A place that was engaged with more meaningful social issues." In that context, Webb pitched a tent, built a campfire, and invited kids over. The campers even spent a solo night in the tent. "You could call Webb, a newly minted 18-year-old, a grown-up.

"They all seemed to survive," Webb said. The camp was the original manifestation of Webb's interest in "meaningful education" that is an intersection of agriculture, nature and environmental awareness. From these beginnings, at the boyhood home where Webb grew up the fourth of six siblings, Shelburne Farms would become a nonprofit (incorporated in 1972) whose various endeavors bring 140,000 people a year to the farm.

There are so many camps and school programs at Shelburne Farms these days, the child-centric activity prompted Webb to wonder on a recent walk—where packs of happy kids raced around the place—if summer camps had already started. He’s no longer sleeping in a field with the kids.

These days, you can find him in his corner office in the barn that is punctuated by big maps and less-glamorous paperwork. He says he’s part-town manager, part-town planner. And full-time fundraiser.

Webb lives with his wife, Megan Camp, the farm’s vice president and program director, and their cats Fanta and Stella, in an 1800s shingled farmhouse that predates Shelburne Farms. Others have returned, wandering onto their lawn. Chickens make regular appearances; goats jump the fence and hang at Webb’s place. A donkey came by one morning last week.

The visitors come with the territory when you live where you work and where you play: a swirl of activities including walking trails, a Brown Swiss dairy herd, environmental education programs, harvest festivals and a cheese making facility.

Shelburne Farms, a one-time estate, was founded by Webb’s great-grandparents and designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead in the 1880s. At the turn of the century, the lakeside property of Dr. William Seward and Lila Vanderbilt Webb encompassed nearly 4,000 acres. The barn they built for work animals was colossal—so big, in its reincarnated life it houses a cheese-making and packing operation, a school, a woodworking shop, a kid’s farmyard, a bakery, an inn—"a kid’s farmyard!"

In 1972, Shelburne Farms was incorporated as a nonprofit—a decision that was useful in setting the farm on more solid financial ground, Webb said. (His father had to borrow money to pay property taxes, he said.) In seeking a new direction for Shelburne Farms, Webb and his five siblings saw that the property could and should be a community resource and asset, he said. The six young Webb’s did not want the dairy farm where they grew up to become a carved-up, high-end suburb. Webb said:

"If we all had one-sixth of this place," he said, "we’d’ve spent the rest of our lives dealing with that.

The common experience of growing up on the farm, a love of the land, and an interest in “responding to the context of the world we were living in at that time,” helped shape the siblings’ shared vision for Shelburne Farms, Webb said.

"Those threads of agriculture, youth, community, and our intentions,” he said the other day, eating lunch at a picnic table in the farmyard.

"We started Shelburne Farms because we were living in a time that are so much more pressing now,” he said, noting climate change wasn’t an issue people were thinking about. ‘We wondered: ‘How are we going to get ourselves on a path that could be more sustainable for people and the planet.’ The farm would be an expression of a pathway to a better future. Not necessarily something that can work given a different set of intentions, around sustainability.

‘We wondered how the land whole and accessible to the public. Their father, Derick Webb, made that possible in his death on June 84 in the age of 70. Derick Webb—who had retired to Florida—rewrote his will before his death from a heart attack. In his revised will, he left the 1,000 acres he inherited to the nonprofit that was purchased by his father earlier. An earlier version had given the property to the six children.

Webb and his siblings agitated for this change—including writing letters that Webb says make him cringe to read today—they didn’t know their father had gifted the land to the nonprofit until after he died.

Now the integrity of the property was assured. Suddenly, the nonprofit was in a more formidable position.

And so it was with great joy that point, we were playing for real,” Webb said. That meant fundraising, restor- ing and managing the property, building an organization and related programming. Making the world a little bit better is something of a bureaucracy—with custodial work on the side.

"When I’m walking around, I’m always looking for deferred maintenance and pot-holes,” Webb said. "It’s not a downer. I kind of enjoy that.

His primary focus is finances and farming; his brother, Marshall Webb, manages the woodland and special projects.

The farm was in disrepair when Webb was a kid, but he liked it. "There was a little Swiss herd and chores related to dairying. In those days, a milk hauler rumbled up the long driveway to transport the milk to a creamery. Earlier still, the family delivered milk in cans to Shelburne.

Back then, the barn roofs leaked; plumbing didn’t work in portions of Shelburne House, now called the Inn at Shelburne Farms; and Alec and his brothers, wearing plain white T-shirts, ate corn on the cob at picnic tables on a terrace, goats snuffling around the table for scraps. It’s a world that’s whiter there now at 6 o’clock at night,” Webb said. At 6 o’clock these days, spiffy diners—guests, not family—eat dinner on the terrace at the inn, a dining spot that overlooks formal gardens, Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. The food they’re eating, chef-prepared, was likely produced on the farm. Not counting work-related dinners, Webb said he eats at the inn about once a year.

He still prefers dairying hours, rising by 5 a.m. and eating a bowl of oat bran before heading to work. His commute is walking across the farmyard. With the exception of two years working for the state Department of Conservation—fulfilling his conscientious objector status in the Vietnam War—Webb’s work has been connected to Shelburne Farms.

In his office is a black and white photograph of a young girl standing at a table of vegetables. It is the summer of 1973, before the existence of the Burlington Farmers Market. The table is set up on St. Paul Street in front of the original Ben and Jerry’s.

It holds cabbages, cauliflower, and bushels of beans. Hand-lettered signs describe vegetables that are organically grown and reasonably priced. The girl grew the vegetables at Shelburne Farms. She’s an example of the farm’s decade-long work in sustainable agriculture, community connections, youthful energy and vision.
"We didn't say, 40 years ago, we're going to have an inn," Webb said. "We had the intention of conserving this land was not as clear as it is now."

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL BARRY GASDEK

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor LTC Barry Gasdek. Retired, for his decades of service to Wyoming and to America.

As Walter Lippmann once said, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on." In his 49 years of service to our country, Barry's proven dedication and loyalty have touched countless lives. From his extensive active duty service in the U.S. Army to his quest to aid the veterans of Wyoming, Mr. Gasdek is a true Wyoming hero.

Barry's path to Wyoming is similar to the historic trails that cross Wyoming's terrain—he started out in the east and eventually headed west. Barry showed the strong will and discipline of a natural born leader. Growing up in Pennsylvania, he excelled as an athlete and a student. From his extensive active duty service in the U.S. Army to his quest to aid the veterans of Wyoming, Mr. Gasdek is a true Wyoming hero.

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Barry's passion and devotion to the armed forces sparked a distinguished career with the U.S. Army. Barry started his career serving in Germany, fresh from the ROTC program, where he gained firsthand experience of Cold War tensions. Later, he was called to serve in Vietnam as the conflict there worsened. Barry proved himself in Vietnam. He flew observation missions and eventually returned for a second tour of duty. One of his commanders joked that he was like a magnet for drawing fire. Despite the adversity he faced, Barry met his challenges head on and with fortitude. He continued his military service well after Vietnam by training, mentoring, teaching. From mentor, a teacher, a good man. He embodies the cowboy ethics and what it means to be a citizen of Wyoming. It is certain that the legacy of his leadership will inspire new generations of brave soldiers. On behalf of the State of Wyoming and the United States of America, I thank Barry for his service. His boots will be hard to fill.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, this week we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the passage of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. For over 40 years, this historic law has furthered gender equality in education and sports in schools so that young women, including my three daughters, Caroline, Halina, and Anne, who all play soccer, and jamie Derrieux, a senior at Grand Junction High School, was named to the 5A First-Team All-State team and will be playing basketball of Northern Colorado this fall. The flag-ship all-girls charter school, GALŠS, Girls Athletic Leadership Schools, in Denver practices active learning that engages students in health and wellness activities in the belief that these are key contributing factors in optimizing academic achievement and self-development. The Colorado Women's Sports Fund Association works toward increasing the number of girls and women who participate in athletics and reducing and eliminating barriers that prevent participation. Studies show that participation in sports has a positive influence on the intellectual, physical and psychological health of girls and young women. By a 3-to-1 ratio, female athletes do better in school, do not drop out, and have a better chance to graduate from college. Sports participation is linked to lower rates of pregnancy in adolescent female athletes, and according to a study from the Oppenheimer/MassMutual Financial Group, of 401 executive businesswomen surveyed, 82 percent reported playing organized sports while growing up, including school teams, intramurals, and recreational leagues.

Despite the vast improvements, inequalities and disparities still remain. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, schools are still providing 1.3 million fewer chances for girls to play sports in high school than boys. These numbers have an even greater impact on Latinas and African-American young women. It is because of such disparities that I signed on to the Senate resolution put forth this week by Senators Patty Murray of Washington and Olympia Snowe of Maine to show my commitment to working toward a more equal future.

We have work to do. Please join me in celebrating the 40th anniversary of title IX by supporting efforts to expand equality in sports participation and education for women and girls around the country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED WAY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to congratulate the United Way on its 125th anniversary. The organization began in 1887 as a community