

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF
FRENCHVILLE, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Town of Frenchville, ME. As one who was born and raised in Aroostook County, I am honored to celebrate the generations of industrious and caring people who have made Frenchville such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

The story of Frenchville begins long before its incorporation in 1869. For thousands of years, the St. John River Valley has been the home of the Maliseet Tribe. French explorers, led by Samuel de Champlain, first visited the area in 1604 and established friendly relationships with the Native Americans. In the late 1700s, French-speaking Canadians began settling in the area, and the Maliseets often provided vital assistance during the first difficult winters. These settlements laid the foundation for the vibrant Acadian culture that is so important in Maine, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and as far away as Louisiana.

The Acadian settlers created a prosperous community. They planted crops, established lumber and grain mills, and built schools, churches, and thriving general stores. Later in the 19th century, the people of Frenchville joined their neighboring towns in connecting their remote region to the world with their own hands. Town by town, they built roads and railroads with pick, shovel, and wheelbarrow. These transportation networks, combined with rich soil, made the region an agricultural center, and the potato industry remains an essential part of the economy.

The town was incorporated in 1869 as Dickeyville, in honor of Major William Dickey, an early civic and political leader in the region. Two years later, the name was changed to Frenchville to recognize the language and origins of its original settlers. Today, 80 percent of the town's residents speak French, and they continue to uphold the Acadian traditions of great food, music, and dance, and of close-knit families and lasting friendships.

(English translation of the statement made in French is as follows:)

To my Franco-American friends, it is a pleasure to congratulate you on this landmark anniversary. Across the generations, you have worked hard and worked together to create a community that combines your rich heritage with the values that define our State and our Nation.

While the people of Frenchville cherish their fascinating history, they build for the future. Last year, the Dr. Levesque Elementary School was named a 2018 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School, marking the second time this outstanding school received that prestigious recognition. For nearly 50 years, Frenchville and neighboring communities have joined hands to make the Northern Aroostook Re-

gional Airport an invaluable transportation link between the St. John Valley and the world. In addition to the airport's important role in economic development, the volunteer pilots of the Patient Airlift Service provide a crucial lifeline to people needing advanced medical treatment.

The celebration of Frenchville's 150th anniversary is not merely about the passing of time. It is about human accomplishment. We celebrate the people who pulled together, cared for one another, and built a great community. Thanks to those who came before, Frenchville, ME, has a wonderful history. Thanks to those there today, it has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO VERMALENE SMITH

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Vermalene Smith for her outstanding commitment to supporting our military, our veterans, their families, and her community.

Born in Leachville, AR, Vermalene attended various schools in northeast Arkansas before furthering her education at Memphis State University where she earned her bachelor's degree in accounting and minored in business management. She utilized her acquired skills in a successful accounting career, as well as a decorated career in real estate. The combination of knowledge and community involvement she possessed prepared her for the role she took with former U.S. Senator Tim Hutchinson as senior coordinator for the State of Arkansas. She also went on to serve Lieutenant Governor Win Rockefeller as his financial director and volunteered for the Craighead County Veterans Service Office before becoming the county's full-time veterans service officer in 2009.

In this role, Vermalene plans, organizes, and directs the activities of the County Veterans Service office. From preparing claims for veterans to personally counseling them and their dependents, she has maintained her devotion to fighting for those who fought for us at home and abroad. She has been instrumental in conducting the annual military ball, an event that attracts hundreds of participants including veterans, servicemembers, civic leaders, and local JROTC cadets and their guests and has also played an important role in the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event. Vermalene serves as an inspiration and example to us all and has had a positive impact on countless lives through her diligent efforts and advocacy.

In addition to all of her work for veterans, Vermalene has exemplified what it means to be a good steward of her community. Some of her many roles have included Cub Scout leader, Sunday school teacher, and president of the parent teachers association. She also founded the Northeast Arkansas

Republican Women and Northeast Arkansas Veterans Action Clergy organizations. Her involvement continues to impress as she served as chairman of the Craighead County Republican Party and 1st congressional District secretary. Her dedication has enhanced her community immensely and earned her many prestigious honors along the way.

Her numerous awards include Business of Professional Women's Club Woman of the Year, Million Dollar Producer, and the Frank Lady Leadership Award. It comes as no surprise that she also received the Customer Service Award from American Legion Post 53 located in West Memphis, AR, and American Legion District 5, which includes the majority of northeast Arkansas.

Vermalene has spent her career working to advance the needs of veterans and improve Arkansas. Our State is a better place because of her. I wish Vermalene well as she begins her well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO ADAM MILLER

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Adam Miller, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Adam is a graduate of Canton High School in Canton, SD. Currently, he is attending Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD, where he is double majoring in political science and history. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Adam for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 12, 2019, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of