

Earlier this month I also presented to Bill: the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation with One Bronze Star.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism. Sacrifice. And dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

EARTH DAY

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, on April 22, 1970—after years of planning—Earth Day activities stretched from college campuses, to city parks, to community halls across the country.

The landscape has changed since students, activists, and environmentalists celebrated the first Earth Day. That citizen call to action spurred a new season of environmental protections that have improved the health of our Nation's air, lands, rivers, and the Great Lakes.

Just several decades ago, polluted air and water threatened the public health and safety of our Nation. The Cuyahoga River in Cleveland had caught on fire and oil spills marred the beaches of Santa Barbara.

These catastrophic events served as catalysts that established the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, passed the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and formed a public and political consciousness of the need to safeguard our environment.

Today, the Cuyahoga River—44 years after the fire—is cleaner and healthier, more than 60 different fish species are thriving, and countless families are again enjoying its natural beauty.

Today, Earth Day is celebrated around the world.

Now communities across Ohio and the Nation are spurring on the next generation of environmental innovation.

Seeds planted in places such as Oregon, OH—a city just east of Toledo in northwest Ohio—are beginning to grow.

To reduce energy costs, the Oregon City School District partnered with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority to transition away from traditional electricity to wind and solar power. Oregon City Schools set up wind turbines at Clay High School and Eisenhower Middle School. They installed solar panels on the roofs of Jerusalem and Starr Elementary Schools. And these innovative investments have paid off. In just 10 days in October, Clay Campus's wind turbine, Power Wind 56, produced 149 percent of campus energy needs. All computers, all lights, all kitchen activity, and fans on Clay Campus are now wind-powered. This includes the administration building, bus garage, and maintenance building at the stadium. Besides saving on energy costs, as of March 21, the school district is producing 800 fewer tons of car-

bon dioxide. This means less acid rain-causing sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide going into the air.

This innovation and activism marks tremendous progress toward a more sustainable environment.

If we fail to protect our natural resources, we risk the health of citizens, the viability of our coastal areas, and the productivity of our State's farms, forests, and fisheries. We risk our long-term economic and national security. Yet we know that choosing between economic growth and environmental protections is a false choice.

Despite our population growing by 50 percent in the past 40 years and the number of cars on the road having doubled over that same time, our air is now 60 percent cleaner than at the time of the first Earth Day in 1970.

Done right, our Nation can become energy independent, improve its global competitiveness, and create new jobs and technologies for our workforce. As we plant the seeds for economic growth—for new jobs in new industries—we are also planting the seeds for a cleaner, more sustainable environment.

The students and parents of the Oregon City School District are a reminder that taking steps to protect our air and water is something that we do every day, not just on April 22.

Earth Day reminds us of our ability and our history of innovation and perseverance to protect our environment for current and future generations.●

TRIBUTE TO EARL HOLDING

● Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to a man I have admired for many years, Earl Holding. Sadly, Earl passed away April 19, 2013 leaving behind a lasting legacy that garnered the respect of many throughout our State and Nation.

Earl was a Utah icon—a businessman who reached the highest echelons of the business world—yet spent time to help people from all walks of life, and in many pursuits and interests. His work ethic is legendary. From a young age, Earl put in long days at whatever business he pursued, and he was truly an example of someone who wasn't afraid to roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty—right along with his employees.

In 1949 Earl married his life's partner and eternal sweetheart, Carol Orme. Their marriage was a testament to their partnership as companions—at work and at home. Carol was almost always found at the side of Earl working the land, running hotels, and raising children. They are the proud parents of three children and twelve grandchildren whom they deeply love.

Earl's strength as a business leader has been witnessed by many employees he tutored and led in many successful and important companies including the Little America and Grand America hotels, the Snowbasin Ski Resort, and Sinclair Oil.

In the 1990s Earl was a driving force in helping to bring the Winter Olympic Games to Salt Lake City. His willingness to build world-class facilities to help stage the games cannot be overlooked as one of the key factors in the utmost success of the 2002 Winter Olympics. His contributions will never be forgotten.

Earl and Carol loved the land and enjoyed spending time at their ranches or property throughout the West. He loved to hike, bike, fish, or just enjoy nature in our wonderful part of the world. He had a great reverence for the beauty of our country and always sought to build edifices that paid tribute to that splendor.

Utah and our Nation lost a truly great business leader and giant of a man when Earl left this earthly existence. I know that many people will truly miss his strength, leadership, and commitment to excellence. I will miss all of those things, but I will also miss a cherished friend. I am grateful for the relationship Earl and I have enjoyed for many years and the support and wisdom he always shared.

Elaine and I convey our deepest sympathies to Carol and their family. May our Heavenly Father bless them with peace and comfort at this time. The contributions and impact Earl made on his family, his community, Utah and our Nation will be felt and appreciated for generations to come.●

RECOGNIZING EXCEPTIONAL NEVADA MOTHERS

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Mrs. Zan Peterson Hyer, who has been recognized as the 2013 Nevada Mother of the Year, and Mrs. Montsarrat Wadsworth for being named the 2013 Nevada Young Mother of the Year. These two outstanding mothers have been honored for their commitment to strengthening the moral and spiritual foundations of the family and home.

These exceptional Nevada mothers have received this designation from the American Mothers, Inc. of Nevada, a nonprofit interfaith organization dedicated to honoring motherhood while offering support to mothers in the State of Nevada. American Mothers, Inc. is the official sponsor of Mother's Day and the Mother of the Year.

As a mother of five children and four grandchildren, Mrs. Hyer has demonstrated the great responsibility of motherhood and dedication to living and teaching her children outstanding qualities, such as love, understanding, courage, service, and compassion. As a recipient of this award, Mrs. Hyer will help deliver this message about motherhood to community organizations in Southern Nevada and throughout the State. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors and congratulate her on this well-deserved award.

Mrs. Wadsworth is also a devoted and honorable mother. She and her husband are raising 10 children in