

Featured on OurMaine Homes, a local television program highlighting local businesses in the construction and home maintenance industry, R.C. North has received praise from fellow contractors and customers alike. The business is also an active member of the State of Maine Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors Association and is engaged in the community as a member of the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce.

Last month, Senator KERRY and I held a hearing in the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship that focused on the devastating impacts that the rising price of home heating oil is having on homes and small businesses. During that hearing, what has long been apparent was reiterated for all to hear—namely, that without a proactive approach to stem this crisis and achieve real results, the unmistakable tsunami that is heading for Maine as winter approaches will be far worse than we have seen. The American people have come to recognize this fact, and companies such as R.C. North Plumbing & Heating have filled the demand that Americans have for energy-efficient heating and cooling systems. The company's foresight and persistence in leading Maine's development of solar heating is commendable. I thank everyone at R.C. North for their dedication, and wish them success in continuing to broaden Maine's exposure to energy efficiency as well as alternative forms of energy.●

RECOGNIZING JON GARREY

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Jon Garrey, an intern in my Sioux Falls, 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.

Jon is a graduate of West Central High School in Hartford, SD. Currently he is attending Grinnell College, where he plans to major in political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

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

RECOGNIZING HEATH-HEADLEY AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST NO. 0199

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize the Heath-Headley American Legion Auxiliary Post No. 0199 for their Veteran's Day program entitled "Honoring Those Who Served". This event took place on November 9, 2007, at the Henry School Gymnasium with the help of the school's students and staff.

The day's events were held to honor all veterans who have served their country. Local veterans were invited by the auxiliary which publicized the

event, registered guests, decorated the school, helped serve lunch, and organized the event with school personnel.

The Kampeska Marine Corps League presented and retired the colors. The Henry School Band, directed by Mrs. Deanna Martens, played patriotic music. Students sang "Proud of Our Veterans" and gave a "Living Flag" presentation. Superintendent Brian Sieh welcomed all and presented the guest speaker, Army National Guard Chaplain Joseph Holzhauser, who addressed the crowd on the topic, "Why All The Fighting?"

Voice of Democracy winner, student Shantel Gassman, presented her winning essay and was awarded a plaque and a scholarship from Watertown Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander Duwayne Mack. Students Matthew Harms and Owen Redinger gave a proper flag folding demonstration and presented the flag to the guest speaker.

The Henry High School choir sang "God Bless America" and students Randy Owen and Sarah Montgomery played echo taps. A flag retirement ceremony followed the program under the direction of Marine veteran Joel Montgomery.

The school technology committee took pictures of all veterans and gave prints to each as a thank you. The pictures were taken in front of a mural that senior students and auxiliary member Jane Green created. It depicts the American eagle with wings made of over 200 stars, each naming a local veteran.

Auxiliary members who helped with the activities include Donna Clyde, unit president; Veta Aker, unit treasurer; Jean Lian, unit chaplain; Wanda Clyde, membership chairman; Christy Clyde, junior auxiliary member; Jane Green, unit member and school coordinator for the program. Violet Wicks, district III president, was the auxiliary's guest for the day.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the Heath-Headley American Legion Auxiliary Post No. 0199 and Henry School to thank our veterans for their dedication and service to our country.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF SULLY COUNTY AND ONIDA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I rise to recognize Sully County and the town of Onida, SD. They will commemorate the 125th anniversary of their founding with celebrations August 7–10, 2008.

Sully County and Onida were founded in 1883. Onida was named after Oneida, NY, with the intentional misspelling. Sully County was named after the builder of Fort Sully, General Alfred Sully. Since their beginning 125 years ago, the communities of Onida and Agar have continued to serve as strong examples of South Dakota values and traditions.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Sully County on

this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY AND RELATED MEASURES DEALING WITH THE FORMER LIBERIAN REGIME OF CHARLES TAYLOR—PM 56

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency and related measures dealing with the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor are to continue in effect beyond July 22, 2008.

Today, Liberia continues its peaceful transition to a democratic order under the administration of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. The Government of Liberia has implemented reforms that have allowed for the removal of international sanctions on Liberian timber and diamonds, and Liberia is participating in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative to ensure that its natural resources are used to benefit the people and country of Liberia, rather than to fuel conflict. Charles Taylor is standing trial in The Hague by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. However, stability in Liberia is still fragile.

The regulations implementing Executive Order 13348 clarify that the subject of this national emergency has been and remains limited to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor and specified other persons and not the country, citizens, Government, or Central Bank of Liberia.

The actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons—in particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources, their trafficking in illegal arms, and their formation of irregular militia—continue to undermine Liberia's transition to democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions and resources. These actions and policies pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States, and for these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to