

to successful conclusion and building Ted's brand in the process. Whether it was Norwegian stubbornness or Alaskan toughness, she got the job done.

That seemed to be her second best characteristic from Ted's standpoint. In his May 21, 1997, floor tribute to Barb, Senator Stevens said, "When I've been asked what her best characteristic is, I say 'loyalty'. That means more to me than any of the help that she's given me and the people of Alaska over more than three decades; work above and beyond the call of duty."

Barb was quite the worker, delivering care packages to visiting dignitaries whose flights were refueling at what was then called Elmendorf Air Force Base, picking up Senator Stevens at what is now called Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, whatever the hour, and making sure he made the flight back to Washington, and supporting servicemembers and military families.

It wasn't all work though. Barb actually christened a Navy PC8 coastal patrol craft, the USS Zephyr. She flew in an F-15, experienced several aircraft carrier landings, and traveled in the submarine, USS Alaska. Then there was golf. In 1995, Barb married Vince Mee, her longtime golfing partner. Senator Stevens performed the ceremony on the ninth hole on Eagleglen golf course on Elmendorf. In 2010, Barb authored a book, "Ted Stevens and Mee," a memoir of her time working with the man they called Alaskan of the Century.

Barb lived a wonderful life—or as she might put it, "A great ride." Devoted to her wonderful family, to her church, and to community service, she came far from humble beginnings in South Dakota, leading to a long drive up the Alcan to Glennallen, AK, and a path to Alaskan greatness. One of the first women in Rotary and a member of the Athena Society of Anchorage, Barb's contributions and leadership will be long remembered.

On behalf of the Senate family, I extend my continued condolences to Barb's family and friends this week as Alaska reflects on her great legacy.

RECOGNIZING UNIDOSUS

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize UnidosUS for its leadership on behalf of the Latino community. On July 25, 2017, the Coalition on Human Needs will honor UnidosUS, formerly known as the National Council of La Raza, as one of its Human Needs Heroes for 2017. For almost 50 years, UnidosUS has been at the forefront of the policy movement to build opportunity for Latinos through civil rights, education, housing, economic advancement, health care, and the defense of immigrants' rights.

UnidosUS ensures that the human face of immigration is always seen and the essential role of immigrants in our

communities is understood. I am proud to work with UnidosUS to advance a fair and moral immigration policy. I am also proud to work with UnidosUS in advancing economic opportunities for Latinos throughout our communities and look forward to our close cooperation in the future.

UnidosUS has a long record of promoting just policies to improve the lives of those in the Latino community. From the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, program, UnidosUS has been a trusted source and advocate on immigration policy. The ability of UnidosUS to serve as a broad voice that reflects the views and needs of Latinos across the country ensures that the debate on immigration never forgets the impact on families and communities. It is my honor today to recognize UnidosUS and thank them for all they have done on behalf of Latinos and immigrants.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 200th anniversary of Monroe County, MI. Situated in southeast Michigan on the west shore of Lake Erie, Monroe County is endowed with rich historical and natural treasures, built on a strong agricultural base, home to innovative industries, and populated with dedicated citizens and entrepreneurs.

Founded by Potawatomi Tribes and, later, French missionaries, the history of Monroe County dates back to 1634. French missionaries built the first settlement, named Frenchtown, on the territory and established both a trading post and fort in 1788. The River Raisin provided an agricultural center for the residents of Frenchtown, with an abundance of natural resources to contribute to economic growth. However, in 1813, the Battle of the River Raisin occurred near Frenchtown, resulting in mass human and economic loss. Recognized as the deadliest battle recorded during the War of 1812, the U.S. Congress included the River Raisin National Battlefield Park as part of the National Park Service in 2009, the only national park that commemorates the human contributions and historic legacy of the War of 1812.

As one of the first steps in organizing the Michigan Territory after the War of 1812, Governor Lewis Cass established Monroe County in 1817 as the second county in the State of Michigan. At the time, Monroe County included all of Lenawee and portions of Wayne and Washtenaw Counties. The old settlement of Frenchtown adopted the name "Monroe" in honor of President James Monroe and became the county seat. The flourishing county experienced economic growth and prosperity from the agricultural and paper

manufacturing industries, from the first paper mill, Raisinville Mill, in 1834, to River Raisin Paper Company in 1910, to IKO Monroe, Incorporated, in 2000.

In the early 20th century, Monroe County hit another industrial milestone with the establishment of Monroe Auto Equipment World Headquarters, formerly referred to as Brisk Blast, in 1916, and the Newton Steel plant in 1959. Monroe County gained the reputation as the transportation hub in the State of Michigan, home to international ports on Lake Erie and one of the largest highway gateways into Michigan. The development of transportation infrastructure played a crucial role in connecting the residents of Monroe County to goods and services. Monroe County also attracted entrepreneurs and inventors from across the United States, including Edward Knabush and Edwin Shoemaker who revolutionized furniture design and comfort when they invented the first upholstered reeling chair in 1929.

Today Monroe County is a vibrant community of nearly 150,000 residents who enjoy historic downtowns, beautiful parks, and safe neighborhoods. Residing along the shoreline of the River Raisin and Lake Erie, Monroe County offers a multitude of recreational activities—boating, swimming, camping, hiking, and fishing—at the Eagle Island Marsh unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and Sterling State Park. Monroe County is also active in the preservation and promotion of its history by recognizing significant landmarks and sites, including the Dundee Old Mill Museum and Navarre Anderson Trading Post. With its rich historical and natural resources, Monroe County is recognized as one of the top visitor destinations in the State of Michigan.

Monroe County has been an integral part of the State of Michigan and our great Nation for 200 years. As Monroe County celebrates this milestone, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents, elected officials, and businesses as they recognize their history. I wish the county continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 23. An act to provide for drought relief in the State of California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2210. An act to designate the community living center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butler Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, as the "Sergeant Joseph George Kusick VA Community Living Center".

H.R. 2810. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities