

"We didn't say, 40 years ago, we're going to have an inn." Webb said. "We had the intention of seeing this place being used as a place for learning—creating a living/learning environment for kids and others to increase their awareness of the environment and community."

"There was something that would seem wrong about doing anything other than treating Shelburne Farms as a community asset. Maybe it's Olmstead's design: (But) the importance 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 hundreds of 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 scholar. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in high school. At the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated with a B.S. in education, he earned letters in three sports. All of these honors prepared him for a lifetime of service to his country.

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 to become both a Ranger and a Pathfinder and by serving at a number of Army bases around the world.

He is a qualified leader, and his military achievements reflect his success. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, an award second only to the Medal of Honor. In addition, Barry received the Silver Star for his service in Vietnam, 5 Bronze Stars, 2 Purple Hearts, the Soldier's Medal, the Legion of Honor, and 17 Air Medals. These awards are but a few of his military accomplishments.

After many years of successfully serving his country, Barry accepted an

other challenge—this time in Laramie, WY. He was assigned as a professor of military science at the University of Wyoming through its Army ROTC program. Barry was a natural for the title, given his own involvement in the ROTC program in Pennsylvania. He brought the same level of talent and perseverance to this position as he did on the battlefield. For years, he encouraged his students to become our Nation's future leaders.

While many would be comfortable slipping into retirement, Barry knew his mission in Wyoming had not yet been completed. This time, he took up the banner to fight for veterans' issues. He had experienced the lack of support for Vietnam's veterans, and he vowed to keep that from happening again. Barry served in leadership positions with the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. His goal was to support the State's current veterans while teaching the next generation about the important sacrifices our Armed Forces make each and every day. Eventually, his passionate advocacy led him to serve as a State veterans service officer for the Wyoming Veterans Commission, the UW Veterans Task Force, and as the Army Reserve ambassador.

LTC Barry Gasdek, Retired, has devoted his entire life to serving his country, his brothers in arms, and the people of Wyoming. He is a fighter, a mentor, a teacher, and 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, may enjoy the benefits that come along with sports participation.

On October 29, 2002, title IX was renamed the "Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act" to honor the tireless determination and leadership of Congresswoman Mink of Hawaii in developing and passing title IX. If Congresswoman Mink was still with us today, I know she would be proud of the remarkable gains that have been made to ensure equal opportunity for women and girls in sports, education, and professionally.

In my home State of Colorado, we are ahead of the curve with regards to opportunities for girls and women in

sports. The U.S. Olympic Training Center, located in Colorado Springs, was created by an act of Congress in 1978, just a few years after title IX was passed. It is encouraging to know that women, like Gold Medal Winner Lindsey Vonn, now make up nearly half of all U.S. Olympians competing at the games—representing more than 48 percent of the 2008 team. Jamie Derrieux, a senior at Grand Junction High School, was named to the 5A First-Team All-State team and will be playing basketball at the University of Northern Colorado this fall. The flagship all-girls charter school, GALS, 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