

way through Italy, France, and Germany, and received the Medal of Honor for his astonishing rescue of a trapped American platoon. Charles Shay, a member of the Penobscot Nation, was among the first wave ashore at Omaha Beach and the first Native American to be awarded the Legion of Honor Medal, France's highest tribute. Bert Skinner of Belfast answered the call for volunteers for the extremely dangerous mission of serving behind enemy lines with Merrill's Marauders in Burma. Through his uncommon service to his community and to his fellow veterans, Galen Cole of Bangor has kept the promise he made to himself on a battlefield in Germany in early 1945.

Maine women served with distinction. Patricia Chadwick Ericson of Houlton stepped forward to serve as a Women's Airforce Service Pilot, or WASP, flying newly built aircraft from the factories to combat zones. Mary Therese Nelson of Indian Island was the first Native American woman from Maine to enlist in the Marine Corps. Each of the stories of the men and women from Maine are unique. Yet they are united by valor and devotion to duty.

On the homefront, Maine was on the frontlines. Eighty-two destroyers were built at Bath Iron Works during the war, more than the entire Japanese output. The South Portland shipyard launched 274 Liberty ships that carried troops and arms overseas. More than 70 submarines were built at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, with 3 of those vital warships launched on the same day.

Maine's seafaring heritage contributed greatly to the Merchant Marine, and at least 60 Mainers lost their lives to enemy attack. The Coast Guard and the Civil Air Patrol protected our shores against Nazi U-boats and saboteurs.

These men and women did not come from a society steeped in militarism and the lust for conquest. Whether they came from our cities, farms or fishing villages of Maine, they came from places that desired peace and that cherished freedom. When the crisis came, the American character bound the "greatest generation" together in a great common cause on behalf of humanity.

I am fortunate to be a daughter of that generation. One of my earliest childhood memories is going with my father to the Memorial Day parade in our hometown. He hoisted me high above his head and from the best vantage point along the route—my father's shoulders—I saw hats go off and hands go over hearts as Caribou paid its respects to our flag and honored our veterans. Some Memorial Days, my father would wear his Army jacket to the parade. As a child, I thought it was just an old jacket. Only as an adult did I learn the price he had paid for it.

Donald Collins enlisted in the Reserve Corps as a college freshman in November of 1943 and was called to Ac-

tive Duty in the U.S. Army before the year's end. He saw action in the European theater and fought at the Battle of the Bulge. He earned the Combat Infantry Badge, two Purple Hearts, and the Bronze Star. Sergeant Collins was discharged in January of 1946.

Then he did what truly distinguishes the men and women of America's Armed Forces. He came home, gratefully and modestly. He never talked much about his sacrifice and the hardships of war. Instead, he worked hard raising six children, running a business, serving as Scout leader, Rotarian, mayor, and State senator.

From the strong shoulders of those like him who defended our freedom, all Americans learn about commitment, service, and patriotism. We learn that the burden of service must be borne willingly. We learn that challenges must be met and threats must be confronted. We learn that the mantle of hero must be worn with humility. It is because of the quiet courage of those who serve our country that we take those lessons to heart and resolve to pass them on to the generations to come. On this 70th anniversary of victory in World War II, let us recommit ourselves to the spirit that guided our Nation through its darkest days and that lights our way into the future.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, this month, 70 years ago, the greatest crisis of the 20th century came to an end. Lasting 6 full years and involving participants from over 30 countries, World War II was the most widespread and devastating war in human history. America's isolation from this dreadful conflict abruptly ended when, on the morning of December 7, 1941, our Nation came under sudden and deliberate attack. In less than 2 hours, thousands of lives were lost as bombs fell across the island of Oahu and that quiet Sunday morning quickly turned into a terrible scene of violence and horror.

But the attacks on Pearl Harbor did not break the American spirit. In this darkest of moments, our country discovered a renewed sense of strength, courage and resiliency; qualities that define us. And, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, American forces joined the Allied Powers, fighting side-by-side against Nazi oppression in Europe and Japanese expansion in the Pacific. Sixteen million Americans bravely served in these two theaters of conflict, and it was through their patriotism and courage that freedom was able to triumph over tyranny.

I also want to recognize Maine's important role in the war effort. In northern Maine, Army airfields in Bangor, Presque Isle, and Houlton provided strategic air basing and training sites which facilitated the deployment of personnel and equipment overseas to the frontlines. And along the coast, where the Kennebec River meets the sea, Bath Iron Works established its reputation for producing the "best-built" destroyers in the world. The shipyard delivered a total of 83 new

ships to the U.S. Navy—hitting a 2-year peak production of 21 ships a year or an average of 1 destroyer every 17 days. Bath-built ships survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, landed troops at Normandy, supported Marines at Iwo Jima, and sank Nazi U-boats in the Atlantic. Maine's support to our Armed Forces during the war years was unparalleled in terms of dedication, scope, and impact.

And, above all else, we must honor the immeasurable contributions of our servicemembers. As a State with one of the highest percentages of veterans per capita in the Nation, the war's legacy resonates strongly in Maine. During World War II, nearly 80,000 Maine citizens served overseas. Their steadfast perseverance, patriotism, and bravery in the face of grave danger helped secure a better future for generations to come.

On this 70th anniversary of World War II, we remember all the American and Allied servicemembers who bravely served on land, air, and sea; as well as those on the homefront providing for our warfighters. Their service and sacrifices contributed to international peace and stability and ensured the continued promise of the freedoms we enjoy today.

TRIBUTE TO ADA DEER

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I recognize and honor Ada Deer on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Throughout her life, Ada has been an effective advocate and leader whose trailblazing work has improved the lives of Native Americans, women, students and others in Wisconsin and across the Nation. The celebration of this milestone birthday is a special opportunity to celebrate her dedication to service and social engagement.

Ada Deer was born on the Menominee Indian Reservation in Keshena, WI. She was the first Menominee to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the first Native American to receive a masters of social work from Columbia University.

She has been a champion for Indian rights throughout her remarkable career. When the Federal Government established a policy to terminate the sovereign status of tribes, the Menominee was among the first to go through the process of termination, and they suffered greatly under it. Ada organized a grassroots organization, Determination of Right and Unity for Menominee Shareholders, DRUMS, and fought successfully to restore Federal recognition of the Menominee tribe. Ada's leadership led to her election as the first woman to chair the Menominee tribe in Wisconsin.

She spent many years as a lecturer in the School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and also guided the university's American Indian Studies Department. Ada worked as a house director, community coordinator, school social worker, and professor.

In 1978, she became the first Native American to run for secretary of State in Wisconsin, and in 1992 she was the first Native American woman to run for Congress in Wisconsin. In 1993, Ada became the first Native American woman to head the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She subsequently served as Chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

I am proud to call Ada a friend, and I am grateful for her lifelong leadership and commitment to social justice. Her vital work continues today, focused on efforts to reduce the prison recidivism rate and create a reentry program for American Indians. Her lifetime of work, coupled with an enduring passion to instill in young people the drive to change their society through education and social engagement, shows what a determined person will continue to do—even when they have stated that they are “retired.”

I wish Ada good health and happiness for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BRYCE LUCHTERHAND

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I honor Bryce Luchterhand on his retirement from Federal and public service. He has dedicated his career to improving the quality of life and the vitality of communities throughout the State of Wisconsin. The occasion of his retirement presents a special opportunity to celebrate his dedication to public service and social justice.

Bryce was born in Colby, WI, and raised on the Luchterhand family farm—a fixture in the local rural community since 1902. He graduated from Colby High School and earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education broadfield social studies from Northland College in Ashland, WI. Growing up on a Wisconsin farm, Bryce was instilled with the values of hard work, love of the land, Central Wisconsin optimism, and a sense for social justice that would serve him well throughout his career and life.

In 1970 he started his lifelong path in public service as teacher of social studies on the Navajo Indian Reservation at Many Farms High School in Many Farms, AZ, where he inspired and mentored the youth of the Navajo reservation. Working with the impoverished youth of the Navajo reservation sparked within Bryce his passion for equal opportunity, creating bonds and lifelong friendships that became a foundation for his life of service.

Throughout his public service career, Bryce has been guided by his love of the land. In 1973, Bryce took an opportunity to return to Colby, WI, to buy a dairy farm next to the Luchterhand family farm. And with the same drive and determination that have become his trademark, he and his wife, Max, milked dairy cows and raised beef cows for the past 42 years, even developing a new breed of cow called a Gloucester Lineback. As a farmer, Bryce greets

every season with the same grit and resolve he learned as a child in rural Wisconsin. However, the time of year he holds most dear is the maple syrup season each spring. Bryce and Max spend many early mornings and late nights tending to the taps, boiling down the sap, and bottling one of Wisconsin's treasures—Wisconsin maple syrup. Each bottle of Luchterhand maple syrup is a labor of love, and I have been honored to be among the select individuals to receive this special gift.

Bryce's years of public service are comprised of distinguished service on various boards, committees, and associations, often in roles as chairman or advisor. He is most proud of his roles as instructor for the Presidential Classroom in Washington, DC, executive council member of Wisconsin Rural Partners, member of the Board of Directors for Wisconsin Farm Progress/Technology Days, as well as a founding and current member of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, an organization dedicated to giving citizens a voice in land use planning.

Bryce's career in public service has also included serving the President of the United States, the Governor of Wisconsin and two U.S. Senators. He served as President Clinton's Director of Rural Development for the State of Wisconsin for 8 years, helping to make critical economic and agricultural development investments in rural Wisconsin. He served as the director of Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle's northern office, serving residents of 40 counties for 8 years, and as Senator Herb Kohl's area representative for 2 years in 14 counties. As my Deputy State Director of Outreach for the past 2 years, it was not uncommon for Bryce to travel in excess of 1,000 miles a week representing me at meetings and events in northern Wisconsin. Of course, these trips were made easier if you knew the “Luchterhand shortcuts” that often took Bryce snaking along the back county roads of northern Wisconsin, inevitably getting him to his destination quicker. In all of these capacities, Bryce served the people of Wisconsin with distinction and honor.

I am proud to call Bryce a friend and I am grateful that in choosing the path of public service, he has impacted countless people's lives, changed communities for the better, and strengthened rural communities of Wisconsin. In retirement, I wish Bryce and his wife Max all the best, including good health and happiness, for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MARTY BEIL

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I recognize and honor Marty Beil of Madison, WI, for his 30 years of leadership as executive director of AFSCME Council 24. I have known Marty for many years, and have been proud to stand in solidarity with him. Marty has been a leader in the labor community, and his passion for the rights of

working persons will be missed by all who have worked alongside him and who have benefited from his strong leadership.

Marty began his professional life in service to his union as a member of the WSEU Professional Services Bargaining team in 1973. He continued his service as a member, leader and activist in Council 24 until 1985, when he was appointed executive director. Throughout that time, Marty has been passionate in his advocacy for the rights of working people, to the honor and value of public service, and to insuring that working people have a level playing field on which to compete. Marty has dedicated his career to protecting and serving his members in the collective bargaining and political process, always with a sense of fairness and compassion.

Marty's work is exemplified by his long-term efforts in support of American workers, the American labor movement, and those fighting for civil rights for all Americans. Among many other important priorities, he supported the expansion of antidiscrimination laws to protect the LGBT community, and defended workers from discrimination and retaliation for political activities. He was a staunch defender of labor's right to back candidates who made a commitment to support the goals and activities of union members regardless of partisan affiliation. His 30 years of service at the helm of Council 24 has inspired a new generation of workers to lead the union into the 21st century.

I am proud to call Marty a friend, and I am grateful for his important contributions to our State and the labor community. I know that his passion and dedication, in the model of his forebears such as Roy Kubista and John Lawton will serve as a lasting example for generations of future labor leaders. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE NEW JERSEY- INDIA RELATIONSHIP

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am honored to serve a State with one of the largest Indian American diasporas in the country.

The Indian diaspora community in New Jersey is an active, vocal and engaged constituency whose contributions to the State reach across all sectors. When given the opportunity, the very first caucus I joined in the Senate was the U.S.-India caucus. Soon after I joined the caucus, I had the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Modi during his visit to the United States. His visit signaled a meaningful moment in the relations between the United States and India. It became clearer that the oldest and newest democracies can forge a transformational relationship to leverage the historic opportunities before us.