

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. COWAN):

S. 371. A bill to establish the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, to dedicate the Park to John H. Chafee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing legislation with my colleagues Senators WHITEHOUSE, WARREN, and COWAN that would create the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. Our legislation seeks to preserve the industrial, natural, and cultural heritage of the Blackstone Valley, assist local communities by providing economic development opportunities, and build upon the foundation of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

In 1793, Samuel Slater began the American Industrial Revolution in Rhode Island when he built his historic mill along the Blackstone River. Today, the mills and villages found throughout the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in Rhode Island and Massachusetts stand as witnesses to this important era of American history.

Not only is the Blackstone Valley a window to our nation's past but it is also includes thousands of acres of pristine, undeveloped land and waterways that are home to a diverse ecosystem.

The combined efforts of the National Park Service and Federal, State, and local officials in our or two states, along with dedicated volunteers, have rejuvenated the communities within the Corridor and renewed interest in the rich history of the Blackstone River and valley. This kind of economic and environmental revitalization is indicative of the tradition of the valley in its successful reinvention over the past two centuries.

For example, the Ashton Mill in Cumberland is an excellent illustration of local redevelopment. With the designation of the National Heritage Corridor, the cleanup of the river, the creation of the state park, and the construction of the Blackstone River Bikeway, the property was restored for adaptive reuse as rental apartments. Once again, the mill and its village are a vital part of the greater Blackstone valley community.

I have been pleased over the years to help support the preservation and renewed development of the Blackstone River Valley.

In 2005, I cosponsored legislation with former Senator Lincoln Chafee, now our State's governor, requiring the completion of a Special Resource Study to determine which areas within the Corridor were of national significance and possibly suitable for inclusion in the National Park System. After extensive input from local stakeholders and historians, in 2011 the completed study recommended the creation of a new unit of the National Park System.

The legislation I am reintroducing today with my colleagues from Rhode Island and Massachusetts seeks to establish the two-state partnership park described in the study, with sites including the Blackstone River and its tributaries, the Blackstone Canal, the historic district of Old Slater Mill in Pawtucket, the villages of Slatersville and Ashton in Rhode Island, the villages of Whitinsville and Hopedale in Massachusetts, and the Blackstone River State Park. The National Park Service would partner with the local coordinating entity of the surrounding Heritage Corridor, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Inc. That non-profit would then lead efforts with other regional and local groups to preserve the surrounding rural and agriculture landscape within the greater Blackstone River Valley.

Creating a national historic park will enable us to safeguard our cultural heritage for future generations; improve the use and enjoyment of the area's resources, including outdoor education for young people; enhance opportunities for economic development; and increase protection of the most important and nationally significant cultural and natural resources of the Blackstone River Valley.

I am proud that this park would be dedicated to my late colleague John H. Chafee, who worked tirelessly for many years, along with others in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, to protect and preserve the Blackstone River Valley.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation to establish the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 35—CONGRATULATING THE BALTIMORE RAVENS FOR WINNING SUPER BOWL XLVII

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 35

Whereas, on February 3, 2013, the Baltimore Ravens won Super Bowl XLVII, defeating the San Francisco 49ers by a score of 34 to 31 at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana;

Whereas Super Bowl XLVII marks the second Super Bowl win for the Baltimore Ravens, the third Super Bowl win for a Baltimore football team, and the first time in history that siblings have coached opposing teams in the Super Bowl;

Whereas the victory by the Baltimore Ravens was the culmination of a regular season with 10 wins and 6 losses and a series of exhilarating playoff performances;

Whereas the Baltimore Ravens exhibited a stellar offensive performance, with 93 rushing yards and 274 passing yards;

Whereas the Baltimore Ravens' defense forced turnovers that were critical to achieving a victory;

Whereas middle linebacker Ray Lewis won his second Super Bowl ring in his last game

in the National Football League after recovering from a torn tricep earlier in the season;

Whereas linebacker Terrell Suggs tore his achilles tendon in the offseason but made a full recovery to play in the Super Bowl;

Whereas quarterback Joe Flacco led the Baltimore Ravens to victory by throwing for a total of 287 yards, 3 touchdowns, and no interceptions, earning the award for Most Valuable Player;

Whereas receiver Jacoby Jones caught 1 pass for 56 yards and a touchdown and returned a kickoff a record-tying 108 yards for another touchdown;

Whereas receiver Anquan Boldin caught 6 passes for 104 yards and a touchdown;

Whereas the Baltimore Ravens dedicated their play during the season to the memories of Art Modell, the former owner, and Tevin Jones, the brother of receiver Torrey Smith;

Whereas the leadership and vision of head coach John Harbaugh propelled the Baltimore Ravens back to the pinnacle of professional sports;

Whereas members of the Baltimore Ravens organization have helped their community through charitable work and advocacy; and

Whereas the Baltimore Ravens have brought great pride and honor to the City of Baltimore, its loyal fans, and the entire State of Maryland; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Baltimore Ravens for winning Super Bowl XLVII;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the 2012 championship season; and

(3) requests that the Secretary of the Senate prepare an enrolled version of this resolution for presentation to—

(A) the owner of the Baltimore Ravens, Steve Biscotti;

(B) the head coach of the Baltimore Ravens, John Harbaugh; and

(C) the now-retired field leader of the Baltimore Ravens, Ray Lewis.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 36—RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 19, 2013 AS THE CENTENNIAL OF MOSAIC, A FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION THAT WAS FOUNDED IN NEBRASKA AND NOW SERVES MORE THAN 3,600 INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN 10 STATES

Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 36

Whereas the roots of Mosaic, a faith-based organization that serves individuals with intellectual disabilities, trace back to the commitment of a Nebraskan to ensure that individuals with disabilities were cared for and inspired by a loving community;

Whereas, on February 19, 1913, a Nebraska pastor, the Reverend K.G. William Dahl, founded Bethphage Inner Mission Association (referred to in this preamble as "Bethphage") in Axtell, Nebraska as a ministry for individuals with intellectual disabilities;

Whereas, on October 20, 1925, a school endeavoring to create opportunities for children with disabilities took root in Sterling, Nebraska when the Reverends Julius Moehl, August Hoeger, and William Fruehling, and laymen John Aden and William Ehmen, established Martin Luther Home Society, which later became known as Martin Luther Homes;