

future that is Caribou. That is my hometown.

Mr. President, I am proud of what the people of Caribou, ME, have accomplished in building a great American community. I am deeply grateful for the many blessings that this community has given me, and so many others.●

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL ROBERT PEARY

● Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the expedition of ADM Robert Peary and his discovery of the North Pole 100 years ago, on April 6, 1909.

While Robert Peary was born in Pennsylvania, he was educated in the State of Maine, at Bowdoin College in Brunswick. He graduated in 1877. He lived in Portland and Fryeburg, and built a home on Eagle Island, which is now a State park.

A century ago, Admiral Peary and his men set sail for the North Pole in the Maine-built SS *Roosevelt*. They sailed through the frigid, ice-laden North Atlantic and froze the ship into a bay off northern Ellesmere Island. After more than a month of dog sledding over the moving sea ice covering the Arctic Ocean, Admiral Peary, Matthew Henson, and four Inughuit men stood at the northernmost place on Earth—the sea ice that marked the North Pole.

Peary's success had come after a number of previous failures and lessons learned. Nations had competed to get there; countless men had suffered trying to do so, and some had even perished.

The story of Robert Peary, his expeditions, and his attainment of reaching the North Pole is a celebration of the triumph of leadership, creativity and ingenuity.

Though traveling there has become significantly easier than it was in 1909, the North Pole remains a destination for scientists. The fact is, however, the North Pole of today is not the same North Pole that Admiral Peary discovered. The thick, multiyear sea ice that Admiral Peary encountered has disappeared. In the last 30 years, the Arctic has lost sea ice cover over an area ten times as large as the State of Maine, and at this rate the Arctic Ocean will be ice free by 2050. Global climate change is one of the most significant environmental challenges facing our country, and it has renewed scientific interest in the North Pole.

Today, visitors to the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum at Bowdoin College can learn more about Admiral Peary's historic journey to the top of the Earth. In special recognition of the 100th anniversary of the expedition, the museum has brought together an impressive collection of objects that were at the North Pole on April 6, 1909, including an American flag that flew at the pole on that day, a page from his diary where he reflects on his accomplishment, and one of his sledges.

The people of Maine, and especially those at Bowdoin College, are proud of Robert Peary and of all of those involved in his epic journey. I am pleased to honor the anniversary of this historic occasion.●

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EITELJORG MUSEUM OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND WESTERN ART

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize a hallmark event taking place this year in Indianapolis, IN—the 20th anniversary of the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art.

The museum's facility first opened its doors on June 24, 1989, and was one of the first cultural institutions to take residence in White River State Park, which has in turn become a vibrant hub of recreational and cultural activities in Indianapolis and greater central Indiana. A popular attraction since its opening, the Eiteljorg Museum continues to thrive. Recently, in 2005, it underwent an important expansion that doubled its space by creating a variety of new galleries, an education center, a café, and a resource center and library.

But it is not only its facility and its existing collections that are to be lauded, for the Eiteljorg is also actively engaged in supporting new generations of artists and their work. This is perhaps best highlighted through the museum's Eiteljorg Fellowship for Native American Fine Art and its artists-in-residence program.

In honor of this year's special anniversary occasion, the museum has planned a series of events for its patrons and the community. The festivities officially began last month, on March 14, 2008, when the new "Facing West: Celebrating 20 Years of the Eiteljorg Museum" exhibition was unveiled during a special opening day celebration. Celebratory events will continue throughout this summer and fall, however, and will include a lecture series, festival days at the museum and the holding of an anniversary gala later this month.

Like so many of my fellow Hoosiers, I take pride in the Eiteljorg's presence in our State and am thankful for its continued commitment to its mission: "to inspire an appreciation and understanding of the art, history and cultures of the American West and the indigenous peoples of North America." In the actualization of this mission, the Eiteljorg has reached a wide patronage of both local residents and visitors alike who have come to this unique and inspiring facility to take advantage of its wonderful offerings.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE FIELD

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I want to talk for a moment about Mike Field, a man whose public service has done much to improve the quality of life for people in our home State of Idaho.

Like many Western States, much of Idaho is made up of large swathes of rural areas where it can be challenging to provide the housing, infrastructure and economic opportunities for those residents. Having grown up in the rural community of Grandview, Mike learned this firsthand. Raised by loving and civic-minded parents, Oscar and Francis, he saw the work ethic and generosity that was demonstrated within his own family and by his neighbors. It became a foundation he used as he built his career in extending the helping hand of the State and Federal governments to Idahoans in our rural areas.

He started his work in this body, the U.S. Senate, where he served under Senators Jim McClure and Larry Craig. Mike worked with fellow Idahoans and helped them sort out their difficulties with Federal agencies. Showing a deft touch with people, he became the Idaho State director of USDA Rural Development and later the USDA Farm Service Agency. In both roles, Mike naturally led and served Idaho's many farmers and ranchers, in part based on his days growing up and working with them. Mike then was appointed as a council member to the Northwest Power Planning Council, where he worked to provide an infrastructure for reliable and cost effective power that would reach many areas of Idaho. He also dealt with natural resource issues that impacted the livelihood of many in the rural parts of our State.

From there, he returned as the head of the USDA Rural Development IDAHO, where he has served over the past 8 years. In that capacity he has used his optimism and good nature to lead and motivate a team that has brought hundreds of millions of dollars in improvements to our State. He oversaw many positive changes in housing, drinking water and jobs throughout our rural areas. Mike built a strong trust between the different levels of government, tribes and agencies as he worked to improving the quality of life for rural Idahoans.

I cannot imagine what Idaho, and particularly its rural areas, would look like today without the efforts of Mike Field. Together, with his wife Debbie, they have greatly improved the lives of Idahoans with their dedicated public service.

I congratulate Mike for his many years of outstanding leadership and service to his fellow Idahoans.●

TRIBUTE TO AL SCHOCK

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Al Schock of Sioux Falls, SD, for his years of extraordinary service to his community as a member of the Downtown Lions Club. Mayor Dave Munson of Sioux Falls will be recognizing his lifetime of accomplishments by proclaiming April 14, 2009, to be Al Schock, Lion King Day.

Al Schock has been a dedicated member of the Downtown Lions Club since