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COMMENDING HALEY VELLINGA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Haley Vellinga, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Haley is a graduate of Washington High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently she is attending the Biola University, where she is majoring in communication. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Haley for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE NINE LOTHSPPEICH BROTHERS

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, there is no State in the Union that is prouder of its military heritage than North Dakota. When I began the North Dakota Veterans History Project a few years ago to record the stories of our veterans for future generations, the outpouring of interest around the State resulted in more than 1,500 interviews.

In the past, I have spoken in this Chamber about the nine North Dakota soldiers who earned Medals of Honor during a single campaign in the 1899 Philippine Insurrection, about the famed 164th Infantry Regiment of the North Dakota National Guard, about the "Happy Hooligans" of the North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Fighter Wing, and about Woody Keeble who won the Medal of Honor for his heroism in Korea.

Today, I would like to tell you about some more North Dakota military heroes. On July 4 of this year, the city of Park River, ND, is going to devote part of its 125th anniversary celebration to recognizing the military service of a truly remarkable North Dakota "band of brothers."

In 1920, Edward Lothspeich of Langdon, ND, married Rose Dirkes of Sauk Centre, MN. They settled in Wales, ND, where Ed managed a lumber yard. In time, Ed and Rose Lothspeich became the proud parents of nine sons and one daughter.

The nine Lothspeich brothers hold a unique record in the history of the State of North Dakota. Each one of them served in U.S. Armed Forces. That is most from any single family in our State.

Let me tell you a bit about each of them.

Eugene Lothspeich, the eldest son, served in the Army from 1942 to 1945. He was a machine gunner with the 337th Infantry Regiment through three

campaigns in Italy. He received the Purple Heart for wounds received in the Apennines.

Edward served in the Army from 1943 to 1946. He served in the Pacific theater and saw combat on the islands of Leyte and Luzon.

Donald served in the Navy from 1943 to 1946. He was a machinist's mate and repaired damaged ships while stationed in Hawaii and San Diego, CA.

Donald was inducted in the Army in 1950 and served for 2 years in Germany.

Gerald was drafted into the Army in 1950 and was stationed at Fort Lewis, WA, for 2 years, except for a short period when he was sent to Nevada to support nuclear weapons testing.

Lyle was inducted in the Army in 1951. He served in Hawaii, Iceland, and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he was a rifle instructor.

Marlin served in the Air Force from 1951 to 1955. He served in Japan in the Air Force Medical Service Corps.

Franklin entered the Army in 1955. He served in Germany as a tank gunner.

Leon, the youngest of the nine Lothspeich brothers, served in the Army from 1954 to 1957. He was stationed in Germany where he worked with guided missiles.

From World War II, through the Korean conflict and into the early years of the Cold War, Leon, Eugene, Harold, Edward, Donald, Gerald, Lyle, Marlin, and Franklin Lothspeich served with honor and bravery. These nine men, a "band of brothers," made many sacrifices for the safety and freedom of our country and the world.

Today I want to particularly honor three of the brothers who are still with us: Lyle, Marlin, and Franklin.

Our Nation is what it is today because of the soldiers, sailors, and airmen like the Lothspeich brothers who were willing to leave their homes so many years ago and travel around the world to protect our freedom. They did it without complaint and without question. They loved their country.

There is a verse that goes, "When the night is full of knives, and the lightning is seen, and the drums are heard, the patriots are always there, ready to fight and ready to die, if necessary, for freedom." These brothers I have just described are true patriots.

The story of the nine Lothspeich brothers is a remarkable one. It illustrates the strength of character and hardy determination that has served America so well for so many years. The Lothspeich brothers loved their country and answered the call of duty. They stood up for America, and I am honored to salute their service today in the Senate.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERESFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Beresford, SD. Founded in 1884, the town of Beresford will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year.

Located in Lincoln and Union County, Beresford possesses the strong sense of community that makes South Dakota an outstanding place to live and work. Named after Lord Charles Beresford, an admiral in the British Navy and railroad enthusiast, Beresford has continued to be a strong reflection of South Dakota's greatest values and traditions throughout its rich history. The city of Beresford has much to be proud of and I am confident that Beresford's success will continue well into the future.

The town of Beresford will commemorate the 125th anniversary of its founding with celebrations held on July 2 through July 5. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Beresford on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLUNT, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Blunt, SD. Founded in 1884, the town of Blunt will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year.

Located in the plains region of Hughes County, Blunt possesses the strong sense of community that makes South Dakota an outstanding place to live and work. Named after railroad engineer John E. Blunt, the town began as a railroad town, benefiting from the rapidly westward-expanding Chicago Northwestern Railroad. A shipping and transportation hotspot, Blunt became the home of numerous pioneers and homesteaders in the late 1800s who relocated to the Dakota Territory. Throughout its rich history, Blunt has continued to be a strong reflection of South Dakota's greatest values and traditions. The city of Blunt has much to be proud of and I am confident that Blunt's success will continue well into the future.

The town of Blunt will commemorate the 125th anniversary of its founding with celebrations held on June 27 through June 28. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Blunt on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRITTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Britton, SD. Founded in 1884, the town of Britton will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year.

Serving as the county seat of Marshall County, Britton possesses the strong sense of community that makes South Dakota an outstanding place to live and work. As the "Gateway to the Glacial Lakes," Britton has grown from a small railroad town where the first claims were laid in 1884 into a town where businesses and families thrive. Throughout its rich history, Britton has continued to be a strong reflection of South Dakota's greatest