

and, 2 years later, winning her appointment to the appellate court. She never complained; she just kept going. During chemotherapy, she said, "I put on my wig, put on my eyebrows, lots of blush, happy face, get out of bed and went to work." That is courage.

Judge Liu was the recipient of numerous honors and awards. Here are just a few: the Asian Pacific American Community Service Award; the Chinese American Bar Association of Greater Chicago's Sandra Otaka Distinguished Judicial Service Award; Illinois' Judges Foundation's "the Leader Who Shares Experience Leaves a Legacy of Success" Award; Asian American Bar Association's 2014 Vanguard Award for her work to make "the law and legal profession more accessible to and reflective of the community at large"; Illinois Secretary of State's Distinguished Leadership Award—and the honors go on and on. Judge Liu was also a member of the Illinois Judges Association, Chicago Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago, and Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago.

She was an extraordinarily accomplished professional, but Judge Liu's proudest accomplishment was being a mother to her 7-year-old daughter, Sophie, and a wife to the love of her life, Michael Kasper. Despite her busy schedule, she always put family first. She made time to teach Sophie Mandarin and the piano. She even took Sophie to Paris, in the midst of dealing with an aggressive chemotherapy regimen. But she simply said, "I'll sleep it off on the plane." And she did. She also could frequently be found on the sidelines of Sophie's soccer matches cheering her on.

Judge Liu was a force of nature. She authored nearly 150 judicial opinions in her 2 years on the Illinois appellate court. In her final days, while working from home, Judge Liu filed her final opinion before she passed. What commitment and what an inspiration. To the very end, Judge Liu understood that these issues and her opinions affected people's lives, and cancer wasn't going to keep her from doing her job.

She once said, "I wanted to fit in more than I wanted to be a trailblazer. I didn't want to be an Asian-American on the rise." Well, she didn't get that wish. In fact, she accomplished just the opposite. Her career was groundbreaking and she became a role model for countless Chinese American kids—and an inspiration to the rest of us—especially her friends and family. Judge Liu will be sorely missed.

#### SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AND VERMONT ENTREPRENEURS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, each year, the Small Business Administration sets aside the first week of May to acknowledge small businesses that are doing extraordinary work and recognizes them during Small Business

Week. In March, the SBA announced the slate of 2016 Vermont small business award winners, which included three tremendous businesses from Lamoille County. The award winners included the Small Business Person of the Year, Tom Stearns of High Mowing Seeds; Woman-Owned Business of the Year, Debbie Burritt of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop & Catering; and Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Caleb Magoon, of Power Play Sports.

In Vermont, we place a high value on small businesses. They make up the backbone of our economy and the heart and soul of our communities. I am incredibly proud of the three Lamoille County businesses being recognized both because of their hard work and entrepreneurial spirit, but also because they represent a true cross section of the Vermont economy.

Vermonters share an inherent bond with our State's natural resources. Our State prides itself on our strong agricultural history and the renaissance we are seeing in diversified agriculture and value added food production. For many farmers, this connection starts with their soil and the seeds they plant in the ground. What started as a hobby for Tom Stearns 20 years ago has grown into a dynamic business that is one of the top organic seed companies in the country, now supplying those farmers and home gardeners across the country with the seeds that become the food we feed our families. Part of what sets Vermont businesses apart is their ability to innovate and help define or create new markets. High Mowing has done just this in the seed market—by ensuring that all of their 700 varieties of seeds are both organic and GMO-free—and are among the gold standard in the market. Now they are branching out to experiment with new varieties that will bring new specialty vegetables, herbs, and flowers to the market.

When imagining a startup business, it is common to think of someone working out of their garage. Debbie Burritt of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop & Catering is precisely one of those entrepreneurs. Debbie founded her business in 2001 in her home garage, and since then, her products have received great acclaim and attention. Sweet Crunch baked goods are made from scratch, with no preservatives. It comes as no surprise to this Vermonter that their maple cookies are one of their best selling products. In fact, Sweet Crunch's maple cookies were featured on the Food Network, and Sweet Crunch products can be found in locations across New England and, in fact, the country. I will take a moment of personal pride to note that Debbie's delicious products will be a featured part of the annual Taste of Vermont celebration happening in Washington in a few weeks.

The mountains and valleys that played such a significant role in determining the settlement of Vermont continue to be a significant force in the lives of Vermonters. These resources

attract skiers, riders, bikers, paddlers, and many other adventurers to our State both to live and to visit. Naturally all of these outdoor enthusiasts need some place to be outfitted. Power Play Sports has been a staple of the local sporting goods scene for more than 20 years, but was recently purchased by Caleb Magoon. Caleb first worked at Power Play as a teenager and returned to manage the store after living in Boston for a number of years. He has demonstrated a great entrepreneurial vision, consolidating his other business under one roof and opening a new store in Waterbury, VT. This type of passion and growth are qualities we want to encourage in Vermont and deserve recognition.

I want to congratulate these three businesses and all the Vermont businesses who were recognized by the SBA for a job well done. I look forward to their future successes. At this time, I ask unanimous consent that the following article written by Kayla Friedrich of the Stowe Reporter recognizing Tom, Debbie, and Caleb for their awards be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Stowe Reporter]

STEARNS, BURRITT, MAGOON WIN BUSINESS AWARDS

(By Kayla Friedrich)

Tom Stearns, founder and owner of High Mowing Organic Seeds in Wolcott, has been named Vermont Small Business Person of the Year by the federal Small Business Administration.

In addition, two other Lamoille County businesses won major awards:

Debbie Burritt of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop & Catering Co. in Hyde Park, Woman-Owned Business of the Year.

Caleb Magoon of Power Play Sports in Morrisville and Waterbury Sports, Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

For more than 50 years, the federal agency has honored small businesses for their contributions in their communities and to the economy.

Stearns was recognized for expanding his company, increasing sales, hiring more employees and contributing to the local community.

High Mowing is a farm-based company that produces and distributes vegetable, flower and herb seeds throughout the U.S. and Canada. It began in 1996 with just 28 varieties, produced in Stearns' backyard and packaged in his shed.

First-year sales were \$2,000, but what started as a hobby soon expanded beyond his backyard. By 2001, his business had grown to the point where Stearns began contracting with other local farms to grow his seeds, in addition to continuing to produce on High Mowing's 5 acres.

High Mowing was the first organic company to guarantee all its seeds are not genetically modified, and 20 years later, his company is one of the top organic seed companies in the U.S., with more than 60 employees.

"It is an honor to accept this award on behalf of all the work done by our team for the last 20 years since this hobby was born," Stearns said. "It has been a joy to see it grow and to know that we are just getting started. I get to do what I love every day and the work is diverse, challenging and creative."

"There is nothing more rewarding than bringing an idea to life in a way that serves health in the world, and it means a lot to me to have the work of our team recognized in this way."

#### YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

In Morrisville, the next town over, a very different business also won an award from the Small Business Administration.

Caleb Magoon, 32, owner of PowerPlay Sports in Morrisville, was named 2015 young entrepreneur of the year.

The annual award is presented to business owners under 35 who have had success in sales, profits, increasing jobs, having innovative business methods and demonstrating entrepreneurial potential necessary for economic growth.

PowerPlay Sports was founded in 1995 by John Connell and Rob Maynard. After bouncing around several downtown locations, the store eventually landed at 35 Portland St.

Magoon began working at the store at 17. After graduating from Boston University, where he studied theater design, Magoon and a few friends established a theater company in Boston, produced shows, and won the Elliot Norton Awards for best production three years in a row.

However, as a native of Hyde Park, who grew up hiking, biking and skiing in the Green Mountains, his passion for sports led him back to Vermont in 2010. He managed PowerPlay for a year, then bought the business from Maynard.

Magoon said working in theater helped him learn how to run a business. He and his friends each worked on different aspects within their theater company, including advertising, producing and financing, and learned from each other.

"If you can do that, business is easy. We learned to be business people," Magoon said.

Last year, Magoon moved his embroidery and screen-printing business—which was in an adjacent building—into the same location as his sports gear. He also opened a new store, Waterbury Sports, with two business partners in Waterbury.

#### WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS

A Hyde Park business also received an award from the Small Business Administration.

Chef Debbie Burritt, owner and founder of Sweet Crunch Bakery and Catering Co., was selected as the Woman-Owned Business of the Year.

The bakeshop portion of the company provides desserts and wedding cakes to restaurants, resorts and the public. For catering, the company's goal is making every event unique and unforgettable.

Burritt has a staff to assist with all the details of event planning, and will customize menus to meet the individual needs of clients.

Burritt completed her culinary degree at Newbury College in Brookline, Mass., in 1987, and worked in Boston and Virginia before moving back to her native state, Vermont. After working at Stoweflake Resort and Trapp Family Lodge, both in Stowe, Burritt decided to venture out on her own in 2001.

#### RECOGNIZING BORDER AIR LTD.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, you don't have to look too far in Vermont to find any number of unique businesses. One such business is Border Air Ltd., led by its owner Cliff Coy. Cliff is the airport manager and unofficial "aviation ambassador" at the Franklin County State Airport in Swanton, VT. He also owns and runs Border Air Ltd., a main-

tenance and restoration company. He purchased Border Air Ltd. in 2007 from his father, George, who founded the company in 1989. Border Air specializes in restoring Soviet-era aircraft and is one of only five companies in the country with the qualifications to sell, maintain, and inspect them.

In addition to providing many services for the aviation enthusiasts who call Franklin County home, Border Air imports and exports planes to and from former Soviet nations, a practice that began after the senior Mr. Coy took a trip to Lithuania in 1989. George Coy heard of an Antonov An-2, the largest single-engine biplane ever built, which had just been restored and was listed for sale. In spite of a major malfunction while crossing the Black Sea with the An-2, the Coys were hooked on the idea of importing similar aircraft and selling them to American pilots.

Since then, over 300 planes have passed through Border Air's hangars, some purchased by customers as far as Chicago. Through their work with pilots and aviation enthusiasts across the world, the Coy family has brought business to Swanton and helps to keep citizens safe by inspecting planes once a year to ensure they are up to Federal Aviation Administration safety codes. Though safety is most important, Cliff Coy also aims to inspire a love of flying in children and adults across the country by bringing students from nearby Missisquoi Valley Union High School to the airport to watch air show practices or speaking with anyone interested in planes from flying to skydiving.

The Coys represent an entrepreneurial spirit that is at the heart of Vermont. In Cliff Coy, we see a true commitment to and leadership with the community.

I ask unanimous consent that the April 14, 2016, article from Seven Days entitled "Border Air in Swanton Keeps Imported Planes Alive," which chronicles the Coys' history with Border Air Ltd., be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Seven Days, Apr. 14, 2016]

#### BORDER AIR IN SWANTON KEEPS IMPORTED PLANES ALIVE (By Ken Picard)

A stiff snow squall swirls around the main building at Franklin County State Airport in Swanton as a large, twin-engine turboprop prepares to roll out of the hangar. Airport manager Cliff Coy watches silently as the King Air B200 revs its engines with a high-pitched whine and slowly inches its way onto the tarmac.

The plane's wingtips are upturned for improved aerodynamics and fuel efficiency. It's just a fringe benefit that the design also allows the plane to squeeze through the hangar door.

"That's a 58-foot wingspan going through a 60-foot opening," Coy notes with a bemused smile. Once the wings clear the sides, he flashes a quick thumbs-up to his mechanic, Dan Marcotte, who's directing the pilot from the tarmac.

Unlike busy commercial hubs, such as Burlington International Airport, Franklin

County State Airport doesn't have its own air traffic control tower. Many planes that use this runway lack radios, lights or on-board electrical systems.

The 46-year-old Coy wears many hats at this small, state-owned airstrip that's just a hop from the Canadian border. Besides managing the airport, he's the owner of Border Air Ltd., which was founded by his father, George Coy. As an FBO, or fixed-base operator, Border Air performs various functions for the flying public: fueling, inspection, maintenance, flight training, and providing hangar and tie-down space for parking aircraft. Coy calls its headquarters "a cross between a boat launch and a state park—and I'm the guy wearing the green shirt and the hat."

Beyond Coy's official duties, he's the airport's unofficial "aviation ambassador," which involves more than just greeting white-knuckled travelers when they land safely in inclement weather. Coy is Franklin County's go-to guy for anyone who's interested in learning more about airplanes, whether that means fixing them, flying them, building them or jumping out of them with parachutes.

And, with fuel prices at historic lows, interest in aviation is soaring. That's not readily apparent on the morning I visit: Aside from the departing turboprop, about the only thing moving on the airfield is a semierect orange wind sock. But, according to Coy, KFSO—the airport's Federal Aviation Administration abbreviation—is usually more active.

"This is the busiest airport in Vermont for general aviation," he says, referring to non-commercial and nonmilitary air traffic. "Come out here in six weeks on a Saturday, and this place will be humming with airplanes."

Those planes aren't just local flyers. In recent years, Coy has carved out a unique niche for himself in the wider world of aviation: He imports and exports planes to and from Russia and other former Soviet-bloc countries. One of only five companies in the country with the expertise to sell, service and inspect Soviet-era planes, Border Air also maintains, repairs and modifies them—an unusual specialty that Coy fell into almost by accident.

Coy got his degree in mechanical engineering from Vermont Technical College and studied computer science and physics at the University of New Mexico. Then, as he puts it, he faced an important life choice: "Am I going to spend the rest of my life in front of a computer screen, under bad fluorescent lighting? Or am I going to solve problems out in the field and get dirty?"

Coy began answering that question in 1988. That year, his uncle Bob, who was working on a sister-city exchange program, offered Coy a chance to travel to the Soviet Union after an injury forced a student in the program to drop out at the last minute.

Coy jumped at the opportunity—and not merely to see the Soviet Union as it began to open up to the West. Coy's father, George, himself a pilot and flight mechanic, was keenly interested in a Russian-built aircraft called the Antonov An-2. The 1,000-horsepower, 12-passenger plane is the world's largest single-engine biplane ever built. As Coy recalls, his father "became infatuated with it and absolutely had to have one."

While that trip offered the chance to see an An-2 firsthand, the Coys wouldn't get their hands on one until 1989, when George Coy learned that a company in Lithuania had a freshly overhauled An-2 for sale. As the Soviet Union neared its collapse, the Eastern Bloc countries were becoming like the Wild West, Cliff Coy recalls, with everything being sold off at bargain-basement prices.