

honored with the Prudential Spirit of Community Award for her advocacy on behalf of foster children and homeless teens in the Greater Las Vegas area. I am proud to recognize Ms. Foremaster for this accomplishment as she serves as a role model for students across the nation striving to make a difference in the lives of America's youth.

Having five adopted siblings, Ms. Foremaster understands the importance of supporting organizations that find adoptive families for children who wait in foster care. She has dedicated more than 1,000 hours to foster organizations around Nevada to assist their efforts to provide a supportive community for children. One winter, as she helped a group prepare for the holiday season, Ms. Foremaster noticed that they weren't providing children with stockings for Christmas. This experience encouraged her to hang flyers, asking for donations and small gifts to help her fill stockings for adoptive children and displaced teens. Ms. Foremaster was thrilled to receive generous donations that enabled her to fill 250 stockings to help bring the holiday spirit to kids in needs.

I am so appreciative that Ms. Foremaster is raising awareness of the needs of our country's struggling youth. In this tough economic period, America's children deserve our attention more than ever. Since coming to Congress, I have supported legislation that assists individuals who have fallen on hard times, recognizing the importance of temporary safety nets. It is of paramount importance in this distressed economy that we keep the needs of our most vulnerable at the forefront while focusing on solutions to our nation's long-term economic problems.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating a young Nevadan for her incredible determination to assist our nation's youth. The citizens of Las Vegas are fortunate to have such a generous volunteer who selflessly gives back to her community and exemplifies the very best America's youth has to offer.●

COLONEL BRIAN DUBIE

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Col. Brian Dubie, a fifth-generation Vermonter who is retiring on June 2 after a long and distinguished career in the Vermont Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. Brian served as Vermont's 78th Lieutenant Governor and has devoted his life to serving his State and his country.

Upon graduating high school in Essex Junction, Brian enrolled in the U.S. Air Force Academy. Even though the flight he took to Colorado was his first time on an airplane, Brian already knew that he loved aviation. Growing up, his father an officer in the Vermont Guard would bring the family to watch the planes take off and land from Burlington. Those excursions made vivid

and lasting impressions on young Brian.

When he returned home to attend the University of Vermont, Brian joined the Vermont Air National Guard and flew F-4s and then F-16s, eventually rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. In 1998, he joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve where he now holds the rank of colonel and serves as an emergency preparedness liaison officer.

Brian's service has touched thousands of Americans outside of Vermont. Following the September 11 attacks, Brian procured and coordinated the distribution of badly needed cell phones and radios for emergency responders at Ground Zero. For his actions he was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal. When Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast in 2005, Brian mobilized and ensured that civilian responders had the support they needed. For his achievements at the Hurricane Operations Center, he earned another Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Admirable as they are, Brian's achievements are not surprising considering his roots in a family who values service and duty to country. His mother Janice worked as an operating room nurse at what was then the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont. His father Clem was a colonel in the Vermont Guard where he served full-time as a personnel officer. His brother Michael is the adjutant general of Vermont.

Brian is also a tireless promoter of the Vermont business community. He was the motivational force behind the Vermont Aerospace and Aviation Association. He also served as the unofficial Vermont "ambassador" to Quebec a position he took on with such fervor that some Quebec officials called him Mr. Ambassador.

I am proud of all that Brian has accomplished for Vermont and our country. While he may be retiring from the Air Force, I know that his service to both State and Nation is far from over. I wish him, his wife Penny, and his family all the best.●

RECOGNIZING UPRIGHT FRAMEWORKS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, in February, the New York Times ran a heartbreaking story about Robert and Wilma Hartford, two elderly Peru, ME residents unable to pay for basic heating during the State's bitter cold winter, and a heating oil dealer's personal struggle to assist them. As a result, the outpouring of support for this couple was astonishing, as neighbors, generous New York Times readers across the country, and local small businesses sought to help. One such business, Upright Frameworks in Wilton, ME, was happy to lend a hand. This small firm's assistance to the Hartfords during their time of need illustrates the generosity of Mainers, consistently rising to the occasion to help a neighbor,

while demonstrating enormous potential for curbing our exorbitant energy costs. Today I wish to recognize Upright Frameworks for their compassion and tireless efforts to improve energy efficient building techniques.

Owner and founder Josh Wojcik began Upright Frameworks in 2008, after moving back home to Maine following a 9-year term in environmental policy in New York. As a trained environmentalist and graduate from the Structural Insulated Panel, SIP, School in West Virginia, Josh is dedicated to ensuring that buildings take full advantage of energy efficiency. Josh developed the idea for Upright Frameworks while assisting his father, Tom Wojcik, a long-time Mainer Builder, on construction projects throughout the State. As individuals continually inquired about energy efficiency and going "green," Josh saw an opportunity to utilize his skills in Maine.

Despite the challenging construction market, today Upright Frameworks employs 12 individuals. As a new innovative construction solution, this small firm specializes in installing structural insulated panels which have been on the forefront of energy efficiency. For existing structures, the company performs energy audits and weatherization retrofits to ensure that buildings have the most cost-effective energy systems in places.

When Josh learned of the Hartfords' struggle, he was determined to help. With an existing home such as the Hartfords, the first step was to evaluate the project and determine the most cost-effective method to reduce energy costs. For Josh, reducing the heat loss in the attic was paramount to addressing energy efficiency. In collaboration with several other local Maine businesses and donations from across the country, Josh was able to effectively make a difference by reducing air leakage in the Hartfords' home by an astonishing 63 percent. This drastic reduction will allow the couple to substantially reduce their home heating costs for years to come.

While energy costs are still a major issue facing my State, I applaud Upright Frameworks' ability to achieve real results with their creative use of energy efficiency to alleviate the burdens of home-heating costs. This company's selfless commitment to helping fellow Mainers in need truly warms my heart. I am proud to extend my praise to Josh Wojcik and everyone at Upright Frameworks for their dedication and offer my best wishes for their continued success in building a new energy future and improving the daily lives of Mainers.●