a new system for transparently managing public finances to ensure that revenues from oil and other natural resources are protected and used to address the needs of the people.

I have recounted this tragic history to provide context for the peace talks currently underway in Nairobi, Kenya. The High-Level Mediation for South Sudan, or the Tumaini Initiative, is another olive branch extended to the leaders of South Sudan. It seeks to chart a way forward for their people who have suffered for so long due to the greed and repression of their own leaders. The United States, Norway, and the U.K. should actively support the Tumaini Initiative, provided the process is transparent and has clearly defined goals that will finally realize the promise of the CPA and independence.

The government of South Sudan must use this opportunity to take extraordinary measures to achieve lasting peace.

The people of South Sudan expressed their preferences clearly through the National Dialogue. They blame the crises in the country on their corrupt leaders who they have called on to step aside. They have called on the Troika countries to help bring about a democratic transition, including a leadership succession plan and timelines for elections in which Kiir and Machar do not participate. That is a necessary outcome of the Tumaini Initiative if it is to succeed.

The Tumaini Initiative should also ensure that a new security structure is established in South Sudan. The current military is corrupt, splintered, and unaccountable. A coherent plan with clear benchmarks will be needed to separate the warlords and other political actors from the military. The privatized units of the army will need to be combined and repurposed with a single national mission to defend the people and sovereignty of South Sudan and a mandate to stay out of politics.

South Sudan has a long history of impunity. Human rights violations, war crimes, and the theft of public resources are rarely if ever punished, and the country suffers from a culture of lawlessness. The police and judicial system must be thoroughly reformed. The prosecution of war crimes by an international tribunal should be considered.

The United States should support the call by the people of South Sudan for a new constitution that restructures power and state institutions. The Tumaini Initiative, with the support of the Troika countries, should support a broad-based political dialogue to produce a political consensus on a constitution that strengthens the country's democratic institutions, including an independent judiciary.

While the people of South Sudan need to choose their future leaders, the conditions for a free, fair, and transparent democratic election do not currently exist. It will first be necessary to achieve agreement on a new constitution and a new security structure, with clear timelines and benchmarks that prepare the country for democratic elections.

The Tumaini Initiative may be the last opportunity for the countries of the region, led by Kenya and with the support of the international community, to finally help end the South Sudanese people's nightmare. Their current leaders have betrayed them. Multiple previous attempts to persuade their leaders to fulfill their obligations under the CPA have failed. Millions of people are hungry and have lost hope for a better future. The Tumaini Initiative offers them that hope.

The United States has invested billions of dollars and years of diplomacy to support the South Sudanese people. There are emerging democratic voices in the country that can help propel South Sudan forward. We should now play an active role in helping to ensure that the Tumaini Initiative achieves what previous attempts did not—a sustainable path to peace, democracy, justice, and a brighter future for the people of South Sudan.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF EDGECOMB, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, in 1774, just 2 years before America declared its independence, a small village on the Maine coast incorporated and took the name of Lord George Edgcumbe, a British naval hero and political leader who was known as a devoted friend of the Colonies. Today, it is a pleasure to join the people of Edgecomb, ME, in celebrating the 250th anniversary of a community that is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

Edgecomb has a rich history. For thousands of years, the land where the Sheepscot and Damariscotta Rivers meet the sea was the hunting and fishing grounds of the Abenaki. Originally called Freetown due to the pro bono success of a Boston lawyer in defeating baseless deed challenges by land speculators, the early settlers farmed the fertile soil and put those rivers to work powering mills for grain and lumber. That early prosperity was invested in schools and churches to make a true community.

As the town grew, so did the range of industries to include brick-making, canning, tanneries, and shipyards. In addition to valuable granite, mica, and quartz, the land was found to contain rich deposits of the highest quality feldspar, used in the manufacture of fine china. Today, Edgecomb and the neighboring communities are home to ceramic artists whose work is prized by collectors around the world.

Edgecomb is home to many outstanding examples of New England architecture with several listings on the National Register of Historic Places, including the revered Edgecomb Community Church. One of the most fascinating buildings is the so-called Marie Antoinette House. In 1793, according to legend, a local sea captain named Stephen Clough planned to rescue the doomed queen and take her the stately house on the Sheepscot River that he had outfitted with the finest French decor. Tragically, she was arrested before Captain Clough could put his daring plan into action.

Perhaps the building with the greatest historical significance is Fort Edgecomb, an octagonal blockhouse built in 1808 and 1809 to protect shipyards during a time of ongoing tension with Great Britain. Crucial to the defense of New England during the War of 1812 and the Civil War, the fort is now a popular state park.

Edgecomb's historic connection to America's freedom continues today. Last year, the town, along with neighboring communities, launched a new tradition by decorating streets and roadways with more than 250 banners paying tribute to the region's veterans.

Maine is known as Vacationland, and Edgecomb perfectly fits that picture. With beautiful rivers for kayaking and canoeing, several nature preserves for hiking and wildlife-watching, along with great food and shopping, there is always something to do. The energy and planning going into the town's yearlong 250th anniversary celebration demonstrates the pride the townspeople have in their town.

Edgecomb's 250th anniversary is a time to celebrate the people who pulled together, cared for one another, and built a great community. Thanks to those who came before, Edgecomb, ME, has a wonderful history. Thanks to those there today, it has a bright future.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF YARMOUTH, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, the incorporation of the town of Yarmouth, ME, on August 8, 1849, was but one significant moment for one of the oldest communities in New England. On this 175th anniversary, it is a pleasure to commemorate a long and fascinating history that exemplifies the determination, resiliency, and ingenuity that defines our State.

For thousands of years, the area was the homeland of the Abenaki people, who thrived where the fast-flowing river they called Westcustogo meets the sea. In 1636, just 16 years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, William Royall, a cooper in the employ of the Massachusetts Bay Colony Company, was provided a small land grant in the area. The farm he established gave birth to a new settlement on the frontier.

Drawn by the abundant natural resources, the small village grew and became part of North Yarmouth, the eighth town incorporated by Massachusetts in the Province of Maine. The river, now called the Royal River in honor of the first settler, powered sawmills and grain mills, and the

shorefront became a leading center of Colonial and early American shipbuilding. It is estimated that more than 300 vessels were launched by Yarmouth's shipyards during the Age of Sail.

With its population exceeding 2,000 people, maritime-oriented Yarmouth separated from farming-oriented North Yarmouth on August 8, 1849, and became a separate town. Industrial activities expanded into tanneries, brickyards, ironworks, and paper-making.

Today, Yarmouth is a vibrant community with arts and music centers, a lovely library, outstanding schools, and beautifully preserved historic buildings. The active Yarmouth Historical Society has one of the finest and most comprehensive collection in Maine and the annual Wellcome Prize essay and film competition encourages high school students to learn about their community's past. One of the town's most prominent and treasured artifacts on display at the Yarmouth History Center is the Flaming Arrow Weathervane that topped the ''Old Ledge'' Meeting House built in 1730.

Yarmouth's 175th anniversary is a time to celebrate the people who pulled together, cared for one another, and built a great community. Thanks to those who came before, Yarmouth, ME, has a wonderful history. Thanks to those there today, it has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF HUEY ''HOSS'' MACK

● Mrs. BRITT. Madam President, I wish to recognize and congratulate Sheriff Huey ''Hoss'' Mack on his retirement as sheriff of Baldwin County, AL, and express my gratitude for his stalwart service to the people of Baldwin County and the State of Alabama.

Sheriff Mack was born in Escambia County, AL, and raised in Baldwin County. His parents owned a funeral home that his wife Sherri Mack helps him operate to this day. Tragically, his grandfather was senselessly murdered in Escambia County in 1982, propelling Sheriff Mack towards a career that would empower him to assist those who have experienced similar losses or are victims of crime. To this end, he attended Faulkner State Community College, where he graduated with an associate degree in criminal justice and served as a student government association representative. He later graduated from Troy University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in human resource management. He also holds a crime scene analyst certification awarded by the International Association for Identification.

Starting his career in criminal justice at the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences in 1985, Sheriff Mack served as a medical examiner field agent, investigating and analyzing crime scenes to identify criminals. He was later a forensic investigator and ultimately promoted to chief forensic investigator of the Department of Forensic Science's Mobile Regional Laboratory.

Sheriff Mack began his work at the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office in 1989 as a criminal investigator responsible for crime scene evaluations. By 2004, he was promoted to the rank of captain and designated the chief investigator of the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division. During his career, he has served on a variety of task forces, including the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Blue Lightning Task Force, Baldwin County Major Crimes Task Force, and the Child Abuse Task Force. Sheriff Mack has also consulted with a wide variety of law enforcement agencies, including as a part of the Department of Health and Human Service's Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team in 2001. On September 11, 2001, while still a lieutenant, he was called to respond and arrived in New York City to assist in rescue operations, helping to bring peace and some form of closure to thousands of families whose loved ones were victims of the terrorist attack on our Nation.

The people of Baldwin County, in recognition of his work as an investigator and his wide array of experiences in law enforcement, elected him sheriff in 2006. He would go on to be elected to four more terms, leading the over 100 members of the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office in keeping citizens safe and pursuing justice for victims of crime. During his tenure, he has worked to address violent crime, drug abuse, and the needs of a growing county.

In 2014, he was elected president of the Alabama Sheriff's Association and has remained active in the association since. He also serves on the National Sheriff's Association's board of directors, executive committee, training committee, and immigration and border security committee. He received the Joseph Treadwell Award in 2015 in honor of his work with the Drug Education Council, and he received the Good Government Award from the Central Baldwin Chamber of Commerce in 2019 for his work leading at the sheriff's office. In 2021, the Alabama Sheriff's Association elected him as its Sheriff of the Year.

His commitment to public service doesn't end at law enforcement, as Sheriff Mack is the former president of the Robertsdale Rotary Club, the former chairman of the Central Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, a former board member of the Baldwin County Economic Alliance, former lay leader of the Robertsdale Methodist Church, and a former board member of the Boy Scouts of America. For this work, he was awarded the Paul Harris Award by Rotary International, the Service Above Self Award, the Rotarian of the Year Award, and was chosen in 2006 as the Central Baldwin Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I offer Sheriff Mack my heartfelt gratitude for keeping our citizens safe and wish him a long and happy retirement from local law enforcement with his wife Sherri and with his two sons and grandchildren. I also congratulate him on his upcoming new role as the executive director of the Alabama Sheriffs Association. His career is defined by above-and-beyond dedication to strengthening law enforcement in Alabama, upholding the rule of law, and protecting the people of Baldwin County with unwavering commitment. We owe him a debt of lasting gratitude for exemplary service to his community and his State.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BATON ROUGE

● Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise today to commend and honor the 150th anniversary of First Baptist Church Baton Rouge.

Since its founding, on September 30, 1874, First Baptist Church Baton Rouge has served as a cornerstone of faith, community, and service—bringing people to know the everlasting love and salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Over the past century and a half, First Baptist Church Baton Rouge has been dedicated to the spiritual growth and well-being of its congregation, offering a place of worship, fellowship, and support for all who enter its doors.

First Baptist Church Baton Rouge has been a beacon of hope, providing outreach programs, educational initiatives, and charitable services that have positively impacted all involved. Additionally, the church fosters a strong sense of community and embodies the values of love, compassion and service through worship, music, education, and outreach continues to make a profound difference in the lives of individuals and families in Baton Rouge and beyond.

On this significant milestone, we recognize and celebrate the enduring legacy of First Baptist Church Baton Rouge and its contributions to the cultural, spiritual, and social fabric of our community.

It is truly an honor and privilege to commemorate First Baptist Church Baton Rouge on their 150th anniversary. I ask that we extend best wishes for many more years of valuable ministry and service.●

REMEMBERING THEODORE HOWARD

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH and Representatives MIKE SIMPSON and RUSS FULCHER, we honor Theodore ''Ted'' Howard, who passed away on May 3, 2024, at the age of 76. Ted Howard, also known as ''His Good Road,'' was a strong, competent, and deeply revered leader for the Shoshone-Paiute