

National Bank, while the tellers were held at gunpoint. During the holdup, one brave citizen ran outside to ring the alarm alerting the authorities of the situation. Fortunately, only minor injuries were inflicted in the ordeal.

Groton will be celebrating its 125th anniversary with a variety of events. Among the festivities will be an all-school reunion, Legion baseball, pancake breakfast, water carnival, bingo, tractor pull, parade, dance, fireworks display, and community church service. The anniversary will serve as an occasion to bring this close-knit community even closer together.

I am proud to publicly recognize Groton and congratulate the community on this achievement. As the people of Groton take this opportunity to appreciate how far the city has come from its beginnings, I know they will understand the important role Groton plays in making South Dakota the great State that it is.●

CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF BRENTFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I rise in order to pay tribute to the centennial of the founding of the city of Brentford, SD. The community is distinguished as the only "Brentford" in the United States.

Brentford was established in 1906 along the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad line and named by a railroad employee for Brentford, England. The town was built in less than a year and reached a peak population of around 300, with a current population around 70.

There are a church, gas station, restaurant, and two construction companies located in Brentford. Additionally, the Brentford Volunteer Fire Department serves Brentford City, Tetonka, and LaPrairie townships, and part of Clifton Township.

I am pleased to announce that Brentford will be celebrating its centennial on June 23 through 25. There are numerous events scheduled, including a parade, performances by Brentford area musicians, fireworks, a paintball tournament, and an antique tractor pull. This celebration is a fitting way to recognize this milestone for this pleasant and progressive community.

One hundred years after its founding, Brentford continues to be a vital community and a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Brentford on this memorable occasion.●

HONORING KENNETH BLACK OF MAINE

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the grand opening of the Maine Discovery Center and dedication of the Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth Black Exhibition Hall in Rockland, ME. This event represents the culmination of a lifetime of exceptional

achievement by former Coastguardman Kenneth Black who nearly single-handedly amassed the largest collection of lighthouse lenses on display in a museum anywhere in the United States.

The monumental efforts of Ken Black, known by many as "Mr. Lighthouse," have been a lifelong pursuit and truly a labor of love. Ken started his first exhibit many years ago at the base of America's first light Station in Boston Harbor. When he was commanding officer of the Rockland Coast Guard Station in the 1970s, he created a display of artifacts at the entryway building at the base of the tower, and a small collection started to grow and take on a life of its own. So much so—that when the admiral in charge of the first Coast Guard district in Boston took note of what Ken was doing, he named him as the official curator of the First Coast Guard District Marine Exhibit. That appointment offered Ken a fortuitous opportunity to begin amassing lighthouse artifacts.

Exemplifying the best of Maine's can-do spirit, Ken meticulously went to great lengths, literally piece by piece, to seek out, collect, and store these maritime marvels. Eventually, this collection would be housed in what would become known as the Shore Village Museum. Lacking pretense of any kind, this unassuming, home-spun dream became a landmark museum and a destination point for maritime and lighthouse enthusiasts everywhere until its closing in 2004.

Because of Ken's persistent pursuit and uncommon initiative, his legacy of work can now be viewed as part of the Maine Lighthouse Museum which has the distinction of being home not just to the world-renown lighthouse lenses but also to one of the most revered exhibits of lighthouse artifacts and Coast Guard memorabilia in the United States. One thing is clear above all else, we owe Ken a great debt of gratitude for having the unrelenting industry, foresight, and diligence to collect, preserve, and showcase these artifacts.

As the sponsor of the Maine Lights Program in the 104th Congress, I am extraordinarily proud of the indispensable contribution Ken has made to the discipline of lighthouse history. As I said in my letter on the opening of the Maine Lighthouse Museum last June, this legislation allowed many outstanding individuals and organizations to share their fondness for lighthouses by working to record the history of lighthouses and keep that history alive. And, indeed, that is precisely what has happened.

Through the tireless and indomitable work of Kenneth Black, for whom this exhibition hall is rightfully named, generations today and to come will have the pleasure of viewing these time-honored artifacts. I saw them firsthand last summer when I toured the museum and was awed and extremely impressed, and I know that this new addition will be equally re-

markable. For all of these reasons, I am deeply pleased to honor the astounding contributions that Ken has made toward bringing to greater light these valuable gems of history. I also want to acknowledge and thank the many individuals and groups who have shared in Ken's vision and joined with him in making this dream a reality. The city of Rockland and the State of Maine are incredibly fortunate to have this exceptional Lighthouse Museum in its midst. It is most fitting that the U.S. Coast Guard presented a well-deserved lifetime achievement award to Ken Black for unflinching vigilance and continued perseverance in saving and presenting these lighthouse artifacts.●

TRIBUTE TO R. GERALD DAVIDSON

● Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of a remarkable Missourian. The First Baptist Church of Arnold, MO, has announced the retirement of its longtime and much beloved pastor, R. Gerald Davidson. Dr. Davidson has served as a pastor for the last 50 years, the last thirty of which, he has dedicated to the First Baptist Church of Arnold.

Dr. Gerald Davidson is a visionary leader and has been instrumental in furthering and directing the ministry of the church. Today, the First Baptist Church of Arnold is the third largest church in the Missouri Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. Davidson's personal dedication to the gospel has never faltered, and his own personal example has set the standard for both his church members and Baptist leadership throughout the Nation.

In fact, Dr. Davidson's vision and his good works have reached throughout the world. On numerous mission trips he has preached the gospel in Mexico, Haiti, Jamaica, South Africa, Taiwan, Brazil, Indonesia, Russia, Romania, Belarus, Slovenia, Croatia, Bolivia, India, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Kenya.

However, Dr. Davidson's dedication starts at home. He has been married to his wife Verlena Stone Davidson for 51 years. She has been an equal partner in the ministry, serving side by side with her husband. The Davidsons have three children, Doug, Debbie, Darla, and are blessed with 10 grandchildren.

Dr. Davidson's many accomplishments throughout his distinguished career are a result of hard work and dedication. The Arnold community joins me in appreciating Dr. Davidson's dedicated service.●

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FOR MURDO, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize my hometown of Murdo, SD, which is celebrating its centennial this year.

Located in Jones County, the town of Murdo was established in 1906 when a lot sale was held to distribute the land that originally belonged to cattle