

As a native of Sioux Falls, Mayor Munson married and raised his children in the city he loves, pursued a successful business career, and ultimately rose to the position of mayor. He has provided critical, consistent, and caring leadership to the residents of Sioux Falls during his terms in office.

Over the past decade, Sioux Falls has witnessed tremendous residential housing growth and business development. During Mayor Munson's tenure, an impressive sum of over 16,000 jobs have been added in the city. Tax valuation in the city has grown from \$125 million in 2002 to \$229 million today.

Sioux Falls continues to be a great place to work, live, and raise a family, and this has been reflected in numerous top national rankings for quality of life and job development. Most recently, Sioux Falls was named one of the top five cities in the Nation for job prospects by the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey. For the past 8 years, Forbes magazine has ranked Sioux Falls first out of 200 small metropolitan areas as the best places for businesses and careers. From adding 490 acres of parkland throughout Sioux Falls to increasing public safety by adding 50 police officers to the streets, from development of 23,000 acres on the east side of the thriving community to enhancing and improving neighborhoods, Mayor Munson has exhibited a progressive attitude to developing and maintaining Sioux Falls as one of the best cities in our Nation. A recent survey shows that 92 percent of Sioux Falls citizens say their community is a good or excellent place to live. Few city officials can tout such an extraordinary level of satisfaction.

I have enjoyed my working relationship and friendship with Mayor Munson over many years. I have appreciated his can-do attitude, his vision for the future of Sioux Falls, and his team-oriented approach to resolving issues. Most of all, I have enjoyed collaborating with him on several large-scale projects that will continue to enhance the quality of life in Sioux Falls for decades. For example, the roadway from "Phillips to the Falls" has been completed. Together, we ensured the future of the Orpheum Theater. We have long been partners to bring much needed water to Sioux Falls with the construction of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System, which will meet the infrastructure needs for increased growth in the Sioux Falls area far into the future.

Mayor Munson has provided a lasting legacy of leadership that will benefit the citizens of Sioux Falls for generations to come. His dedication and commitment to the people of Sioux Falls is unmatched, and I commend his distinguished service as mayor. Another of his achievements, the illumination at Christmastime of the falls for which the city is named, will serve as an annual reminder of his leadership. As Mayor Munson concludes his final tenure, I thank him for his service, and I

wish him all the best in his future endeavors. •

#### TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleagues for the time this morning to speak about a very special flight that just took place. The Louisiana HonorAir flight that came into Washington on Saturday, April 10 included a group of 82 World War II veterans from Louisiana. These veterans visited the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable servicemembers.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, sponsored this latest trip—its 21st flight—to the Nation's Capital. The organization honors surviving Louisiana World War II veterans by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. On this trip, the veterans visited the World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials. They traveled to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

World War II was one of America's greatest triumphs, but was also a conflict rife with individual sacrifice and tragedy. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American servicemembers were slain during the long war. The ultimate victory over enemies in the Pacific and in Europe is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. The years 1941 to 1945 also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of domestic industry, which supplied our military on two distant fronts.

In Louisiana, there are roughly 30,000 living WWII veterans, and each one has a heroic tale of achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny. The oldest in this HonorAir group was born in 1918. Some began their service as early as 1940, before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and some members of this group served as late as 1972. This HonorAir group served in various branches of the military: 31 in the U.S. Army, 21 in the Navy, 16 in the Air Force, 7 in the Marine Corps, 2 in the Coast Guard, 2 in the Merchant Marines and 1 was a Women's Army Corps Member, WAC.

Our heroes trekked the world for their country. They served across the globe, participating in major invasions such as those at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Guadalcanal, Leyte, the Philippines, and southern France.

One was a prisoner of war in Germany, while others fought in the historic Battle of the Bulge or stormed the beaches at Normandy.

Many of these veterans have been decorated with multiple Purple Hearts, Bronze Star Medals, Air Medals and Navy Crosses.

These men and women, who have given so much for our country, truly

represent our greatest generation. I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 82 veterans, all Louisiana heroes, that we welcomed to Washington on April 10 and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality. •

#### RECOGNIZING SEA BAGS, INC.

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I honor a Maine small business that has not only captured Maine history and tradition through their unique craft, but has also aimed to selflessly support various organizations and charities throughout the State of Maine for over a decade. Sea Bags, Inc., coowned by Maine natives Hannah Kubiak and Beth Shissler, is based in Maine's largest city, Portland, and has been using recycled sails to create inventive, environmentally friendly purses and tote bags that are "sailed around the world" and "recycled in Maine."

Sea Bags, Inc. was founded in 1999 on the principle that "recycling is not just a fad, but a responsibility." And while they own a globally successful business, Hannah Kubiak and Beth Shissler have always emphasized making a positive and lasting impact locally. Ms. Kubiak, who grew up sailing in the famed seaside town of Kennebunkport, was inspired by her father, who would often brainstorm ways to reuse old sails. Additionally, Ms. Shissler travelled the world in her work for several large companies before being drawn home to put her business experience to use at Sea Bags. Their work has been featured in a variety of publications, including Vanity Fair; the New York Times; Vogue; and O, the Oprah Magazine.

Believing that everyone should have a second chance, Sea Bags has previously partnered with the Maine Department of Correction's Industries Program to engage inmates at the Maine Correctional Institute for Women in helping make the bags and teaching them job skills such as sewing. This 2-year collaboration helped the company keep up with the increased demand in recent years. In 2005, Sea Bags was selling roughly 60 items per year, and it now sells over 2,000 each month. In addition to its line of regular, everyday tote bags—which are water resistant and durable—the company also offers creative bath mats, coasters, and shaving kits. Sea Bags has also created a limited-edition line of "Cure Bags" to "celebrate a cure" for breast cancer. Fifty percent of all of the proceeds from Cure Bags goes to the Maine Cancer Foundation for breast cancer support and awareness programs.

When it comes to supporting Maine's timeless tradition of sailing, Sea Bags donates to the Sail Maine Scholarship Fund with the aim of helping underprivileged children learn how to sail. Sea Bags has teamed up with other local nautical organizations, including the Islesboro Yacht Club Youth Sailing Program, the Compass Project, and the