

first responders, and the National Guard who are working tirelessly to ensure that communities throughout the State enjoy the eclipse festivities safely. These public servants have been a shining light in making sure Oregonians and visitors alike have the best experience while viewing the solar eclipse.

As the eclipse arcs across the country and folks from the West Coast to the East Coast don their eclipse glasses to look up at the darkened sun, it is my sincere hope that it ignites a ray of passion in students throughout the country to explore STEM fields more deeply.

#### THE USS "WEST VIRGINIA"

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the service of the first ship named for our Nation's 35th State—our only State born of war—the armored cruiser USS *West Virginia*. She was commissioned on February 23, 1905, and served in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. On two occasions, she deployed to Mexico to enforce U.S. diplomacy. In 1916, she was renamed the USS *Huntington*, in order to permit the assignment of her old name to a new battleship.

That new battleship—the second USS *West Virginia*—was commissioned in December 1923 and affectionately nicknamed the "Wee Vee." In 1940, she moved to Hawaii and became part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. She was the youngest of all the battleships at Pearl Harbor. During the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the USS *West Virginia* was moored outboard the USS *Tennessee*; as a result, the *Tennessee* was not hit by a single torpedo, while the *West Virginia* was hit by nine torpedoes.

Despite being mortally wounded by shrapnel, the ship's captain, Mervyn S. Bennion, remained on the bridge ordering counterflooding of starboard compartments to prevent capsizing; for his actions, Captain Bennion posthumously received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Captain Bennion's actions are regularly cited as the epitome of proper command under fire.

Displaying a resilience befitting the people of her namesake, the USS *West Virginia* refused to stay sunk. She was pumped out and refloated on May 17, 1942, and sailed to Puget Sound Navy Yard for repairs. After being fully modernized, she saw action in the invasion of the Philippines, the Battle of Iwo Jima, and the Battle of Okinawa, among others. She was present in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945, for the formal Japanese surrender.

The USS *West Virginia* was decommissioned on January 9, 1947; her awards included the American Defense Service Medal with "Fleet" clasp; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with five battle stars; the World War II Victory Medal; and the Navy Occupation Medal with "Asia" clasp. An anti-aircraft gun remains at City Park in Parkersburg,

WV; the ship's wheel and binnacle are on display at the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. Her mast sits in front of Oglebay Hall at West Virginia University, and Interstate 470 in West Virginia is named the "USS *West Virginia* Memorial Highway."

The U.S. Navy resurrected the proud history of the 35th State's moniker with a 1983 contract to build a Ship, Submarine, Ballistic, Nuclear, SSBN, the 11th of an eventual 18 Ohio-class submarines, otherwise to be known as the USS *West Virginia*, SSBN 736. She was launched on October 14, 1989, sponsored by Mrs. Erma Byrd, wife—and high school sweetheart—of the now late U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, of West Virginia—the longest serving Senator and the longest serving Member in the history of the U.S. Congress—and commissioned on October 20, 1990.

The USS *West Virginia*, SSBN 736 conducts a sacred mission. It has often been said that, if the U.S. Navy could only send one platform to sea, it is the SSBN that executes the most important mission: the mission of strategic deterrence.

Always at the tip of the spear, the USS *West Virginia* conducts operations in order to exploit the advantages of undersea operation. It can be deployed up to 15 months at a time. As the submariner identity states: "We are elite, selective and high performing. We operate forward at the tip of the spear. This is the only survivable nuclear deterrent. Last bastion of master and commander."

West Virginia is proud of the honor, courage, and commitment of the brave sailors who crew and have crewed the USS *West Virginia*, and we are eternally grateful for the sacrifices that you and your families make in service to the United States of America.

"Montani Semper Liberi."

#### TRIBUTE TO ALAN BAKER AND EARL BRECHLIN

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in 2001, Maine's legendary Ellsworth American newspaper celebrated its 150th year by launching a new enterprise, the Mount Desert Islander, dedicated to covering every aspect of life in a place of extraordinary beauty. It is a pleasure to congratulate the two outstanding journalists who have guided the Islander since its inception, publisher Alan Baker and editor Earl Brechlin, for being recognized with the 2017 Sunbeam Award from the Maine Seacoast Mission.

The recipient of numerous State and national awards for excellence, the Mount Desert Islander is a great example of the value provided by community newspapers. From Acadia National Park, local government, and businesses, to education, sports, and the arts, the Islander's dedicated staff writes the history of their communities as it occurs. They keep people informed and help them be more in-

involved as citizens. They follow State and national issues, always with an eye on how they affect their neighbors.

This dedication starts with committed leadership. After achieving success in journalism and publishing in Philadelphia and New York City, Alan Baker returned home to Maine and, in 1986, joined the Ellsworth American's management team, eventually purchasing the newspaper. In this age of media consolidation, Mr. Baker strongly believes that newspapers should be owned by individuals who are in touch daily with the readers they serve. As a former member of the Maine State Legislature, he is an effective voice for accountability and transparency in all levels of government.

A former "Maine Journalist of the Year," Earl Brechlin has covered Mount Desert Island for more than 35 years, and he has been recognized with more than 100 awards for news, feature writing, and photography. His commitment to journalism is evident in his election as president of both the Maine and New England press associations. A Registered Maine Guide, Mr. Brechlin is the author of nine books that reflect his love for our State's natural beauty, history, and character.

The Maine Seacoast Mission is a non-denominational, nonprofit organization founded in 1905 to support island and coastal communities in Downeast Maine, and its boat, the Sunbeam V, helps to connect people in those communities with essential services and with each other. Through their dedication to the craft of journalism, Alan Baker and Earl Brechlin have strengthened that support and those community connections, and the Sunbeam Award is a fitting recognition of their many contributions.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JACOB LEINENKUGEL BREWING COMPANY

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a true original, the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company, on 150 years of brewing great beer in Wisconsin's North Woods. The Leinenkugels were fairly typical Wisconsinites in the mid-1800s—German, immigrants, and lovers of beer. Jacob Leinenkugel started in the business in 1867 after he and three brothers learned the craft from their father, a brewer and distiller. Together, the Leinenkugel family started four breweries, including the Spring Brewery, which eventually became Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing.

While the Leinenkugel family was typical, the brewery they started became far from ordinary. For a century and a half, the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company has put Chippewa Falls, WI, on the map and excellent beer in the hands of people throughout Wisconsin and the country.

Walk into most any bar in the State and there will be "Leinie's" on tap. Go to a backyard cookout or a Milwaukee

Brewers tailgate on a hot summer's day and there will Summer Shandy in the cooler. Stop by a Wisconsin supper club for dinner and odds are you or someone at the table next to you will be enjoying their fish fry with a Honey Weiss.

Leinenkugel Brewing is the seventh oldest continuously operating brewery in the country. This lengthy heritage did endure trying moments. Leinenkugel's survived Prohibition by producing soda, ginger ale, and a non-alcoholic cereal beverage to stay in business. Afterward, the brewer eventually grew into the fourth largest craft brewer in the United States.

The original brewery is still operating, and its Leinie Lodge visitor center in Chippewa Falls welcomes 125,000 visitors annually, making it a top tourist destination in northern Wisconsin. Along with its original lager, Leinenkugel's now brews 24 other beers, with offerings for every taste and season, including a special German Marzen-style lager to celebrate the family's roots and the brewery's 150th anniversary.

Leinenkugel Brewing is more than beer. Leinenkugel's is a Wisconsin institution that touches the lives of people across the State—even those who have never lifted a pint. The brewery's Canoes for a Cause outreach program has provided education and resources to help improve and protect Wisconsin springs and waterways. Generations of the Leinenkugel family have served our country in the military and other civic capacities. That tradition continues today as former Marine Corps captain and Leinenkugel Brewing president Jake Leinenkugel serves as a senior White House adviser for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Six generations have taken a family from the North Woods of Wisconsin to the refrigerators of beer lovers in all 50 States while maintaining its Wisconsin roots and cherishing its German heritage. I join my fellow Wisconsinites in raising a glass in appreciation for the last 150 years and hoping for many more to come.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company on their 150th anniversary. I am so pleased to honor this great Wisconsin company.

Throughout its history, family has always been at the core of the Leinenkugel business. The family's brewing tradition began well before they came to America. Jacob's father, Mathais, was a brewer and brandymaker from Meckenheim, Germany, who settled with his family in Sauk City, WI. Mathais passed his craft on to his four sons who, in turn, opened their own breweries throughout Wisconsin. Their passion for brewing quality beer remains at the heart of the Leinenkugel family 150 years later.

While it is now the fourth-largest craft brewer in the United States, the nascent company had only two employ-

ees: Jacob Leinenkugel and his partner, John Miller. Jacob brewed the beer, and John delivered it. Their German brewing methods, combined with excellent grains grown in rich Wisconsin soil and the State's pure water, made Leinenkugel's small brewery an instant success. The hard-working lumberjacks in the logging town of Chippewa Falls were Jacob's first loyal customers. Word of Leinenkugel's beer spread quickly, and its popularity expanded rapidly throughout Northern Wisconsin.

When Jacob passed away in 1899, running the company fell to his son-in-law, Henry Casper, and then to his eldest son, Matt, in 1907. Working alongside his sisters and brothers-in-law, the second generation of Leinenkugel's leadership quickly took the company to new heights.

The brewery experienced its first major test with the passage of Prohibition in 1919. While many American breweries cut their losses and closed shop during this period, Leinenkugel's adapted to the new American reality and began brewing Leino, a non-alcoholic version of their popular beer. Unfortunately, Leino was no match for the real thing and was soon discontinued. Thanks to quick thinking, they pivoted once again and began bottling soda water. By the end of Prohibition, Leinenkugel's was the largest bottler of soda water in the area.

After the repeal of Prohibition, Matt Leinkugel's wife, Katherine, and his sister, Rose, mortgaged their homes to finance updates to the brewery's equipment to save the company. Thanks to the resourcefulness of these women, the Leinenkugel family was able to restore the brewery to its pre-Prohibition glory. Leinenkugel's expanded yet again in the mid-20th century to the greater Midwest area and developed new varieties of beer that would meet the diverse needs of its newest customers.

In 1988, the Miller Brewing Company purchased Leinenkugel's, allowing the brewery to distribute products across the country. Today the brewery is an industry leader that produces 25 different styles of beer. For every 10 shandy-style beers consumed in the United States, nine are produced by Leinenkugel's.

Despite their national success, the Leinenkugels have never forgotten their Wisconsin roots or their commitment to their hometown of Chippewa Falls, WI. Jake Leinenkugel, who led the company until his retirement in 2015, said he and his wife, Peg, will always live in Chippewa Falls. The couple was named "Chippewa Valley Philanthropists of the Year" in 2007 for their ongoing contributions of time and money to local causes.

The Leinenkugel family has also maintained a strong commitment to the conservation of natural resources, particularly the freshwater that is a key component in Leinenkugel's products. The family created Canoes for a

Cause, a stewardship program aimed at preserving waterways by removing trash, debris, and invasive plant species. They have held Canoes for a Cause events in Milwaukee, Madison, Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis, and Cleveland, often collecting more than 1,000 pounds of trash in a single day.

Today, C.J., Ellie, Matt, and Kirk Leinenkugel carry on the Leinenkugel's legacy. They are the sixth generation of Leinenkugels to continue Jacob's tradition of excellence, taking a small, local brewery and turning it into one of the most successful breweries in the Nation. No matter how many employees or distributors join the team, Leinenkugel's will always remain a family company that, to its core, defines what it means to be kind, hard-working Wisconsinites and genuine Americans.

#### 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAR HARBOR BANK & TRUST

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 130th anniversary of Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. Based in Bar Harbor, ME, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust now has 14 branches in Maine and 35 branches in New Hampshire and Vermont. Known for supporting and understanding the unique people, organizations, and culture of northern New England, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust has not only achieved a strong reputation for providing quality service, but it has also cultivated employees who are dedicated to bettering their communities.

Since its founding in 1887, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust has fostered the personal and professional growth of its employees while serving its customers with the highest level of care and concern. Over the years, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust has expanded to New Hampshire-based subsidiaries: McCrillis & Elredge Insurance, Inc., and Charter Trust Company. It recently acquired Lake Sunapee Bank to make it one of the largest community banks in New England. It been recognized as a leading bank nationwide and ranked among the best places to work in ME.

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust has demonstrated a commitment to supporting the communities it serves. Each year, its employees volunteer thousands of hours to local community organizations. This commitment is sustained by their volunteer pay program that allows employees to get paid time off for volunteering each month to local causes they are passionate about. Furthermore, it allows them to contribute money from their paychecks to the Bank's Community Commitment program each month, and with every donation matched by the bank, the program donates over thousands of dollars annually to local nonprofit organizations, including Maine Veteran's Project, Girls and Boys State, Knox County Homeless Coalition, and dozens more.

In addition to volunteerism, Bar Harbor bank & Trust employees actively