

Ray W. Allen, steadfast and true to the farm, is also a bit of a wanderer. Over the years he has gone off to high school at Lyndon Institute in the Northeast Kingdom; run 25 marathons; appeared on stage in community theater, served as a trustee at the University of Vermont, his alma mater; and volunteered as an EMT—late-night calls before early-morning chores.

Monday morning he was up at 3:15 for a bank run to deposit the weekend's cash. At 4:30, he was back home in his kitchen, hand-mixing pie dough for some of the 2,500 pies Allenholm Farm makes each year. (Ray Allen mixes the dough; Pam Allen makes the filling.)

At 5 a.m., he and his grandson, Brandon Allen, met at the big gray storage shed across from the farmstand to load trucks with boxes of apples for delivery to Hannaford supermarkets.

"It's a good time," Brandon Allen said. "Quality bonding time at 5 in the morning."

STORIED HISTORY OF APPLE PRODUCTION

The Champlain Islands have a long history of quality apple production, said Terry Bradshaw, apple specialist at UVM and director of its Horticulture Research Center. The lake climate—which makes for a cooler summer and protects against frost—provides superior growing and ripening conditions, especially for McIntosh apples, he said. In addition, access to the lake in the early 20th century meant transportation for shipping fruit north to the port of Montreal and south to New York.

"It's historic," Bradshaw said of Allenholm Farm.

The history dates to the founding of Vermont. Pam Allen, Ray Allen's second wife, is a descendant of Thomas Chittenden, Vermont's first governor. Ray Allen descends from Moses Robinson, the state's second governor.

"Illegitimate," Allen said of his ancestry.

More recent farm history includes the end of dairying about half a century ago, and getting in on the craft beer boom. Allen sells his cherries to the Alchemist, the Stowe brewery that makes Heady Topper. The cherries are used in a beer called Petit Mutant. Perks of this job include beer delivery to the farm by Alchemist brewer John Kimmich.

'COOL GUY'

But the main crop is apples, and the primary variety is McIntosh. A crew of six seasonal farm workers from Jamaica are the apple pickers. The men live at the farm in a former dairy barn converted to housing. Winston Waugh, from St. Ann, Jamaica, has worked at Allenholm Farm for about 20 years.

"He's a cool guy," Waugh said of Ray Allen. "He's quite OK."

Picking is hard work, Waugh said, especially in cold weather. It's crucial not to bruise the fruit, he said.

The season's dry weather calls for "selective picking," Allen said, as opposed to stripping a tree of fruit. Selective picking yields 50 to 60 bushels of apples per day per picker, he said. When you strip a tree, an apple-picker brings in about 90 bushels a day.

The size of the apples is important, too. Apples that are three or more inches in diameter are worth \$40 a bushel; two-and-a-half to three inches are worth about \$30 a bushel; less than two-and-a-half inches sell for \$5.50 to \$7 a bushel, Allen said.

In the winter and into spring, before the apple trees bloom, Allen is in his orchards pruning trees. He fixes machinery and works in the farm store, which is open until Christmas Eve.

Last spring, Allen had surgery to replace both his knees. He wore them out not from farming or running, but by wearing Western-

style boots 365 days a year, he said. Allen didn't want to sit around on the couch, drink beer, and feel sorry for himself, so he challenged himself to be active. Within six days, he was driving around the farm.

"He's a character," his son said.

His roles include welcoming visitors to Allenholm Farm and leading tours. Allen expects future generations will fulfill these and other duties; but he has no plans to retire.

"I would hate to be the one to lose it," he said. "This is the 146th year. I sure don't want to be the first one to lose the farm."

CONSUMER REVIEW FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as chairman of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, which has jurisdiction over consumer protection matters, I introduced the bipartisan Consumer Review Freedom Act last year, along with Senators SCHATZ and MORAN, and cosponsored by Senators MCCASKILL, DAINES, BLUMENTHAL, NELSON, BOOKER, and WYDEN, to address a growing and alarming trend affecting American consumers in the United States. Some businesses are slipping so-called gag clauses into form contracts to stop consumers from providing critical feedback to the public, even when that feedback is an honest reflection of the consumer experience.

This legislation, and companion legislation agreed to in the House of Representatives would invalidate non-disparagement clauses in form contracts and make it unlawful for a person to offer or enter into a contract containing a nonnegotiable nondisparagement clause. Both bills contain a rule of construction to clarify that the legislation should not be construed to affect the right of a Web site owner to remove a review that "contains the personal information or likeness of another person or is libelous, harassing, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, or inappropriate with respect to race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or other intrinsic characteristic."

This language is simply intended to preserve the existing ability of Web site operators to enforce such terms of service. For example, it would—and is intended to—preserve the ability of a business to remove language from its Web site that includes inappropriate or harassing references to someone's religion, physical disability, or similar characteristic. As highlighted at the Commerce Committee hearing on this legislation, the intent is not to regulate speech; the intent is to ensure that consumers are protected against fees and penalties imposed pursuant to form contracts for engaging in honest reviews of goods and services.

I am pleased that the Senate has passed the latest version of this legislation and that it will be headed to the President's desk for signature. I thank my colleagues for their support of this measure.

HONORING CHARLES E. RUDLER

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Charles E. Rudler, a

World War II infantry soldier and prisoner of war who selflessly served his Nation with distinction.

Born in Linesville, PA, on March 26, 1925, Charles Rudler was an 18-year-old truck driver when he began his service in the U.S. Army in 1943. Serving as a rifleman during WWII, he landed on the beaches of Normandy and fought through northern France, the Ardennes, and Central Europe.

Unfortunately, Rudler was captured while fighting the Nazis and held as a POW through the end of the war at Stalag 3A, a brutal prison and work camp near Brandenburg, Germany. He survived this ordeal and separated from the service at the end of the war with an honorable discharge in 1945.

For his bravery and determination, Rudler has been awarded the WWII Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, a Purple Heart, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Stars.

For these reasons, I wish to honor Charles Rudler for his service and sacrifice in defense of our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Lempster, NH—a town in Sullivan County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am delighted to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this historic occasion.

The territory was originally discovered in 1735. In 1753 it was regranted and named Dupplin after a leader of Nova Scotia at the time. Lempster, named for Sir Thomas Fermor of Lempster, England, received its current name after it was regranted a final time in 1767.

Lempster is located in the center of western New Hampshire and consists of three parts: East Lempster, Dodge Hollow, and Keyes Hollow. With a population of 1,154 residents, this close-knit town may be best known for its meetinghouse that is more than 200 years old. The meetinghouse is a source of great pride for Lempster and embodies its deep historical roots.

The town of Lempster is also home to a number of unique landmarks, including New Hampshire's first wind farm. Additionally, Lempster also received the first electric pole under the Rural Electrification Act on December 4, 1939. Nestled among these landmarks are beautiful recreational areas that allow the residents of Lempster and countless visitors the ability to enjoy all that the Granite State has to offer.

On behalf of all Granite Staters, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Lempster on reaching this special milestone, and I thank them for their many contributions to the life and spirit of the State of New Hampshire.●