

strengthening our State's long-term economic health. Alan himself oversaw the creation of task forces on health care, on education and workforce development, on transportation and infrastructure and corporate social responsibility.

The results are clear for all to see. Massachusetts is creating jobs faster than almost every other State, our economy is expanding at twice the national growth rate, and our students are outperforming their peers around the country. Now, there are a lot of people to thank for that, and many who have played a part in the success of our State—but one of them is very definitely Alan Macdonald. Thanks in part to the strategic thinking under Alan's leadership, Massachusetts became the model for health care reforms that expand coverage and lower costs. It is one of the reasons that a well-educated work force is our State's calling card in the global economy. And it is one of the reasons our State has a competitive edge in building a 21st century infrastructure and developing clean energy. Thank you, Alan.

Alan's retirement gives him more time to spend with his wife Jane, more time with his two sons, Alan and Daniel and their families, and more time with his four grandchildren. And I think we can all agree that he has earned the extra time for his other great passions—baseball and golf.

But fortunately, the Massachusetts Business Roundtable has made Alan its president emeritus. So as the roundtable navigates the coming challenges, it is comforting to know that Alan Macdonald won't be far away.●

RECOGNIZING MORNING GLORY NATURAL FOODS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, our economy relies on small businesses, particularly small, family-owned firms that have been in operation for generation after generation. One such small business, Morning Glory Natural Foods in Brunswick, will be celebrating its "30 Years on Maine Street" on July 15, complete with festivities for the whole community. Today I wish to commend Morning Glory Natural Foods for its remarkable achievement.

Morning Glory Natural Foods opened its doors in May of 1981, proudly serving the mid-coast community of Brunswick with fresh, local, and organic products—from delicious local produce to organic cotton clothing, and everything in between. Since then, the firm has grown to incorporate dozens of other Maine-made products in its catalogue of goods that truly exemplify the virtues of a local economic leader.

Like so many small Maine businesses, Morning Glory is rooted in family tradition. The Tarpinian family has continually operated the store since its opening 30 years ago. It is particularly pleasing to acknowledge the successes of small, family-owned businesses, because these companies help maintain

the strong, community-oriented character of Main Street America. And certainly Brunswick's Maine Street is a shining example of this uniquely American proposition.

The long-term success and longevity of Morning Glory Natural Foods and the Tarpinian family is a byproduct of the strong work ethic, customer service, and decision to sell quality, local products at affordable prices. Indeed, this business serves the local community on two levels: by providing fresh, environmentally responsible products to Maine citizens, while also supporting other local businesses by electing to sell their products. Morning Glory Natural Foods and the Tarpinians are a true testament to the rewards of hard work and perseverance.

On Friday, July 15, Morning Glory Natural Foods will be holding a celebration of "30 Years on Maine Street," a storewide celebration being held at their location in the middle of Brunswick. Events include free food and drink, raffles, and sampling throughout the day, a way to say thanks to the community and the store's loyal customers. Morning Glory also plans to have an abundance of local food vendors and farmers lining the street, another wonderful way to promote and encourage growth in the local economy.

Small businesses like Morning Glory Natural Foods are the heart and soul of our Nation's communities. Main Streets across America are chock full of restaurants, grocery stores, and shopping boutiques which provide citizens with the goods and wares they need in a friendly and convenient location and deserve our recognition. Indeed, Morning Glory Natural Foods is a prime example of a small business that has persevered through a turbulent economy time and again, and has come out on top each time. I congratulate everyone at Morning Glory for this incredible milestone and wish them many more years of success.●

REMEMBERING ROGER WILLIAMS

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I wish to reflect on a recent article on one of the most influential heroes from the earliest days of our Nation's history: Roger Williams of Rhode Island.

Roger Williams' legacy is well known in my home State of Rhode Island—the State he helped found after being banished from Massachusetts for his beliefs about religious tolerance.

Roger Williams argued that religious beliefs should be kept separate from government policies and that government should not impose a specific set of religious beliefs on its citizens. The separation of church and state is widely embraced today, both in the United States and in many countries around the world. But in the 1600s, this was a scandalous idea. The Puritans who colonized the Massachusetts Bay Colony fled England because of religious

persecution, but they had no intention of allowing religious freedom in the new colonies. Rather, they established the Massachusetts Bay colony as a theocracy that enforced adherence to their particular religious beliefs with the gallows and the lash.

Roger Williams rejected this framework, and was forced to flee Massachusetts. Upon arriving at the northwestern shore of Narragansett Bay in 1636, he negotiated an agreement with the Narragansett Indians to establish a new colony on that land. As Williams wrote, "...having made covenant of peaceable neighborhood with all the sachems and natives round about us, and having, in a sense of God's merciful providence unto me in my distress, called the place Providence, I desired it might be for a shelter for persons distressed for conscience." Later on these views would be enshrined in Rhode Island's founding charter, providing "full liberty in religious concernsments."

Williams' principles of tolerance are the foundation on which our state, and afterwards our nation, were built. To this point, I request to have printed in the RECORD a recent op-ed from the Providence Journal by Rhode Island College Professor J. Stanley Lemons entitled "Assessing the global importance of Roger Williams," which does an excellent job of capturing this piece of American history.

The information follows.

[From the Providence Journal, Friday, June 24, 2011]

ASSESSING THE GLOBAL IMPORTANCE OF ROGER WILLIAMS

(By J. Stanley Lemons)

The greatest contribution that the U.S. has made to world religion is the concept and practice of separation of church and state, and that was started in Providence with Roger Williams in 1636.

Even if nothing in the rest of the history of the state was remarkable, Providence would still have that one world-class contribution to its credit. It was the first place in modern history where citizenship and religion were separated, where freedom of conscience was the rule.

While his ideas were reviled and attacked in the 17th Century, they became embodied in the U.S. Constitution in 1789 and the Bill of Rights, appended to it in 1791.

Have you wondered why there is a Roger Williams Lodge of B'nai B'rith? Why the oldest synagogue (Touro Synagogue, in Newport) in America is in Rhode Island? Have you ever wondered why Rhode Island never had a witch trial? Or blasphemy trials? Nor hanged, whipped or jailed people because of religion? All the other colonies executed witches, but not Rhode Island. Most had blasphemy trials, but not Rhode Island.

Nearly everywhere else in colonial America, people of faith were persecuted, but not in Rhode Island. Massachusetts hanged four Quakers, and Virginia imprisoned dozens of Baptists. Maryland, which was created as a haven for Roman Catholics, came to outlaw Catholic priests and prohibited Roman Catholics from inheriting property. These things did not happen here because Roger Williams founded Providence to be a "shelter for those distressed of conscience." Rhode Island's freedom of religion prevented such religious laws and abuses.

It is well to recall how this came about. Roger Williams got into serious trouble in