lines. This prevents SBDCs in affected areas from being able to draw upon the resources available from their colleagues nationwide. Louisiana SBDCs have great experience in disaster recovery assistance and should not be prevented from providing assistance to their colleagues outside of Louisiana in the event of disaster. Therefore, we fully support this provision.

We applaud your efforts to protect small businesses in the wake of disasters and thank you for continuing to be a strong advocate on their behalf. After all, small businesses are the lifeblood of our great nation.

Sincerely,

BRENDA BERTUS,
Executive Director, St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation.

CHARLESTON METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
North Charleston, SC, March 21, 2013.

Hon. MARY LANDRIEU,
Chair, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LANDRIEU: As President and CEO of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, I would like to offer our support of the Small Business Disaster Reform Act of 2013. As the region's largest private sector organization, the Chamber represents more than 1,750 businesses and represents more than 75,000 employees in our region. Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy and, not surprisingly, the Charleston Metro Chamber's largest customer group. More than 80 percent of our members employ 50 or fewer employees.

Your committee's proposed changes on the collateral requirements and allowing small business development centers to work across state lines following disasters are necessary. Anything that can be done after a major disaster to help speed-up the rebuilding efforts should be top priority.

I want to commend you on your leadership with this critical piece of legislation. Please let me know if our team can ever be of service to you or your committee.

BRYAN S. DERREBERRY,
President and CEO.

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Mobile, AL, March 20, 2013.

Hon. MARY LANDRIEU,
Chair, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES RISCH,
Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC

DEAR SENATOR LANDRIEU AND SENATOR RISCH: The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank you for this opportunity to voice our support of the proposed changes to federal disaster assistance program legislation as it relates to programs offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration. We offer our support for two provisions in the ''Small Business Disaster Reform Act of 2013,'' S–115. We support section 2 which modifies the collateral requirements of Business Disaster Loans. We also support section 3 which authorizes the U.S. Small Business Administration to allow out-of-state small business development centers to provide assistance in Presidentially-declared disaster areas.

The Mobile Area Chamber has 2087 member businesses, and ninety percent of these businesses can be classified as small businesses. We have worked closely with the U.S. Small Business Administration office here in Mobile for over five years. We petitioned heavily to get a U.S. Small Business Administration office here locally, as this region received fewer small business loans than any other area of the country. Since opening the U.S. Small Business Administration office here in Mobile, small business loans have risen significantly.

As it relates to disaster assistance, the U.S. Small Business Administration office here in Mobile was ''on the ground'' and very helpful to area businesses in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the December 2012 tornados.

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's mission is to serve as a progressive advocate for business needs to promote the Mobile area's economic well-being. Our program structure and small business agenda reflect that as we offer disaster planning, survival and recovery workshops. Most all of these training sessions were done in conjunction with the local U.S. Small Business Administration office.

Thank you for your hard work and leadership, as we share the common goal of supporting the small business community. We appreciate the opportunity to show our support for your tremendous effort on behalf of small businesses in the Mobile Bay region.

Sincerely,

DARRELL W. RANDLE,
Vice President, Small Business Development.

FLAG DAY

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, for Americans all across the country, June 14 is a very special day—Flag Day. On that day, we all join together to celebrate our shared heritage and our history as a Nation as represented by our American flag.

We each have our own way of showing our respect and our great love for this symbol of our land. Down through the years it has been given many names, from the Stars and Stripes to Old Glory—to the Grand Old Flag that was memorialized in song. It has so many names because of all that it represents. The story of our Flag reminds us of all the sacrifices that have been made over the years so that our Nation would always be strong and free.

Each of us has our own favorite memory of the flag. There are some that we recall from the pictures of the wars that we have seen, or from our remembrance of all the veterans who proudly fought, especially those who died in the service of our Nation. Anyone who has seen a picture of the Marines raising the American flag during the battle of Iwo Jima will never forget that iconic image. It held such meaning to us we created a statue to memorialize that moment. It stands just a short distance from the Capitol, a reminder to us all that freedom is not free. It comes to us at great cost.

Although we celebrate our American flag's proudest moments on this day, we should also remember those days when we did not treat the Stars and Stripes so kindly. There were those who thought to use the flag to promote their own agenda by burning it in the streets. Fortunately, those moments were few and far between and were usually done by people who did not understand the symbolism of the flag or fully appreciate all they had received from their citizenship. Some of them just did not realize how blessed they were to be Americans.

Here in the Senate, we begin each session by joining together to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. As we do, we pledge our loyalty to our country, our determination to do everything we can to make this a better place for us all to live, and most specifically, we pledge our love and appreciation for this ''one Nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.''

Over the years, our flags have inspired works of art of all kinds, most especially a song with a remarkable story behind its origin. Every American knows what happened on that day when our young Nation was in the midst of a great war. We were fighting for our very right to be free. As the battle waged, a young man, Francis Scott Key, mesmerized by the action of the battle, suddenly caught sight of our Flag, still flying proudly over the fort in the midst of all the gunshot, flame and fire around him. The words he wrote became another symbol of our Nation as he took up his pen to tell us about the sight. From where he stood he could see ''the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, which, gave proof through the night, that our Flag was still there''—the same Flag that still proudly flies ''o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.'' The Flag that helped to inspire those words is still on display, one of the most popular attractions at the Smithsonian Institution just down the street from us.

On Flag Day, and every other day, I would encourage all Americans to fly their flag and to talk to their children and grandchildren about the meaning of the flag and the history of our Nation. The great gifts we have received of ''life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness'' should never become just words to us. They are our birthright as Americans and they should encourage us to continue to remember the sacrifices that have been made in our name. In a very real sense, Flag Day is a call to express the great pride we feel for this country and those who served in our Armed Forces—our great heroes of the past—and those who continue to serve our Nation all over the world—our heroes of the present.

I have often mentioned here on the floor what it means to me to be a grandfather and the thrill of holding the next generation of your family in your arms. Well, my granddaughter continues to share with us one of those special moments we all need to experience so we do not forget the legacy we have received from our citizenship. Every time she sees an American Flag she pauses, looks at it with an understanding that surpasses her years, and with a smile of pride and admiration, says ''God bless America!'' As she says those special words she looks around at everyone near her, expecting them to join her in expressing that sentiment—which we do. She is only 2 years old

and she is already learned to do that all by herself—which makes her twos not so terrible after all.

Friday morning, as I reflected about Flag Day I found myself reading the words of Lloyd Ogilvie who served as our Senate Chaplain for many, many years. In his book, One Quiet Moment, he wrote ''Thomas Jefferson inscribed in his memorial God, who gave us life, gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a Nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?''

On Flag Day and throughout the year, those are good words of advice to consider and put into practice. We must never forget that all we have received from our citizenship ultimately comes from God. Then it is up to us to share those great blessings with all those we meet as we work together to make our Nation a better place not only for us, but for our children and our grandchildren so they will never lose their fondness and appreciation for this great land of ours.

I can think of no better way to celebrate Flag Day than to join with my granddaughter in her recognition of the flag with an exuberant ''God bless America!'' Yes! God bless America and God bless us all. May our future be as blessed as our past.

MACHIAS, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President. I rise today to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Machias, ME, a remarkable town on the Downeast Coast that exemplifies the determination, resiliency, and courage of our Nation. It was there, in 1775, just 12 years after the village was established, that the first naval battle of the American Revolution was fought and won.

The word ''Machias'' translates from the language of the Passamaquoddy Indians as ''bad little falls.'' The rushing water where the Machias River plunges to the sea and the vast stands of virgin pine drew the first settlers in 1763, who built a successful sawmill and a thriving community.

In early June of 1775, word reached Machias of the Battles at Lexington and Concord in April, the first military engagements of the American Revolution. When two British cargo ships, escorted by the warship Margaretta, arrived at Machiasport to take on a shipment of lumber to build barracks for British troops under siege in Boston, they were met by patriots eager to join the fight for freedom.

On June 12, with the town under threat of bombardment if it did not cooperate with the lumber shipment, a militia of 30 men under the command of CPT Jeremiah O'Brien stormed the Margaretta. Armed with muskets, pitchforks, and axes, the militia captured the warship and sailed it triumphantly into harbor. The battle known as the ''Lexington of the Seas'' was a stunning American victory.

Among the heroes of that battle was a young woman named Hannah Weston. As the plans to seize the Margaretta were taking shape, this 17-year-old wife of militiaman Josiah Weston went house to house throughout the sparsely settled region collecting gunpowder and shot, and lugging the heavy load through the wilderness to the front lines. Today, the Hannah Weston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution keeps her memory alive.

The Passamaquoddy gave Machias more than a name. By 1777, the town had become a center of revolutionary activity and the British sent an invasion fleet to crush the rebellion. Some 40 or 50 Passamaquoddy, led by Chief Joseph Neeala, joined the militia and the invaders were turned back.

Just outside of Machias stands Fort O'Brien, one of just a few forts to have been active in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. On the road to that historic site, on the banks of a small stream, there is a plaque that wonderfully describes the spirit of this community.

It was at that place in June of 1775, when the Margaretta's cannons threatened Machias, that the townspeople met in open air to choose between a humiliating peace and a likely hopeless war. The words on the plaque tell the story: ''After some hours of fruitless discussion, Benjamin Foster, a man of action rather than words, leaped across this brook and called all those to follow him who would, whatever the risk, stand by their countrymen and their country's cause. Almost to a man the assembly followed and, without further formality, the settlement was committed to the Revolution.''

Today, that settlement is a thriving community. Machias is the shiretown of Washington County and, as the home of the University of Maine at Machias, it is a center for education and the arts in the region. Located in the heart of the blueberry industry, Machias hosts the Maine Wild Blueberry Festival, one of our State's great summer events. Beautifully restored Burnham Tavern, where the valiant militiamen met to plan their attack on the Margaretta, is a National Historic Site, so designated for its significance in America's independence.

In his marvelous history of the town published in 1904, George W. Drisko, a descendant of one of the heroes of the Revolution wrote this: ''The pioneers of Machias believed in destiny. They had faith in vitality. In their rough homes were courageous souls who believed they had a future.'' Those beliefs and that faith helped America achieve the freedom we cherish today, and all Americans congratulate the people of Machias on their 250th anniversary.

HOT SPRINGS COUNTY, WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, it is my pleasure to honor the residents of Hot Springs County, WY as they celebrate their centennial.

Located in northern Wyoming, and nestled in the Big Horn Basin, Hot Springs County is an incredible place to live and work. Nearly 5,000 residents reside in the communities of Kirby, East Thermopolis, and Thermopolis, the county seat. The county boasts a wide range of recreational opportunities, and its residents share the beauty of the Big Horn River, the Owl Creek Mountains, and the Wind River Canyon with visitors from around the country.

Hot Springs County has a storied past and a promising future. The county is aptly named for the natural mineral hot springs in the area. For thousands of years, Big Spring has produced millions of gallons of mineral water at a constant temperature of 135 degrees Fahrenheit. Northern Arapahoe and Eastern Shoshone Native Americans relied on the spiritual and physical healing powers of the hot springs years before the first settlers arrived. In 1896, under the guidance of Chief Washakie, the tribal leaders transferred ownership of the land surrounding the springs to the U.S. Government. The treaty opened the natural beauty of the area to the public to be enjoyed in perpetuity. Today, this historic treaty is celebrated every August with the Gift of the Waters Pageant. This celebration recreates the treaty ceremony of 1896 and is a truly special attraction.

In the past 100 years, Hot Springs County has benefitted from a variety of industries and has enjoyed great economic success. The county played a key role in supplying oil to support the war effort during World War II. The communities of Grass Creek and Hamilton Dome were especially efficient producers of oil during this period. In addition, a portion of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad travels through the county. The Railroad connects the State to important supplies and goods from around the country.

Tourism is arguably the county's most successful industry. In Thermopolis, Hot Springs State Park attracts thousands of guests every year. Created from the land purchased in the Treaty of 1896, the Park provides year-round recreation opportunities, including hiking, picnicking, and soaking in the world-famous hot springs. Just 20 miles away, folks can visit the Legend Rock Petroglyph Site, which is home to some to the best-preserved examples of Dinwoody rock art in the world. The Wyoming Dinosaur Center celebrates Wyoming's incredibly rich natural history. It is one of the few centers in the world that has an active excavation site within driving distance. Visitors can see active dig sites, explore modern preparation laboratories, and admire dozens of fossilized dinosaurs and specimens. Folks in the county have done an incredible job of preserving the county's rich history and sharing with its visitors.

Hot Springs County is a very special place to all of us in Wyoming. In addition to being the hometown of my wife,