

Lanka and landed at Saint Michael's. She started working in the Office of Academic Affairs, ultimately becoming the director of government and community relations and the secretary of the board of trustees, the position from which she will retire. Marilyn's passion for connecting the academic community of Saint Michael's with surrounding Vermont communities and communities across the country and abroad has made her a valued mentor to students and faculty alike. St. Mike's could not have had a more effective ambassador, champion, and problem-solver than Marilyn has been in this crucial role. Her energy is only matched by her creativity and her clear, sharp focus on what matters.

Marilyn's considerable talents also benefited the Vermont Council on World Affairs, an organization headquartered at Saint Michael's College. As a member of the board of directors, Marilyn has connected students with cross-cultural opportunities throughout Vermont and across the globe. In 2012, Marilyn helped to organize a delegation of representatives visiting the French city of Honfleur. It was a treat for both Marcelle and me to be a part of that special visit.

Over the years, I have crossed paths with many people connected to Saint Michael's, from public figures in the Nation's Capital, Vermont and across the country, to visitors in my office, to members of my own staff. One constant in each of these encounters is the praise they have for Marilyn for her work in helping so many students achieve their goals. She has empowered students to become leaders in their communities. I know these are commitments that will continue, even as Marilyn prepares for this exciting next chapter in her life.

Saint Michael's is a special place that many visit and come to call home. So it has been for Marilyn Cormier. Marcelle and I wish our dear friend all the very best.

#### NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC., 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., one of the great civil rights organizations in the Nation's history. Seventy-five years ago, Thurgood Marshall established LDF or the "Inc. Fund"—as it was commonly known then—as a separate legal entity. The efforts of the men and women of this organization throughout the years have transformed our Nation for the better. I am grateful for the leaders who have dedicated their lives to the perennial effort to move this country toward a more perfect union. I would extend a special thanks to Sherrilyn Ifill, the current president and director-counsel of LDF; Leslie Proff, the director of the Washington, DC, office; and Debo Adegbile, the former acting

director-counsel of LDF. Their dedication is emblematic of the hard-working staff of the Legal Defense Fund.

Most of us know about LDF's work to dismantle segregation in the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* case, but the organization's advocacy for civil rights extends far beyond litigating groundbreaking cases. The grass roots leaders of LDF have also helped achieve greater racial justice through its legislative efforts, including working with members from both sides of the aisle in Congress. The Legal Defense Fund has contributed its knowledge and expertise on issues such as voting rights, equal employment access, fair housing, education and criminal justice, and their efforts have resulted in legislation and policies that have improved the lives of millions of Americans.

This year, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the march from Selma as well as the 75th anniversary of LDF, I once again urge my fellow Senators to join our effort to restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act that were gutted by the Supreme Court's narrow majority in *Shelby County v. Holder*. The best way to honor civil rights heroes such as Thurgood Marshall, and all the men and women of LDF, is to enact real and meaningful legislative reforms that advance the principles of equality for which those individuals dedicated their lives.

#### RECOGNIZING MOUNT SNOW'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to point out that we are completing another brisk ski season at one of Vermont's fabled slopes, Mount Snow. This year marks the 60th anniversary of winter sports at Mount Snow, and while the temperatures dropped well below zero for many weeks, outdoor enthusiasts of Vermont and from far beyond have descended on Dover, VT, to embrace Mother Nature's challenge, and they have enthusiastically embraced the joys and challenges of our gorgeous mountainous terrain.

Mount Snow was born in the 1950s as Alpine skiing solidified itself as a popular American sport. It has been a vital contributor to the economies of Vermont and New England ever since. Since its birth as one of Vermont's go-to ski slopes, Mount Snow has been an innovator and a pioneer, staying ahead of the industry and adding features to the resort that are now commonplace at ski areas throughout our country and the world.

As Mount Snow enters a new phase in its development, its future will include state-of-the-art advancements with a new ski lodge to meet skier needs and an expanded snowmaking infrastructure to ensure snowmaking is available across the mountain. As the closest mountain to Boston and New York City, these improvements will only encourage more people to choose Vermont as their primary destination for skiing and riding.

I want to congratulate the entire team at Mount Snow for 60 years of great and vibrant winter activity, and I look forward to all they have planned for the future. I ask unanimous consent that an article from the *Manchester Journal* sketching Mount Snow's history and planned growth be printed in the RECORD. •

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

[From the *Manchester Journal*, Nov. 22, 2014]

MOUNT SNOW TO MAKE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

(By Brandon Canevari)

DOVER.—Mount Snow—which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year—is about to undergo some significant changes.

The resort has had a master plan in place for a while now, which is now in motion.

"We're seeking financing for a couple of major capital projects," said Mount Snow Communications Director Dave Meeker. "Thus far it's been very successful and we're well on our way to reaching our goal. It's a total investment of about \$52 million dollars."

One of the two major projects that resort is looking to begin is the construction of a 20 million gallon snowmaking water reservoir called West Lake.

"That is really going to be the biggest step towards our goal of having 100 percent snowmaking coverage on the mountain," said Meeker.

Once they begin the project, Meeker said that it will probably take about two years to complete.

"It will take a couple years to get it completed because it's not just excavating the pond. It's installing the new pipes, installing the new facilities to push the water to the mountain," said Meeker. "There are just a lot of other components that go along with constructing a reservoir that size and with all the machinery and stuff that goes along with it."

The other components to the project are installing snowmaking pipes, pump houses, booster houses and the other components that are needed for snowmaking.

The other major component to the first phase of the plan is the construction of a 36,000 square foot base lodge at Carinthia Parks at Mount Snow.

"It'll have skier services, food and beverage, retail, all sorts of stuff. So, it will be a great improvement over to the base area at Carinthia," said Meeker.

Depending on how financing goes, Meeker said that the resort could break ground on West Lake as early as next summer. When they will be able to build the base lodge and make some of the other improvements that they are planning though is still uncertain.

"The timeline really depends on financing," said Meeker. "Our planning director, they've been globe-trotting basically, going out and seeking investors and we've been very successful so far. So . . . if we had all of the investors today we'd be making plans to break ground as soon as possible. So, it really hinges upon when we are able to get enough investors to secure the financing to begin these projects."

The mountain installed 645 new low-energy snowmaking guns this year as part of their master plan as well.

"That would have been a big component to the improvements that we would be making in future after building West Lake, but we had the opportunity to take advantage of a program that was offered by Efficiency Vermont this year to upgrade our snowmaking system to all low-energy guns,"

said Meeker. "A lot of other resorts took advantage of it, but we took full advantage of it. It was the largest single snowgun update of any resort in Vermont's history and that was a big step in the right direction for our snowmaking system to run as efficiently as possible and also make the best product possible."

#### ANNIVERSARY

Mount Snow's 60th Anniversary is right around the corner and Meeker said that a weekend of festivities have been planned in celebration.

The celebration is going to be on Friday, Dec. 12, which is known as "Founder's Day." The date is the first day Mount Snow opened back in 1954, Meeker said.

"Since it's on a Friday and it is our 60th we're going to celebrate all weekend long. So, we're going to have stuff going on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Saturday we're going to have a party at the Snow Barn with Orange Crush, which is an 80s band, so we're going to have a throwback party. We're already encouraging people to wear retro gear all weekend long; whatever time period in which they have some clothes from the past."

Part of what the resort will be doing to celebrate is offering \$12 lift tickets when the tickets are purchased in advance online. The resort is also going to have a big historical display of Mount Snow memorabilia.

There are also going to be parties at Cousins and the Main Base Lodge.

On Sunday of that weekend, Meeker said they are also probably going to have an "old school" bamboo gate series.

"Back in the day when people would run gates they would be made of bamboo and so we're going to set some of those up. We're going to have a straight ski category," said Meeker. "It's just going to be a real focusing on our history."

While the Dec. 12 weekend is going to be the big celebration of the resort's 60th Anniversary, Meeker said that they will be celebrating throughout the winter with some other events as well.

"We love to celebrate things here at Mount Snow," said Meeker. "It's one of the things that we do so hopefully folks will come out and help us celebrate because it's not just about our history this season, it's about our future and we have a lot of great stuff to talk about with that."

### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

#### LOUISIANA CASUALTIES

Mr. VITTER. I come to the floor today with a heavy heart to remember and commemorate the 11 soldiers, including 4 members of the Louisiana National Guard, who we lost this month as a result of a helicopter training accident on the Santa Rosa Sound. These were brave men, having regularly risked their own lives while flying in combat and in responding to the numerous hurricanes Louisiana has been devastated by during the many years of service they gave. I agree with Major General Curtis, the Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard, in describing them as the best of us. They were selfless men willing to sacrifice their own safety and lives if it meant ensuring our security or saving the life of another. Nothing can ever fill the void left by their absence, an absence that makes it our duty to keep their memories alive, so that others may

know of their bravery and sacrifice. Recognizing the valor that each of these men served with, today I submit for the record specifics regarding Louisiana's soldiers.

Chief Warrant Officer George Griffin joined the Louisiana National Guard in 1994 before deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004 and again in 2008. He is remembered as one of the most talented and respected warrant officers in the Louisiana National Guard, who routinely sought to teach his fellow aviators to be the best they could be. He also served during State deployments in response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Isaac; in support of Operation River Guardian in 2011, which sought to extend the levee protecting Klotz Springs; and in the response to the Deepwater Horizon spill. He is survived by his wife Becky, his four children, Marianne, Cody, Dylan, and Logan, and his father George.

Chief Warrant Officer George Strother joined the Louisiana National Guard in 1988, serving until 2007 before rejoining the Guard in 2009. In addition to his service in response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Isaac, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004, to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2011, and Kosovo in 2014 as a member of the NATO peacekeeping force. He was a devoted husband, father, and service member. An experienced combat aviator and instructor, he is remembered as a caring man with an outsized personality that touched the lives of everyone he met. He is survived by his wife Melissa; his children Chelsie and George II, and his mother Sara.

Staff Sergeant Lance Bergeron enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1994, serving on Active Duty until 1998 and as a reservist until 2001, when he joined the Louisiana National Guard. He was a seasoned combat veteran, having deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004 and again in 2008. He also deployed in response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Isaac, and as a part of Operation River Guardian in 2011. He is remembered as an experienced crew chief that the members of his unit looked up to and aspired to be. According to men in his unit, he served with an unparalleled excitement and dedication to his duty as a National Guard member, husband, and father. He is survived by his wife Monique, his two children Callie and Landon, and his parents Mark and Stella.

Staff Sergeant Thomas Florich enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard in 2007, and served as a Black Hawk repairman. He served in numerous State deployments, including Operation Deepwater Horizon and in response to Hurricane Isaac. He is remembered as a cheerful man dedicated to the National Guard and always willing to step up if it meant the unit would be able to better complete its mission. Staff Sergeant Florich is not only survived by his parents Stephen and Kimberley, but also his wife Meghan, who is pregnant with their first child.

### TRIBUTE TO DR. MARVIN HOGAN

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I wish to commend Dr. Marvin Hogan for his remarkable involvement with early childhood education, job training and workforce development in the State of Mississippi for more than 40 years.

Currently, Dr. Hogan serves as executive director of Friends of Children of Mississippi, based in Jackson. Friends of Children of Mississippi operates Head Start and Early Head Start Programs in Humphreys, Sharkey, Issaquena, Madison, Leake, Rankin, Copiah, Kemper, Newton, Clarke, Jasper, Smith, Jones, Wayne, and Green Counties.

Friends of Children of Mississippi has a notable record of providing quality early childhood development and educational services to low-income children in our State. In the organization's 48-year history, it has transitioned nearly 140,000 children into the public schools of Mississippi.

Friends of Children of Mississippi was recognized recently by the National Head Start Association for its accomplishments. Its two-generation model, which engages parents of Head Start and Early Head Start children to break the cycle of poverty and put families on the path to self-sufficiency, was featured in a National Association report as a case study for exceptionally effective two-generation programs. Since the Friends of Children of Mississippi two-generation program began in 2003, almost 97 percent of enrolled parents have successfully completed their GED or gone to college and transitioned to employment. This well-deserved honor is a credit to Dr. Hogan and his colleagues in the 15 counties they serve across Mississippi.

A native of Waynesboro, MS, Dr. Hogan has been recognized nationally for his work to break intergenerational cycles of poverty and to expand educational opportunities for African Americans in our State. I am pleased to commend Dr. Hogan for his service and to wish him and his colleagues continued success in their work to provide a solid educational foundation for Mississippi's children.

### RAIL SAFETY AND POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I voice my concerns on an important rail safety issue that we have been working on in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. While railroads and commuter rails may face the immense challenge of implementing appropriate PTC precautions, now and always we must place the safety of our citizens above the fear of difficulties incurred by necessary technological change. We must face these difficulties head-on in order that our citizens' lives be ensured safety in public transportation.

New Jersey runs on rail. Our economy simply could not sustain itself