

Boston for a Base Closure and Realignment—BRAC—Commission hearing, and we were waiting for an elevator. As many in this Chamber will recall, this was a very anxious and uncertain period for a number of us. But I will always remember seeing the elevator doors open and who should appear but Ted Kennedy, alongside a large group of his constituents, fighting the closure of a facility in Massachusetts. And without missing a beat, he roared with his sonorous voice: “You go fight them Olympia with everything you’ve got!” The whole crowd with him cheered.

That moment reflected so much of what Ted exemplified, encompassed, and meant to so many, and he approached his causes with a ferocity of spirit and feeling that was unmatched. It is true, as all of us in this institution know all too well, if Ted Kennedy were opposite you in a debate, and sometimes I was, it could be rough going and you had better be prepared! But if he were with you, let’s just say your chances for victory increased exponentially!

And Ted never lost that gusto—not in legislating and not in life. Who could forget witnessing Ted throwing out the first pitch for New England’s beloved Boston Red Sox at this year’s home opener at Fenway Park? Or his zeal for his beloved Massachusetts or, for that matter, the Maine coast which he loved so much where he sailed every summer. Indeed, one year he and Vicki visited an inn near our family place at Hancock Point. And I will always remember the excitement and anticipation he exhibited as he showed me his map of the journey he and Vicki were preparing to undertake, sailing along the beautiful Maine coastline.

As my colleagues know above all, this greatest of deliberative bodies has lost a giant and a legislative standard-bearer who was tirelessly devoted to its history, its stewardship, and its purpose, and his ardor and love for this most august institution and the Nation it serves will never be extinguished. Senator Kennedy now ranks among a rarefied, pantheon of legendary Senators such as Daniel Webster and Henry Clay. He was, to evoke the title of the Pulitzer-Prize winning book by his brother, John, truly a “profile in courage.”

The great American poet, Carl Sandburg, once wrote: “I see America not in the setting sun of night . . . I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision.” Those days are indeed possible for this Senate, this Congress, and our country precisely because of the indefatigable will and limitless vision of public servants such as Senator Ted Kennedy. We honor his memory and his legacy best by striving every day to make this process work for the U.S. Senate and for the American people.

And what Maine’s own Henry Wadsworth Longfellow penned about another Senator from Massachusetts,

Charles Sumner, we say today about Senator Kennedy:

So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men.

So it will forever be with Senator Edward M. Kennedy. We will not see his like again. He will be sorely missed.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this week we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, one of our most powerful tools to combat domestic violence and other crimes perpetrated against women and families.

The enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 marked an important national commitment to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. This landmark legislation filled a void in Federal law that left many victims without the help they needed. In commemorating this milestone, I would like to recognize the leadership of Vice President JOE BIDEN. His dedication to eliminating violence against women and families was vital to our success in passing the original legislation and subsequent reauthorizations. I am proud to have worked with him on this important matter for nearly two decades.

As a prosecutor in Vermont earlier in my career, I witnessed the devastating impact of domestic violence and sexual assault. I saw how it affects people from all walks of life, regardless of gender, race, culture, age, class or sexuality. Our Nation has made remarkable progress since that time in recognizing that domestic violence and sexual assault are crimes, and we have responded with better laws, social support, and coordinated community resources.

Since the Violence Against Women Act became law, domestic violence reporting rates by women have increased by as much as 50 percent, and reporting rates by men have risen by 37 percent. At the same time, the number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 24 percent for women and 48 percent for men. These are huge improvements, and we should be proud of the work we have accomplished together. There is, of course, more work to be done. Millions of women, men, children, and families continue to be traumatized by abuse, leading to increased rates of crime, violence and suffering.

Earlier this year, I chaired a Judiciary Committee hearing on the ongoing importance of VAWA. We heard from individuals around the country who shared with us the impact the law has had on their lives and the continuing need to strengthen it. We have been hearing for some time about important steps we can take to enhance VAWA, which is why at the beginning of this year I introduced the Improving Assist-

ance to Domestic and Sexual Violence Victims Act of 2009, a bill to make several needed corrections and improvements to VAWA. Among other important changes, this bill would bolster privacy protections for victims of domestic violence and offer greater help in rural and tribal areas. These improvements would ensure that the law is as effective and strong as it was intended to be and that it meets the needs of those it seeks to protect. We were able to report this bill from the Judiciary Committee in May but with an amendment that has complicated further progress.

On this 15th anniversary, it is important that we pause to celebrate what we have accomplished. There is no doubt we have made great strides in reducing domestic violence and sexual assault, but we know more work remains to be done. I look forward to working together with other Senators, the Obama-Biden administration, and experts in the field to ensure that VAWA remains a vital resource for prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, victim service providers, and, most importantly, the women and families who are threatened with violence and abuse.

GLENN'S FERRY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the founding of the city of Glenns Ferry, ID. On September 26, 2009, the citizens of Glenns Ferry will gather in the high school gymnasium to commemorate the 100th year of its founding. This is a very historic and special day for this community.

Glenns Ferry boasts a colorful Western heritage as one of the most famous river crossings on the Oregon Trail. Pioneers would ford the Snake River at the Three Island Crossing until 1869 when Gustavus “Gus” Glenn constructed a ferry roughly 2 miles upstream. Gus’s ferry would cut-off nearly 20 miles from the Southern Oregon Trail route, as it carried two wagons at a time across the river.

In 1870, Gus’s brother Oliver S. Glenn—known as O.S.—joined him in operating the ferry and together they ran it successfully until 1876. In 1871, the town site was platted just downstream from the ferry site and a community started to grow from the desert.

In 1883, this area was inundated by a force of tracklayers whose duty it was to lay the tracks of the Oregon Short Line railroad. The tracklayers camp required 23 saloons and a dance hall. With the establishment of a post office and the appointment of O.S. Glenn as postmaster, the site required a formal name. And what more suitable a name than “Glenns Ferry” in recognition of the enormous contributions made by the Glenn family.

The coming of the railroad caused the eventual discontinuation of the

ferry service in approximately 1889. Although Glenn's Ferry was abandoned, the name was not, but was instead given to the city, which was incorporated in October of 1909.

Since that time, Glens Ferry has developed into a prosperous community along interstate 84 and has retained its historical western roots while incorporating new business and development. In 1971, the Three Island State Park was developed with campgrounds, cabins and a history center. Each August for the past 25 years, the park joined with the city of Glens Ferry to reenact the crossing just like the pioneers in the 1800s prior to the ferry's development. Last month marked the last reenactment of the dangerous river crossing, but the annual festival will continue in celebration of the city's heritage.

The economic backbone of Glens Ferry is agriculture. Elmore County grows a wide variety of crops and animals—cattle, alfalfa hay, potatoes, grapes, sugarbeets, wheat, barley, and dairy. Glens Ferry has become known for its award-winning wines at Carmela Vineyards and Cold Springs Winery. Glens Ferry is also the home of Korey Hall, fullback for the Green Bay Packers and former Boise State University football star.

Glens Ferry has much to celebrate and look forward to in its next century as it provides important goods and services at home and abroad. Congratulations to the city of Glens Ferry for 100 years of service and success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING TOM WALSH

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, a great man is being honored by the Salvation Army in Casper, WY. Tom Walsh is a patriot, a teacher, a leader, and a friend. It is fitting that the Salvation Army has bestowed upon him this year's Others Award. It is the highest award the local Salvation Army unit bestows for outstanding contributions and impacts in the community.

Born and raised in Thermopolis, WY, Tom attended the University of Wyoming and ultimately received a doctorate from the University of Colorado. How fortunate we are that Tom and his wife Rita chose Casper as the place to live, work, and raise their family.

When one looks around the Casper community, Tom's influence is obvious. He served as mayor and on the Casper City Council. The Casper Chamber of Commerce also benefited from his guidance. Our world-famous drum and bugle corps, the Casper Troopers, have been the recipients of his time, talent, and generosity. The list goes on and on.

Tom had a distinguished career in the Wyoming Legislature. He was effective in passing legislation to improve our community and our State,

particularly in the areas of education, county libraries, tort reform, community colleges, and substance abuse. Some of the efforts he is most proud of include the Business Ready Communities Program and the Veterans Property Tax Exemption Program. Tom resigned his service as a State representative due to his battle with leukemia—a battle he is fighting with distinction and tenacity.

Though Tom's great achievements are numerous, I know he is particularly proud of his role as an Army Reserve ambassador. In this position, Tom provided extraordinary support to our soldiers and their families while stationed on the frontlines in the global war on terrorism. Tom went far above the duties of an Army Reserve ambassador. He used his position as a State legislator to successfully sponsor a bill to make it easier for Wyoming families to cope while their breadwinner is off to war. The bill created a \$5 million trust fund, used to help qualifying families with special financial needs. The bill that passed into Wyoming law during the 57th Wyoming Legislature demonstrates the public's concern for and commitment to our Reserve members and their families as they adjust to the new reality of modern war. For his efforts, he received the Patrick Henry Award from the National Guard Association.

Mr. President, join me in sending our congratulations and thanks to Tom Walsh. Receiving the Others Award from the Casper Salvation Army is a fitting tribute to this fine American.●

COMMENDING REAR ADMIRAL CHRISTINE M. BRUZEK-KOHLER

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a great American and a dedicated naval officer who has diligently served for the past 35 years and most recently served as the Director, Navy Nurse Corps. Admiral Bruzek-Kohler, a native of Camden, New Jersey, entered the Navy in 1974 after earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Villanova University. Admiral Bruzek-Kohler served in many nursing roles, obtained her master's and doctoral degrees, and was selected to serve in many distinguished senior health executive assignments including executive officer, commanding officer, and now regional commander and commander. However, the most rewarding role of her career was serving as the 21st Director Navy Nurse Corps, where she led more than 4100 Active-Duty and Reserve nurses to advance the role and relevance of nursing in the military and throughout our Nation. With visionary leadership, she championed initiatives that successfully increased nurse recruitment and retention through accession and specialty pay bonuses, loan repayment programs, and educational opportunities to both military and Federal civilian nurses. Seeing firsthand the physical and psychological wounds of war borne by our

young servicemembers and their families, Admiral Bruzek-Kohler spearheaded nursing operational readiness improvements to include clinical sustainment policies and the expansion of mental health nurse specialists and mental health nurse practitioners within the Nurse Corps.

Admiral Bruzek-Kohler served with passion and conviction and profoundly impacted Federal nursing issues within the Navy and our nation. Her performance reflects exceptionally on herself, the U.S. Navy, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation to Admiral Bruzek-Kohler on behalf of a grateful nation for her years of dedicated service to the Navy Nurse Corps.●

COMMENDING FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, GA, and the schools leadership team, headed by its great president and alumnus, Dr. Larry E. Rivers.

This fall, more than 1,500 new freshmen have started classes at Fort Valley State University, making their mark on their very first day as the largest incoming freshman class in the schools history. This large freshmen class allowed the school to exceed the enrollment goal set by Dr. Rivers. In fact, total enrollment has doubled since Dr. Rivers arrival at Fort Valley State University in 2006.

The 2010 edition of Americas Best Colleges by U.S. News Media Group listed Fort Valley State University as No. 21 among historically Black colleges and universities. FVSU is listed among first-tier schools such as Spelman College, Howard University, and Morehouse College.

Due to these great achievements by FVSU, the school is expanding at a rapid pace. A new \$9 million stadium opened on August 29, 2009, to start the Wildcat football season. In addition, plans for 2010 include a \$16.7 million science building and a \$6 million student amenities building. Other plans for the future include a Family Development Center and the expansion of the Stallworth Agricultural Research Building to add additional laboratory space. The Georgia Board of Regents also recently approved new FVSU College of Education programs, including agriculture education 6–12, special education general curriculum/early childhood education P–5, middle grades education 4–8, and school counselor. The board of regents also approved online bachelors degree programs in political science, psychology and English—Technical English and professional writing—and offsite programs in criminal justice, business administration, and an online criminal justice franchise.

It is also evident through the school's community outreach efforts that the young people who attend Fort