

REMEMBERING WARREN H.  
ABERNATHY

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of a dedicated servant and leader, Warren H. Abernathy. After a lifetime of unprecedented service to his State and Nation as a World War II veteran and a 49-year staffer of Senator Strom Thurmond, Mr. Abernathy passed away in Spartanburg, SC, on June 22, 2009, at the age of 85.

While he will be remembered by most as a "private man who wanted to make a difference," I will remember him as a larger than life figure who greeted everyone with a smile. He was a World War II veteran who was prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our freedom. After a lifetime of duty, he retired as colonel with the U.S. Army Reserves.

Born and raised in Spartanburg, Mr. Abernathy attended Spartanburg High School, Wofford College, and graduated from Spartanburg Methodist College and the University of South Carolina. He later received a master's in business administration from Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS, and in September of 1992 he received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Voorhees College in Denmark, SC.

In 1948 he began working for then-Governor J. Strom Thurmond as his administrative assistant. When Governor Thurmond was elected Senator Thurmond, Mr. Abernathy transitioned with him and served as the Senator's State assistant for 49 years. Mr. Abernathy also served as the former secretary-treasurer of the Strom Thurmond Foundation, a U.S. marshal, a member of the Civil Service, an honorary member of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, and in 2007 the Spartanburg County Bar Association awarded him the E. C. Burnett, III, Contribution to Law and Justice Award for his contributions as a non-lawyer to the overall improvement of the legal system in Spartanburg County.

In addition to his time in politics, Mr. Abernathy was an active member of the Southside Baptist Church where he participated in the Layman's Sunday school class and served as a former deacon. In 1997 a portion of highway 29 in Spartanburg, SC, was renamed Warren H. Abernathy Highway by the Department of Transportation in honor of his service. And after decades of serving South Carolina, Mr. Abernathy was awarded the Order of the Palmetto from Governor David Beasley on April 13, 1998.

Mr. Abernathy, the husband of the late Margaretta Scruggs Abernathy, is survived by family and friends who are rightfully proud of a well-lived life in service of his fellow man.

I ask that the U.S. Senate join me in commemorating Mr. Abernathy's lifelong dedication to service to our country and to the State of South Carolina. •

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DETROIT RESCUE MISSION INDUSTRIES

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries—DRMM—on 100 years of dedicated service to the Metro Detroit community. Through their commitment to meeting the emotional, spiritual and material needs of the individuals they serve each day, the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries truly embody their motto: "Rebuilding one life at a time."

Founded in 1909, this faith-based, non-profit organization has consistently worked to combat the debilitating and persistent challenges of homelessness, hunger, and addiction in southeastern Michigan. The DRMM has waged this important fight by bringing together a variety of interested parties throughout southeastern Michigan, as well as a wealth of resources. By coordinating 50,000 donors, 120 faith-based organizations, and multiple State, county, and local government agencies, the DRMM has galvanized the community support necessary to make a significant difference in the lives of Michiganders.

The DRMM has played a central role in the rehabilitation of countless individuals in Metro Detroit. The DRMM provides basic necessities for at-risk individuals while fostering a desire to rebuild their lives. This organization offers critical services in the form of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing; psychological and spiritual counseling; substance abuse treatment; and emergency food and clothing. Each year, the DRMM provides 1 million nutritious meals at seven local facilities; more than 160,000 nights of emergency shelter; 75,000 clothing items; and substance abuse treatment for thousands of men and women.

I know my colleagues join me in congratulating all who have contributed to the important work of the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries over the years, and I look forward to another century of commitment to the community. •

COMMENDING WILD OATS BAKERY & CAFÉ

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I recognize a small business in my home State of Maine that admirably embodies the ideal dichotomy of being both a successful business and a well-regarded member of the community. Wild Oats Bakery & Café, an independently-owned dining establishment located in Brunswick, also provides guests with a quintessentially New England experience, as Yankee Magazine recently recognized the restaurant with the "Best Taste of Home" Editor's Choice award in its annual Best of New England listing.

Opened in October 1991 by owners Becky and David Shepherd, Wild Oats

Bakery & Café has remained a consistent purveyor of fresh, homemade foods for nearly two decades, resulting in its immense popularity among the local community and area Bowdoin College students. Located inside the Tontine Mall in downtown Brunswick, Wild Oats has grown from a 5-employee operation to its current crew of over 20. Additionally, Wild Oats has doubled the size of its space, and has added a deck and patio for dining during the beautiful Maine summer, all the while maintaining a cozy and personable atmosphere.

With a menu that includes baked goods, breads, soups and chowders, salads, sandwiches, entrees, desserts, as well as frozen meals to bring home, Wild Oats offers patrons an appealing variety of delicious, made-from-scratch products to suit a diverse array of taste buds. To support another Maine small business, Wild Oats sells Carrabassett Coffee, produced in the western Maine town of Kingfield. The company has also launched a unique delivery service to nearby Bowdoin College, where parents can surprise their sons and daughters with a delectable birthday cake accompanied by a Wild Oats coffee mug, water bottle, or t-shirt.

From the beginning, Wild Oats has strived to make customer service the top priority and has consistently sought innovative ways to better serve its customers. These efforts have certainly not gone unnoticed as Wild Oats has become an increasingly integral part of the local community. In fact, Wild Oats' most recent distinction as the "Best Taste of Home for 2009" is just one of several awards the restaurant has garnered in recent years. Last year, the company was named Small Business of the Year by the Southern Midcoast Chamber of Commerce. This award came six months after it was acknowledged with the Small Business Leadership Award by Governor John Baldacci for the firm's 16-year history of employing persons with disabilities. The Shepherds have partnered with several Midcoast organizations, including Independence Association and Work Enterprises, to hire workers with disabilities over the years.

While the Shepherds operate and own Wild Oats, they are the first to point out that they rely heavily on their stellar and experienced employees, an extended family that they include in many decision making and leadership opportunities. Among them is Louisa Edgerton, the store's manager, who has been with Wild Oats since 1997 and brought over 20 years in the food service industry with her. Another notable employee is Frank Golek. Frank, who assists with food preparation and cleaning, has worked at the restaurant since 1996, affording him the distinction of the longest serving Wild Oats employee.

Wild Oats' commitment to the local community goes beyond serving