

in a senseless crime, an act of cowardice dwarfed by Joe's extraordinary courage and sacrifice.

The Lieutenant Joseph L. Szczerba Service Award helps to ensure that his memory lives on for years to come.

This year, there could be no recipients more deserving than Officers Wilkers, Rinehart, Manley, and Redmond. They have my congratulations and my deepest gratitude for their service and sacrifice.●

ESCANABA, MICHIGAN

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the city of Escanaba celebrates its sesquicentennial anniversary this year. This great occasion will be marked by a host of festivities. Escanaba, like many cities and towns across the Upper Peninsula in Michigan, has added greatly to our State's rich history and cultural heritage. It is through active communities like Escanaba that the spark of innovation and ingenuity has been nurtured for generations.

Escanaba is a city with a natural charm that is impossible to miss. The city is named after the Escanaba River, a 52-mile winding river that is central to the formation and growth of the city. Lured by the majestic river of flat rocks, travelers settled in this region to cultivate the area's many natural features and to live alongside the Little Bay de Noc. These waterways are the lifeblood of this community. The city is full of wonder and opportunity for the families who make this community home. It is also a fertile ground for wildlife and an inviting host for fishermen and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

The first permanent settlement dates back to the 1830s to Louis Roberts, a fur trader. A steady stream of families would follow Mr. Roberts to the area, and soon after, sawmills would eventually spring up along the river. The area that would become Escanaba was surveyed by Eli P. Royce and formally established in 1863. It is from these humble beginnings that this city by the river was formed. The sawmills fueled investment and industry, and the city's population grew as a result. Today, the area is home to manufacturing, lumbering, hardwood flooring, commercial fishing, paper making, and more. As with many cities and towns in the Upper Peninsula, Escanaba's history is both fascinating and full of character. It is steeped in family, faith, and perseverance.

There are many reasons to visit this part of Michigan and to enjoy what makes this area special. In addition to the striking natural wonder that abounds, Escanaba also offers a number of historically significant landmarks, including the House of Ludington, Ludington Park, William Bonifas Fine Arts Center, and Sandy Point Lighthouse. The Sandy Point Lighthouse was built in 1867 to welcome travelers to the city by boat. This vital structure predates the railroad and would

serve an integral role in the city's development for seven decades.

The 150th anniversary of Escanaba is a celebration of the important place this proud community holds in the ever-evolving story of our great State of Michigan. It is, indeed, a tribute to the strength and perseverance of its citizens and emblematic of America's working families who form the foundation of sprawling and vibrant communities across our Nation. I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in saluting the residents of Escanaba as they celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary of this fine city. I wish them centuries more opportunity, advancements, and individual achievement.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. BARRY L. BOOTH

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Barry L. Booth of Spanish Fort, AL. I have had the great fortune to work with Dr. Booth on a variety of projects in South Alabama, including the Honor Flight South Alabama program, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, and the creation of the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Spanish Fort, AL. They have been remarkable successes, in great part through the leadership of Dr. Booth.

Barry Booth was born and raised in humble conditions in West Virginia. He worked hard, took care of his grades, and was admitted to Auburn University. He hitchhiked to Auburn where he says he arrived with "empty pockets." He enrolled in the Naval ROTC and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve upon his graduation from the University of Alabama, School of Dentistry in 1966 and that same year he volunteered for active duty, signed with the Marine Corps in San Diego, and in 1967 volunteered to go to Vietnam as a medical civil action patrol dental officer with the 3rd Marine Division and the U.S. Army 5th Special Forces.

Dr. Booth earned a Gold Parachutist Device, the U.S. Navy Unit Commendation, and the Vietnam Service Medal, among others. He was honorably discharged in July 1969. It is clear that his patriotism has continued to grow since joining the Marine Corps. In fact, in the wake of the terrible events of September 11, 2001, Dr. Booth attempted to rejoin the Marine Corps, at age 60, and had to be officially denied.

Dr. Booth has been a busy and invaluable servant to the veterans in South Alabama. He was vital to the establishment of the Honor Flight South Alabama program. Honor Flight South Alabama has brought over a thousand veterans and their companions to the memorials they earned, including the World War II Memorial, here in Washington, D.C. I have taken great pleasure in having the chance to share in the fellowship of these veterans. They are truly a remarkable breed of patriots. They endured and survived the big-

gest war in the history of the world, and truly deserve such a great memorial in their honor. I appreciate the considerable good work Dr. Booth, and the rest of his team, have done to bring these wonderful veterans to our Nation's Capital.

Dr. Booth also helped develop the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park. Because of this memorial, many people in the Mobile region have had the opportunity to learn more about the sacrifices made by our Vietnam veterans. This memorial will serve as an important reminder of what these servicemembers endured.

In addition, Dr. Booth was pivotal in the creation of the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery. In addition to his time and resources, he even donated 3 acres of family land for the now-active cemetery at Saluda Hill near Historic Blakely State Park. For 50 years before this, the State of Alabama had not had the space to bury new veterans in a State veteran's cemetery. The new cemetery provides South Alabama veterans a proper, dignified, and peaceful burial area.

Lastly, Dr. Booth has contributed to a number of veteran and service organizations through his active membership. He is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 864, the Navy League, the Military Officers Association of America, the Sons of the American Revolution, and is a life member of both American Legion Post 199 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. For his commitment, he was named 2009 Veteran of the Year by the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission and Fairhope, Alabama's Veteran of the Year for 2011.

For years I have enjoyed the kindness and warmth of Barry's friendship. He has been critical to the success of a number of projects we have worked on together. He is a true patriot, and a good man who expects nothing in return for his efforts. He simply understands what our military personnel are called upon to do for their country, he has seen it first hand, he knows the pain of loss and injury, and his loyalty to them compels him to do all he can to honor their service. I would like to thank him for his service to his fellow veterans, to the State of Alabama, and to his country.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. JOHN VICK

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. John Vick of Andalusia, Alabama, and the recent opening of the John & Faye Vick Collection of Alabama & Civil War Postal History at Auburn University's Ralph Brown Draughon Library. This exhibit was unveiled on April 19th and will be on display through the month of August.

Mr. Vick has had a lifelong interest in Civil War, naval, and U. S. Postal Service history. He developed his interest for these subjects while attending