and the Veterans Benefits, Health Insurance, and Information Technology Act of 2006 assist Americans who are blind, citizens with severe disabilities, and our U.S. military veterans through leveraging the procurement power of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. Unfortunately, the recent Kingdomware Technologies, Inc. v. United States Supreme Court ruling reinterpreted these acts to preclude certain disabled groups from bidding for jobs and business with the Department of Veterans Affairs. These are not laws designed to build barriers to stop disabled veterans from bidding for work outside of the Veterans Administration or the blind for bidding for work within the VA, but that is what has happened.

I am asking my colleagues in Congress to take another look at this situation. Level the playing field. These laws should continue their mutual co-existence by maintaining set-aside opportunities that create sustainable employment opportunities for the 70 percent of blind or severely disabled Americans who are seeking jobs, in addition to competitive contract opportunities for veterans who take the initiative to start their own small businesses. Let's get this right.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MARION COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Marion County, AR, on becoming the first Purple Heart County in Arkansas on November 15, 2015.

Created by George Washington in 1782, the Purple Heart is our Nation's oldest military medal. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded or killed in combat. These men and women are some of the finest heroes that our Nation has to offer.

Last year, Marion County chose to honor the service and sacrifice of our Purple Heart heroes in Arkansas by becoming the first Purple Heart County in Arkansas. Marion County's unwavering support of the heroic actions of

our Purple Heart recipients stands as a reflection of the appreciation and gratitude of its residents.

Marion County recently held a celebration of its designation as Arkansas' first Purple Heart County that brought the community together to honor Purple Heart recipients. Showing our admiration for those who have served and sacrificed so much for our freedom is such a worthy endeavor, and this recognition is well deserved.

On behalf of all Arkansans, I echo the sentiments of the citizens of Marion County in saying how grateful we are for our veterans and their willingness to serve their country. There truly is no greater display of service and sacrifice than that.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud Marion County for publicly recognizing our veterans and Purple Heart recipients by becoming Arkansas' first Purple Heart County. Arkansas is proud that our local communities are paying respect to our veterans and standing behind them.●

RECOGNIZING CRAWFORD COUNTY ADULT EDUCATION CENTER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Crawford County Adult Education Center as it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Founded in 1966, the Crawford County Adult Education Center offers ongoing learning opportunities and helps prepare students for career advancement, postsecondary education, technological innovation, and life enrichment. Among many other services, the center offers classes in computer literacy, English as a Second Language, and citizenship, as well as courses that allow adult learners to earn their GED. It also provides students the opportunity to take college-level classes through Vincennes University.

While we strive to give our children the best educational opportunities available, it is important to recognize that some people in our communities are forced to put their educations on hold for various reasons. Adult education programs are an important resource in helping these individuals to better themselves, continue their educational development, seek out tools to help them advance in their careers, or learn new skills.

The Crawford County Adult Education Center lives up to those responsibilities and then some. It has helped many Crawford County residents realize their full potential and pursue their dreams.

It is never too late for anybody to set new goals or invest in themselves through continued education. As many who have benefitted from the services of the adult education center in Crawford County have attested, the excellent staff and volunteers play such a vital role in providing opportunities to citizens in all stages of life. Additionally, the results of the center's high-quality services and programs speak for themselves.

Let me again reiterate my gratitude for the wonderful work that the Crawford County Adult Education Center does each day. I congratulate the center on achieving this milestone as it celebrates 50 years of service, and I look forward to hearing many more success stories as a result of the center's ongoing work.●

RECOGNIZING THE IDAHO STATE POLICE

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in honoring the Idaho State Police, ISP, of Meridian, ID, for being selected as a recipient of the 2016 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, known as the Freedom Award.

The U.S. Department of Defense indicates that the Freedom Award is the highest recognition it gives to employers for "exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees." The ISP is one of only 15 employers chosen this year for this national recognition out of the 2,424 nominations submitted by National Guard and Reserve Servicemembers. U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter stated, "Without the unfaltering support of employers like them, the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve would not be able to fulfill their vital roles in our National Security Strategy." The Freedom Award has been given to 220 employers over the past 20 years.

Guard and Reserve members or their family members nominate employers for the Freedom Award. This makes the award especially meaningful, as nominators have direct knowledge of their treatment at work. The Department reported that Army National Guard Sgt. Sara Breckon, who suffered a concussion during Active-Duty training, nominated the ISP for this year's award. She described to the Department how her supervisor went the extra mile working with her medical team to assist with her progressive return to work, successful therapy, and recovery. Her coworkers also assisted by donating 80 hours of personal leave so she could receive her pay. Sergeant Breckon told the department, "It is a privilege to work for ISP as they set the bar for all leaders in the military and civilian sectors."

The Department of Defense also noted that the Idaho State Police actively recruits Guardsmen and Reservists through the Hero2Hired program, and 18 percent of the Idaho State Police workforce has served or is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The ISP joins a group of four Idaho employers selected for the award since the Freedom Award was established.

Being recognized as a great employer of Guardsmen and women and Reservists is a distinct accomplishment. We commend the Idaho State Police for setting a model leadership standard. The men and women who serve in the Guard and Reserve and their families

give immensely of their time and talents to serving our Nation. Their skills and commitment add great value to the workforce and our communities. This award is a tribute to the excellent treatment and regard Idaho employers have demonstrated to valued members of our communities. Congratulations to the Idaho State Police on this achievement.●

RECOGNIZING ELECTRIC MEMBER-SHIP COOPERATIVE EMPLOYEES

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize and thank Steve Robinson, Wesley Thames, David Baskin, James Abbott, Andrew Harris, and Ian Hansman. They work for Cowetta-Fayette EMC, and Cobb EMC, and Carroll EMC, electric cooperatives in the great State of Georgia.

In July, these gentlemen traveled to Costa Rica as volunteers for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation. During their time in the town of Guanacaste, they helped construct an electric distribution system and worked alongside employees at the local electric co-op, Coopeguanacaste.

Along with local linemen, their volunteer efforts connected five families in Guanacaste with first-time access to electricity by building almost 2 kilometers of power lines. While working together, they shared safety and best construction practices with their counterparts at Coopeguanacaste.

Access to electric service for these families will improve their quality of life and allow them to compete in a growing and competitive economy. With electricity, these families can improve their livestock farming by preserving meats and dairy products, beginning their own businesses or selling at the market. This first-time access to electricity also will help with environmental conservation because residents will no longer need to burn wood and other traditional fuels for cooking and light.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International has been active in rural electrification development in Costa Rica since 1963, with direct involvement in the establishment of four electric cooperatives in Costa Rica. Today these co-ops serve approximately 200,000 consumer members.

Thanks to these volunteers, more families in the world now have a chance to a better life. Once again, thank you to these fine Georgians for their work, dedication, and selfless commitment to improving the lives of others.●

RECOGNIZING ROYAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor Royal Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston, SC, for their 100th anniversary, which will be celebrated on September 25, 2016.

Originally founded in 1916 by Rev. Handy Washington, the Royal Missionary Baptist Church was first housed in the home of Sister Brooks. In its early years, many of the members worked together to construct their own building in Burton Quarters. The church then purchased their Pearson Street property and today is blessed with both the Pearson Sanctuary and their Luella Street property to better serve God.

Rev. Isaac J. Holt, Jr., has served the church as its pastor since 1993. Under his leadership, the church has prospered and expanded to such an extent that it was necessary to add two new services and build an additional sanctuary. The church has faithfully upheld its motto, "The Church where Everybody is Somebody But Christ is Essential," and proudly credits the guidance of Jesus and the Holy Spirit for their success. I acknowledge with pleasure the church's influence in North Charleston and recognize their growth and success.●

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 12, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2040. An act to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the enrolled bill was signed on September 12, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. CORNYN).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1579. An act to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native