

leaving her position as Acting Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration tomorrow. Ms. Hulit is returning to the private sector after more than 4 years of service to her country at SBA. She stepped up last year when former Administrator Karen Mills stepped down, staying on for longer than anticipated to ensure that the government agency responsible for helping America's nearly 28 million small businesses had the leadership it needed. We should thank her for honoring her commitment to America's entrepreneurs.

Prior to assuming the role of Acting Administrator, Ms. Hulit served as Associate Administrator for SBA's Office of Capital Access since February 2012, where she was responsible for advising SBA Administrator Karen Mills and overseeing the agency's loan programs. During her tenure at SBA, the agency saw its two highest years of small business lending on record.

Ms. Hulit's service at SBA began in 2009 when she was appointed to serve as SBA's New England Regional Administrator. As Regional Administrator, she was responsible for carrying out SBA's core mission of assisting small businesses with the "three C's"—capital, contracting and counseling—in six New England States.

Prior to joining SBA, Ms. Hulit spent 18 years in banking, serving as senior vice president for commercial lending at Citizens Bank, vice president and middle market lender at KeyBank, and manager of KeyBank's International Banking Division. Prior to that, she served as deputy director of the International Division at the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. Ms. Hulit has also held a number of civic and economic leadership roles, including her tenure as a founder and chair of the Maine International Trade Center and her service as chair for the University of Southern Maine Board of Visitors.

Ms. Hulit's experience in both the public and private sector and her expertise in lending gave her unique insight into the importance of getting capital into the hands of entrepreneurs. This came across clearly in her success at SBA. During her time at SBA, the agency supported more than \$126 billion in lending to more than 260,000 small businesses and entrepreneurs. This includes two record years of delivering more than \$30 billion annually in loans in fiscal year 2011 and fiscal year 2012 and more than \$29 billion in 2013.

Later this month, Ms. Hulit will be moving back home to Maine and taking a job at Northeast Bank. While it is tough to see the SBA lose such a talented and loyal public servant and America's small businesses lose a tireless advocate, I am happy to see her get to return home to pursue this great opportunity. I wish her all the best in this and future endeavors, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her loyal and dedicated service at SBA.

HONORING MAINE VETERANS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the men and women who have defended America with their service and to bring to the attention of my colleagues some of the many outstanding ways in which citizens of Maine are honoring those who served and, in some cases, gave their lives for our country.

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. David Cote, a Maine native, recently established the Summit Project, a living tribute to remember and memorialize each Maine servicemember who has been killed in the line of duty since September 11, 2001.

As part of this living memorial, Major Cote has traveled across Maine to visit with the families of the fallen. He has asked each family to search for a stone to represent their loved one who gave his or her life so we could live in peace. From backyards and fishing holes to national forests and lakeside camps, these stones have been hand-picked from across Maine to represent each fallen hero.

Beginning this Memorial Day and annually thereafter, Major Cote will lead commemorative tribute hikes, in which volunteers will each carry a stone in honor of a specific fallen servicemember. During these hiking expeditions, the memories of the fallen, recounted by widows, mothers, fathers, and friends, will be shared with the hikers embarking on their journey to the summit of mountains in Maine. The Summit Project was launched to help the families who have suffered such painful losses truly heal, and to ensure that the experiences of these heroes inspire a new generation of patriots. It will honor the heroism and patriotism of those who gave all for our country since 9/11 and will ensure that their stories and sacrifices are added to Maine's proud history of duty to country.

In another unique effort, which started 23 years ago in Maine and which has now spread to include the entire United States and beyond, thousands of volunteers each year have the opportunity to recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by our brave servicemembers by participating in Wreaths Across America. This annual effort, which provides holiday wreaths to mark the graves of fallen servicemembers, was begun by Morrill and Karen Worcester of Harrington, ME.

On December 14, 2013, approximately one dozen tractor-trailer trucks laden with 143,000 "remembrance wreaths," all proudly made in Maine, were escorted to Arlington National Cemetery by the Maine State Police and Patriot Guard Riders. Numerous volunteers spent the morning placing the wreaths on the headstones of deceased veterans and reflecting on their courage, selflessness, and sacrifice. All told, Wreaths Across America shipped more than 470,000 wreaths to adorn veterans' graves in all 50 States and around the world.

The mission of Wreaths Across America is to "Remember, Honor, Teach." In addition to honoring America's fallen, the group seeks to promote awareness of the sacrifices made by servicemembers through various veterans' events and wreath laying ceremonies at State Houses and the U.S. Capitol. These solemn ceremonies allow us the opportunity to pause and remember the many men and women who have died to preserve our freedoms, and they encourage us to instruct younger generations so that those sacrifices are never forgotten.

For those veterans who have returned home from war, our Nation must ensure that we facilitate their transition to life as civilians. In many cases, these veterans have suffered severe injuries and need further assistance. The third effort I highlight today focuses on one veteran's effort to encourage other veterans.

U.S. Army SSG Travis Mills was on his third tour of duty in Afghanistan when he was critically injured by an improvised explosive device while on patrol. As a result, Travis lost portions of both legs and both arms. He is one of just five quadruple-amputees from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to survive their injuries.

While Travis recovered at Walter Reed Medical Center, he dreamed of providing a camp in Maine as a recreation center for disabled veterans and their families—an affordable place which would provide much-needed quality time for families to spend together. Through the assistance of Dean Lachance, executive director of the Bread of Life Ministries, Travis was connected with Joel and Crista Lavenson, co-owners of Kennebec Camp's Maine Golf & Tennis Academy. Together, they transformed their vision into a reality, creating the National Veterans Family Center, where wounded veterans and their families can enjoy much needed rest and relaxation while participating in outdoor activities that include fishing, boating, and archery.

We must never forget the sacrifices that have been made by all generations of veterans, as well as those who still serve. I am proud that Maine has a long history of great patriots who have died in the service of their country. Low on ammunition and men, Joshua Chamberlain courageously led the charge at Little Round Top at the Battle of Gettysburg. MSG Gary Gordon demonstrated great bravery during the Battle of Mogadishu in 1992, which led to his receiving the Medal of Honor. The brave Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom are no longer with us, but through efforts like The Summit Project, Wreaths Across America, and the National Veterans Family Center, we can honor their sacrifice and ensure that their legacies live on.

2014 OLYMPIANS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Vermonters who will be representing the United States in the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. Vermont has a long tradition of excellence in winter sports that we owe partly to our State's cold climate and mountainous terrain, but also to an outdoor spirit that dates back generations. I would like to acknowledge these athletes individually and wish them the best of luck in pursuing the gold.

Sophie Caldwell, from Peru, VT, will be competing for the United States in cross-country skiing. Sophie was a five-time All-American at Dartmouth College, and received a degree in psychology and plans to go back to school to pursue a career in either psychology or education.

Hannah Dreissigacker, from Morrisville, VT, is a member of the Craftsbury Green Racing Project, a group of elite athletes who are committed to pursuing an environmentally conscious lifestyle. Hannah will be competing in the biathlon in Sochi.

Kelly Clark, from West Dover, VT, is one of the most successful snowboarders to ever compete. She won a gold medal in the halfpipe event at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, and a bronze medal at the 2010 games in Vancouver. In addition to her success on the slopes, Kelly has given back to her community by starting a foundation that provides scholarships to athletes from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Susan Dunklee, from Craftsbury, VT, will be competing for the United States in the biathlon. Susan placed fifth in the World Championship's Individual race in Ruhpolding, Germany, and tied for the best score of those U.S. female biathletes competing. Susan, like Ms. Dreissigacker, is also a member of the Craftsbury Green Racing Project, which promotes sustainability and endurance sports.

Lindsey Jacobellis, from Stratton, VT, started competing in snowboard cross competitions when she was 11 and has risen to become a dominant force in the sport. Lindsay won a silver medal at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, and is an eight-time champion in snowboardcross at the Winter X Games.

Hannah Kearney, from Norwich, VT, is one of the top freestyle mogul competitors in the world, having won a gold medal at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. I wish her the best of luck in defending her Olympic title.

Devin Logan, from West Dover, VT, is a freeskiier who will be competing in the slopestyle and halfpipe events. During her rookie season, she finished second in the halfpipe event at the U.S. Championships and earned her first U.S. halfpipe skiing title at the age of 15.

Andy Newell, from Shaftsbury, VT, is a cross-country skier who has been racing since the age of five. He placed 16th

in freestyle sprint during the 2006 Winter Olympics and finished off the 2012–2013 season ranked as the fifth fastest sprinter in the world. Outside of training for this year's Winter Olympics, Andy works with kids at the New England Nordic Ski Association to introduce the sport to a new audience.

Hannah Teter, from Belmont, VT, won a gold medal in the halfpipe event at the 2006 Winter Olympics and a silver medal in 2010 in Vancouver. In true Vermont fashion, Hannah is very active in her community and charitable causes, combining her prize money with proceeds from maple syrup sales to start a charity called "Hannah's Gold" which builds schools and fresh water infrastructure in a village in rural Kenya.

Ida Sargent, from Barton, VT, is a cross-country skier who is also a member of the Craftsbury Green Racing Project. After finishing her cross-country skiing career, Ida hopes to become a physical therapist.

Liz Stephen, from East Montpelier, VT, switched from alpine to cross-country skiing midway through her tenure at Burke Mountain Academy. Liz took first place in two events at the 2008 U.S. National Championships. Since her last trip to the Winter Olympics in 2010, she finished atop the podium at the Swiss National Championship in 2012 and finished fifth in the 10k freestyle at the 2013 World Ski Championships. Liz enjoys mountain biking and takes classes at Westminster College.

Mikaela Shiffrin, from East Burke, VT, will compete for the United States in alpine skiing. Mikaela is an eight-time World Cup slalom medalist. Mikaela is the first non-European to win four World Cup slalom races in one season. When she isn't competing, she also enjoys playing tennis and soccer.

Ty Walker, from Stowe, VT, has made a significant impact on women's slopestyle snowboarding. Ty has won the Burton European Open Junior Jam three times in a row from 2009–2011. In 2013, when she was just 16, she finished fifth at the FIS World Snowboarding Championship. Off the snow, Ty is a straight-A student and loves to jump on trampolines.

Alex Deibold, from Manchester, VT, will compete in his first Olympics as a snowboardcross competitor. Alex finished second in the 2013 World Cup championship in Sochi, Russia. Alex also made finals at four out of five World Cup starts in 2013. When he is off the slopes, Alex enjoys rock climbing, surfing, and mountain biking.

Jacqueline Hernandez, from Londonderry, VT will compete for the United States in snowboardcross. Jacqueline is a seven-time World Cup top-10 finisher. In her spare time, she enjoys riding motorcycles, swimming, and boating.

Nolan Kasper, from Warren, VT, will compete for the United States in alpine skiing. Nolan competed in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games and placed 24th in men's slalom. In addition, Nolan enjoys ice skating and playing soccer.

Mr. President, Vermont is very proud of the athletes who will be competing in Sochi, and I would like to join the citizens of my state to wish them the best of luck at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games. Bring home the gold!

OLYMPIANS

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I join with citizens across the Granite State in saying "good luck" to the outstanding New Hampshire athletes who will be among those representing the United States in the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, which begin this week. It is an impressive group that brings great pride to our State.

Nick Alexander of Lebanon is competing in ski jumping. After his impressive performance at the Continental Cup Competitions, we look forward to seeing him soar through the air in Sochi.

At age 18, Center Conway native Sean Doherty is the youngest member of the 2014 U.S. Olympic biathlon team.

Nick Fairall of New London grew up enjoying skiing, lacrosse, soccer and many other sports, but his true passion is ski jumping. This year we will get to watch him jump for the gold in Sochi.

Andover's Kris Freeman is a veteran Olympian having competed in the 2002, 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympics. This year, we will cheer him on again as he competes in the cross-country skiing event.

Competing in slopestyle snowboarding is 2012 world champion Chas Guldmond from Laconia. This will be his first time competing on the Olympic stage.

Sixteen-year-old Hanover native Julia Krass grew up skiing at the recently reopened Whaleback Mountain in Enfield. We wish her the best of luck as she competes in Sochi's inaugural slopestyle skiing event, the newest kind of freestyle skiing.

World renowned alpine skier Bode Miller of Franconia will be competing in his fifth Winter Olympic Games the sixth American athlete to do so. This year, the decorated Olympian will go for his sixth alpine skiing Olympic medal.

North Conway resident Leanne Smith, who competed in the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, is returning to the Olympics to compete in several alpine skiing events, including downhill, slalom, giant slalom, super G, and super combined.

The University of New Hampshire's head hockey coach, Katey Stone, will make history in Sochi as the first woman to lead a U.S. Olympic hockey team. We will be rooting for her to lead her players to victory.

D.J. Montigny, who grew up in Dover, will coach three U.S. athletes in women's slopestyle skiing. Good luck to D.J. as he advises members of Team USA before they head down the slopes to compete.

Additionally, several athletes from around the U.S. who have been educated and trained in New Hampshire