through the dedication of its employees, UPS has reached the pinnacle of its industry and has set the standard by which its competitors must follow.

I am proud to say that since opening their first facility in Newark, NJ, in 1929, UPS has remained a substantial presence in my home State of New Jersey. It employs more than 18,000 people statewide, making it one of the 10 largest employers in our State. I recently had the privilege and opportunity to visit a UPS hub in Edison to help commemorate UPS’s 75th anniversary at the Edison facility. 3,000 dedicated employees process and sort packages originating from and destined for points all over our State. Individuals and businesses across New Jersey rely on their efforts every day, and the intricate and sophisticated processes used by these employees ensure that important packages and documents are delivered on time.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating UPS on 100 years in business. I personally extend my best wishes to the company and its employees in New Jersey and across the world for many more years of success and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER M. “WALLY” SCHIRRA

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I want to commend a great American, Astronaut Walter M. “Wally” Schirra, who passed away today. Captain Schirra leaves behind a praiseworthy distinction as a widely known television commentator, and a devoted business. I personally extend my best wishes to the company and its employees in New Jersey and across the world for many more years of success and prosperity.

HONORING MAINELY TRUSSES

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize, for the week of April 29, an ex-military entrepreneur from my home State who has been awarded the Maine 2007 Small Business Person of the Year, Michael Boulet. Mike is truly one of our Nation’s shining small business stories. His company—Mainely Trusses—exemplifies the heart and soul of the American dream becoming reality.

Last March, I had the privilege to witness first hand the products and services that Mike’s company provides when he was awarded an intermediary relending program loan from Kennebec Valley Council of Governments. Mike’s investment in his company through the Small Business Administrations’ Maine Small Business Development Center and Costal Enterprises, Inc., has paid tremendous dividends for the future of Mainely Trusses—with a state-of-the-art facility, new technologies, a dedication to customer service, and a highly skilled workforce.

Mainely Trusses has shown no signs of slowing down, growing from 3 to 50 employees over the last 15 years—a tremendous achievement for any business. Think about it—that is a 1,600-percent increase. Just imagine if we had that kind of explosive progress in the U.S. Congress, then we would really be onto something.

And what is all the more remarkable is Mike’s courage to take on the family business after his father, John Boulet, passed away in a work-related accident. But Mike doesn’t just reserve his considerable talents and energy for his business—he also exhibits those traits within the community whether serving as a member of the Maine Merchants Association or the Federal Reserve Bank of Portland. Mike’s contributions that risk-takers and entrepreneurs like Mike and countless Americans make. They are the unsung heroes of our Nation’s economy, creating two-thirds of all new jobs throughout our country. That is why I appreciate SBA’s commitment to providing our Nation’s small businesses, as they have helped Mike, with the financial and business development tools to help them grow and excel. With more than 5.3 million jobs created or retained since 1999, this is proof-positive that our investment in the SBA is paying tremendous dividends to the Nation’s economy.

We must understand that Maine is a very special place in America and is the birthplace of entrepreneurship. With more than 5.3 million jobs created or retained since 1999, this is proof-positive that our investment in the SBA is paying tremendous dividends to the Nation’s economy.

Here in the Senate wish Mike all the best for many more successful years to come.

TRIBUTE TO VINCENZO ANTONIO MANNO

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today, I honor the musical genius of fellow Ohioan Vincenzo Antonio Manno, a renowned opera singer and devoted professor of music.

Mr. Manno was born and raised in my great hometown of Cleveland, OH. In fact, he grew up right down the street from my family in the Collinwood neighborhood—the same neighborhood I live in still today. But his musical gift eventually took him far beyond Collinwood to some of the finest music institutions in Europe.

Cleveland’s rich cultural environment and outstanding music tradition prepared Mr. Manno for his world-renowned career. Before completing his studies at Oberlin College under the tutelage of Professor Richard Mill, Mr. Manno was trained at the Cleveland Music School Settlement under Burton Garlinghouse and John Shurtleff; at summer sessions in Chautauqua, NY, under Josephine Antoine; and at the Cleveland Institute of Music under Ernest Stiefel.

After receiving his degree from Oberlin, Mr. Manno continued his studies on a Fulbright Fellowship in Italy at Santa Cecilia in Rome with Ettore Campogalliani. His principal teacher in Milan continued with Dr. Otto Mueller, who was affiliated for years with the Metropolitan Opera House of New York.

The fact is small businesses are the critical element in our efforts to strengthen and bolster the Nation’s economy. It used to be said, “What’s good for General Motors is good for the Nation.” Now, it is what is good for small businesses that is best for the Nation and job growth.

As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am reminded daily of the immense—and often overlooked—contributions that risk-takers and entrepreneurs like Mike and countless Americans make. They are the unsung heroes of our Nation’s economy, creating two-thirds of all new jobs throughout our country.

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