

# TRIBUTE TO DEREK MILES

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Derek Miles of Tea, SD, who will compete in the 2012 Summer Olympic Games taking place in London, England. This will be his third consecutive trip to the Summer Olympic Games. Derek has a long history of success as a pole vaulter, including three U.S. National Championships, 10 years ranked in the top 10 in the U.S.—4 of which he has been ranked No. 1, and 6 years ranked in the top five in the world.

Derek is currently working as an assistant pole vault and jumps coach at the University of South Dakota where he graduated from in 1996 as a four-time NCAA Division II All-American with a bachelor's degree in history. Derek also earned his master's in athletic administration at the University of South Dakota in 1998 and was inducted into the Henry Heider Coyote Sports Hall of Fame in 2006. In addition to his personal accomplishments, Derek has coached multiple conference champions and organized the Miles Pole Vault Summit bringing the world's best pole vaulters to Vermillion, SD, in 2007.

Derek should be very proud of all his accomplishments. On behalf of the State of South Dakota, I am pleased to say congratulations on another Olympic qualification. We are very proud and wish you the best of luck.●

# RECOGNIZING KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge Kennesaw State University's annual Homelessness Awareness Week during the week of October 8–13, 2012, in my home State of Georgia.

I appreciate that Kennesaw State University coordinates activities throughout the month of October to raise awareness about homeless individuals in our society with events such as Homelessness Awareness Week. The designation of Homelessness Awareness Week will help to increase our knowledge and understanding of those living without shelter and food. The activities during this week will also educate Georgians on how to address and combat this unfortunate problem in our State. Ending homelessness is critical to upholding the vitality of families and sense of community in the State of Georgia. Groups, organizations, and institutions such as Kennesaw State University work to address this growing problem. I support and applaud their efforts and urge all citizens to become more knowledgeable about this problem and seek out ways to help alleviate this problem and its effects in our communities.●

# TRIBUTE TO ED WALKER

• Mr. WARNER. The town of Big Lick was first established in 1852 and even-

tually became the city of Roanoke in 1884. Since its early days as a railroad hub, Roanoke has been an economic and cultural focal point for the western part of Virginia. Today, the New York Times recognized Ed Walker for his efforts in revitalizing Roanoke. For more than 10 years, Ed has worked to improve Roanoke by investing in historic structures and renovating them for residence, dining, and entertainment. Ed's work led to the creation of cultural programs, founded an innovative music center for young adults, and revitalized a once derelict downtown street.

Ed's investment in the community paid off. The hundredfold increase in downtown residents supported the opening of dozens of new businesses and increased demand for cultural attractions. By bringing residents and businesses closer together, Ed's projects have helped spur the Roanoke economy and brought new energy to the city.

Thanks to Ed's work, Roanoke serves as a model to similar communities across the Commonwealth. Roanoke was recognized recently as one of "America's Most Livable Communities" by the nonprofit Partners for Livable Communities. Ed created the CityWorks (X)po to bring together entrepreneurs, advocates, and developers from across the country to share ideas about renewing and improving cities such as Roanoke.

I would like to congratulate Ed Walker on his achievements and thank him for making the city of Roanoke a better place to work and live. I would ask unanimous consent that today's New York Times article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, July 25, 2012]  
VIRGINIA DEVELOPER IS ON A MISSION TO  
REVIVE HIS TOWN  
(By Melena Ryzik)

ROANOKE, VA.—The Kirk Avenue Music Hall, a four-year-old club named for its downtown block here, offers an unexpected perk to its performers: an apartment. For a night or so, before or after gracing the stage, artists stay at no charge in a loft a block away, signing the guest book with notes of gratitude.

"We don't have money, we don't have fame, so hospitality is really critical," said Ed Walker, the club's landlord and a founder.

It is hard to miss Mr. Walker's brand of hospitality on Kirk Avenue. He owns nine of its storefronts, turning what was a forlorn block not long ago into a social destination. The music hall doubles as a microcinema and event space. There is Lucky, a restaurant run by a touring rock band that decided to stay put, and Freckles, a cafe and vintage shop with monthly craft nights, whose owner called Mr. Walker the town's Jimmy Stewart, a favorite son and guiding light.

It is hard to miss Mr. Walker in many corners of Roanoke, a valley town of 97,000 about four hours from Washington. Ringed by the Blue Ridge Mountains and for generations a successful rail hub, it now has a median income of about \$35,000 and is trying to reinvent itself for a different economy: a

medical school opened in 2010, and a bike shop is planning to move into the massive old transportation museum.

And Mr. Walker, 44, a former outsider-art dealer and a third-generation lawyer from a prominent local family, has emerged as a commercial developer with an unusual civic conscience. In less than a decade, he has bought more than a dozen disused historic buildings, renovated them and enticed people to live in them.

Thanks to Mr. Walker and other developers who followed suit, Roanoke's downtown has a livelier pulse, with nearly 1,200 residents this year, where once there were fewer than 10. Mr. Walker has made his spaces welcoming, handpicking chefs for restaurants and furnishing a pocket park with his children's swing sets. Coming attractions include a rock climbing gym.

With his wife, Katherine, and two young sons, he lives downtown himself and evangelizes about it to any visitor. Last fall he started what will be an annual conference in Roanoke, CityWorks (X)po, billed as exploring "big ideas for small cities."

"People think this is too good to be true," said Chris Morrill, the city manager. "You have this developer who knows the finances, knows the law, knows how to do these historic renovations and is really committed to the community. It's real."

Mr. Morrill added: "When folks from other communities come in here and I show them some of the stuff that's Ed's doing, they're like, 'How can we clone this guy and bring him back to our community?'"

Mr. Walker's conference is intended to share his blueprint for urban redevelopment, a field known as placemaking; he will study it at Harvard's Graduate School of Design this year, with a prestigious Loeb fellowship. But many towns already have their own version of Ed Walker, said Bruce Katz, a vice president at the Brookings Institution and founding director of the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, which focuses on cities. "This is happening across the country," Mr. Katz said.

"What you're seeing is a group of vanguard developers and vanguard businesspeople who basically spot a trend and then double down or triple down with their own resources" to buy property cheap, collaborating with like-minded leaders "on the placemaking agenda," he said.

Examples abound: Mr. Katz pointed to changes in Buffalo and Detroit and plans by Tony Hsieh, the Zappos tycoon, to remake Las Vegas. "It has been one or two people in particular cities taking the risk," he said.

"There's a profit motive for sure, but these are people committed to place," Mr. Katz added. "This is no longer an idea or an aspiration. It's an out-and-out trend."

In Roanoke, it started in 2002, when Mr. Walker began redeveloping Kirk Avenue. His first major residential renovation opened downtown in 2006, with million-dollar condominiums.

Old-guard Roanokers were quickly convinced that downtown was livable when Mr. Walker sold one of the first to Warner Dalhouse, a retired bank chairman, and his wife, Barbara, who use it as a Southern pied-à-terre. At 4,800 square feet, it is larger than their lake house nearby. "We wanted it to look like a New York loft, and it does," Mr. Dalhouse said.

Mr. Walker's company converted an old cotton mill and a department store into apartments, some at the low end of market rates and some at the top. The next units will be in a former ice house on the Roanoke River, where the city's first waterfront restaurant will open.

Last year, after a \$20 million renovation, the company reopened the Patrick Henry,