

than 82,000 Americans remain missing from World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Cold War, the Gulf wars, and other conflicts. This includes 355 remaining POW and MIA veterans from Idaho. So far this month, the agency has reported accounting for 18 missing servicemembers, most of whom were lost in the attack on Pearl Harbor. This work of identifying and returning our servicemembers is no doubt painstaking, but imperative. Until we account for all our missing and bring each of these Americans home, wounds remain unhealed.

I pray that all of the families and friends of missing servicemembers experience the long-awaited return of their loved ones. May all those who serve our Nation feel how grateful we are for their security of the blessings of our liberty. Let's bring them all home.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION OF GREEN RIVER

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this weekend we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the day that Green River, WY, became an incorporated municipality.

Green River's history is rich and full of national significance. The founding of Green River predates Wyoming's statehood by 22 years. Green River was founded when the area was still a part of the Dakota Territory in 1868.

Like many other towns across Southern Wyoming, Green River was founded during the race to unite the world's first transcontinental railroad. The railroad had the power to create a town along the route; 2,000 people resided in Green River when it was incorporated in 1868. Today, 2,000 people is still a good-sized town by Wyoming standards.

The railroad also had the power to destroy a town. There were many ghost towns left in Wyoming as the railroad moved on. Green River shrank to just 101 residents when the railroad moved its junction 12 miles west forming Bryan, WY, on the banks of the Blacks Fork River. Green River was on the verge of becoming a ghost town when a drought caused the Blacks Fork to run dry. Dependent on a water source, the railroad moved the junction back to Green River. Bryan became the ghost town while Green River became the Sweetwater County seat.

The junction turned out to be a major stopover point for passenger traffic on the railroad. Movie stars would stop in Green River to change trains on their way from Hollywood to Sun Valley, ID. Even today, every few minutes, a train rumbles through Green River, connecting one side of the United States to the other.

The ideal of Manifest Destiny is one we hold dear as Americans. That ideal and the spirit of exploration is rooted in the history of Green River. Major John Wesley Powell came to Green River in May of 1869 to launch an exploration trip. The goal was to map the

entire Green and Colorado River basin for the first time. This voyage would end up being one of the most significant in American history. Major Powell lost his right arm serving his country as an Army officer during the Civil War. That did not stop him from leading nine men and four boats down the river in 1869 and again in 1871.

Previous to Powell's voyage, the area he would map was regarded as the last area of land in the continental United States that was unexplored. This all started in the town of Green River, which was less than a year old when the major departed on this first trip.

Major John Wesley Powell spoke passionately before he embarked. He spoke directly about the massive voyage he was about to undertake into the unknown. "We have an unknown distance yet to run, an unknown river to explore. What falls there are, we know not; what rocks beset the channel, we know not, what walls ride over the river, we know not. Ah, Well! We may conjecture many things." His words live on today, not only to describe the voyage he was on, but to describe the voyage that the town of Green River was just beginning.

After the railroad helped establish Green River, other industries flourished. Sweetwater County became a major producer of coal and oil. A few years later, a mineral named trona would be discovered just outside Green River. The process and technology to refine trona into soda ash would drastically change the economy of Green River. The Green River Basin is now known as the Trona Capital of the World. It is a fact that the natural resources we have in Wyoming are a blessing.

Like Major John Wesley Powell said, "We have an unknown river to explore and an unknown distance to cover." Over the past 150 years, the city of Green River has covered an impressive amount of distance down that unknown river.

As Green River marks 150 years of incorporation, I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating Green River's rich heritage and history that provides a truly wonderful experience to those who call it home.

#### TAX REFORM

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as you may know, I strongly supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that passed the Senate and was signed into law last year. Over the 6 months since its passage, the law's positive impact on our country's economy has become more apparent. Companies, both large and small, have directly experienced the benefits of the law and as a result are distributing bonuses, raising wages, and making new investments in their businesses. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I enthusiastically supported the tax law because I believed it would reduce the tax rate for small

businesses, encourage investment in small businesses, and increase the overall health of our economy. Over the last few months, I have been making this series of speeches to illustrate the benefits this law provides for small businesses.

While much attention has been given in the past 6 months to the ways in which the law is leading to a positive business outlook and is lowering tax rates for individuals and corporations, the benefits that small businesses receive are not always noticed. Today I wish to draw attention to how tax reform is benefitting Li-Lac Chocolates, a small business in Brooklyn, NY. Li-Lac Chocolates makes a variety of chocolate treats the old-fashioned way. Li-Lac was founded by George Demetrious in 1923, with a single location in Manhattan's Greenwich Village neighborhood, and today the company has four retail locations across New York City and a 9,000-square-foot plant in Brooklyn. After many years of steady success in Greenwich Village, Anthony Cirone and his partners purchased the company in 2011 with plans to expand the company's sales and make the brand better known. To ensure that the taste and craftsmanship the company was known for was not lost, Cirone enlisted the expertise of master chocolatier Anwar Khoder, who has worked at Li-Lac since the late 1980s and is now a part owner. Though the new owners have made changes to the packaging design and have focused on increasing online sales, Khoder still follows Demetrious's original recipes and even uses manufacturing equipment from the company's earliest days.

Because of last year's tax law, this small chocolate manufacturing business has been able to immediately deduct improvements made to new storefronts. This enables the company to increase its cash flow, hire more workers, and open new locations at a more rapid pace. Before the implementation of the new tax law small businesses had to deal with a complex expensing formula that took many years to make use of and made improvements much less attractive to small business owners. The immediate deduction of property improvements for small businesses is one of the reasons that I supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Overall, the new tax law has been good for small businesses, and it has pushed many small businesses to increase their capital investments, hire additional workers, increase wages, and will lower small businesses' annual tax payments. I am pleased that small businesses like Li-Lac Chocolates will be able to reduce their tax burden by making use of this modified provision and look forward to watching the company's continued success.

#### TRIBUTE TO PHIL NEUENFELDT

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Phil Neuenfeldt, president of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO,