

career, his meritorious conduct, his extraordinary leadership, and his distinguished and unwavering service to this great Nation. I extend my sincerest gratitude to Vice Admiral Weschler, a native son of Erie, PA, whom we are proud to call one of our own, and wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.●

HURRICANE KATRINA

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, 10 years ago, Hurricane Katrina came ashore on the Mississippi gulf coast with devastating force, inflicting billions of dollars in property and personal damages. It was amazing that more were not killed.

The tragic loss of life and horrible property destruction shocked us all. Our recovery has required enormous dedication and determination, and thousands of Mississippians rose to that challenge.

In the days, months, and years after the storm, Mississippians pitched in to help neighbors and strangers alike. The dedication and sacrifice of the Coast Guard, the National Guard and other first responders saved lives and helped enable the large-scale rebuilding that would follow. The resilience and hard work of the people, as well as the outpouring of church and volunteer workers from across the State and Nation, made recovery possible.

Over the past decade, State, local, and Federal elected officials have also aggressively promoted and assisted in the gulf coast's recovery. But our recovery is not yet complete.

While the serious problems exposed by the Katrina recovery effort have been used to improve our national response to emergencies and natural disasters, work remains to be done to ensure a full recovery in Mississippi and along the gulf coast. Unsustainable insurance practices and overbearing Federal regulations continue to hamper recovery and economic development efforts.

Those challenges, however, cannot diminish the pride I have in the people of Mississippi for exemplifying the strength, vision, and resilience necessary to ensure the cultural and economic vitality of our State.

This August, we commemorate the decade since Hurricane Katrina claimed lives and left indelible marks on our State. Mr. President, 10 years after Katrina, I remain confident that we will continue to work together to rebuild Mississippi and to advocate for commonsense policies and intelligent investments that will ensure the continued vitality of the Gulf Coast.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM P. GARDNER

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, as I have served Montana's veterans and military members in Congress, I continue to be amazed and humbled by the incredible stories of Montanans fighting for our country in all corners of the

world. Montana is home to more veterans per capita than almost any other State in the Nation, and tribal members enroll in the military at a higher rate than any other minority. I wish to recognize one of America's heroes who exemplifies the best of Montana, who is also an enrolled Crow tribal member: William P. "Butch" Gardner.

Mr. Gardner served our country during the Vietnam war. This brave gentleman selflessly served for a number of years during the conflict before he was honorably discharged. Mr. Gardner's commitment to service did not stop when he took off the uniform; in his community, he and a handful of other veterans serve as the color guard on the Crow Reservation. He continues to serve in the honor guard despite losing his leg to an amputation 2 years ago. His peers describe Mr. Gardner as the backbone to the color guard.

Montanans are proud of our diverse heritage, and it is truly an honor to celebrate an individual who so humbly embody the spirit of patriotism.●

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING MONTANA TEENS

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the work of the impressive Montana teens who attended the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, FCCLA, STAR Event in Washington, DC. This group of young men and women made our State proud at their national conference, and brought home a combined 31 gold medals, 26 silver medals, and 3 bronze medals.

Some of the standouts in the Montana FCCLA that I would like to recognize are Garrett Christiaens of Valier, MT, who was just made the new national vice president of programs, and Mariah Pierce, Katlyn Gillen, and Loren Minnick—three Park High School students who not only took first place at the FCCLA State competition, but also went on to win gold medals at the national level.

The Montana FCCLA has approximately 70 chapters across the State, and is part of the Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum offered in over 100 of Montana's high schools. Members of these chapters actively work to make a difference in their families, careers, and communities. I had the opportunity to meet a group of these students last month during their national conference, and I was impressed by their work ethic and dedication to those around them. Their success at the National Leadership Conference affirms that they are indeed making a difference and demonstrates how Montana students can effectively rise to meet both local and national challenges.●

RECOGNIZING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

● Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in recognition of

the 95th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, granting voting rights for women. I ask my colleagues to join me in marking August 26, known as Women's Equality Day, a significant landmark in American history as we acknowledge, honor, and celebrate the vast and vital contributions that women have made to our country.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and other dedicated supporters for women's equality convened the First Women's Rights Convention on July 1848 in Seneca Falls, NY. They advocated for the right to own property, protection from domestic violence, and other social reforms that promoted equality, including voting, and never wavered in that pursuit. Stanton wrote a Declaration of Sentiments that called for "all men and women" to be recognized as created equal under the law, thus beginning the 72-year struggle for suffrage that ended in 1920.

Mr. President, 2015 is the bicentennial year for Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was born November 12, 1815, in Johnstown, NY. Celebrations of her extraordinary life are taking place throughout the year. Stanton met Susan B. Anthony in 1851, and they began a 50-year partnership advocating for suffrage and women's equality; however, both women did not live to see the passage of the 19th Amendment. As the mother of seven children, Mrs. Stanton can be proud of the legacy she left to her descendants, one of whom is today spearheading a committee tasked with placing a new statue of these two amazing leaders in New York. They gave a voice to millions of women and changed history forever following Anthony's vow that "failure is impossible."

A unique crossroad of history resides at 77th and Central Park West in New York City with statues of two U.S. Presidents, Theodore Roosevelt astride a horse outside the American Museum of Natural History and Abraham Lincoln who stands on the steps of the New-York Historical Society. Near Lincoln is a statue of abolitionist Frederick Douglass symbolically carrying books at a building that safeguards history. I am pleased to announce that permission was granted in May 2015 for a suffragist statue to be installed at the West 77th Street entrance to Central Park. It will be the very first statue of a woman in this park's 160-year history.

New York City park commissioner Mitchell J. Silver awarded this site for a statue of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, pioneering leaders of the women's suffrage movement. Included in the sculpture design are the names of many remarkable women instrumental in the fight toward winning the vote. Its installation in September 2017 will coincide with New York State's centennial of women's voting rights. The New-York Historical Society announced that in the transformation of its fourth floor there