

Unfortunately, Mr. President, I was necessarily absent from the Senate and, therefore, unable to cast my vote in support of this bill.

TRIBUTE TO MONTFORD POINT MARINES

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, it is my privilege to honor the Montford Point Marines, who today will be collectively decorated with the Congressional Gold Medal.

The Montford Point Marines served our country bravely during World War II, despite being segregated from their fellow servicemembers. In 1942, President Roosevelt directed that African Americans be recruited into the Marine Corps. These men were not sent to the traditional Marine recruit depots of Parris Island or San Diego. Instead, they were segregated and trained at Montford Point in Camp Lejeune, NC. Collectively, these Marines—who became known as the “Montford Point Marines”—served in the Pacific Theater as part of the 51st and 52nd Marine Defense Battalions, and with various Depot and Ammunition Companies.

The Defense Battalions saw action against surviving Japanese troops on the captured island of Guam, while the Depot and Ammunition Companies participated in the fighting at Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Their jobs consisted of loading and unloading supplies, resupplying frontline units, and evacuating the dead and wounded—sometimes under heavy enemy fire. All together, the Depot and Ammunition Companies suffered seven killed and 78 wounded. Of the nearly 20,000 African-American Marines in World War II, about 13,000 served overseas. In July 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued his executive order ending military segregation. In September 1949, Montford Marine Camp was deactivated, ending 7 years of segregation.

The commitment and sacrifice of African-American servicemembers during World War II is embodied in the lives of two cousins, Howard and Kenneth Tibbs. Howard served this Nation as one of the Tuskegee Airmen. I had the privilege of honoring him in 2007 when the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to the Tuskegee Airmen. Today, I am able to honor his cousin, Kenneth Tibbs, who served as a Montford Point Marine. Kenneth was born on May 30, 1925, in Lancaster, OH, and served from 1943 to 1944 as part of the 20th Marine Depot Company. Ultimately, PFC Kenneth Tibbs was killed in action during the invasion of Saipan. He was his unit's only fatality.

Private Tibbs and all of the Montford Point Marines exemplified the qualities for which the Montford Point Marines are so admired. Our Nation is indebted to him and his fellow Marines for their sacrifice. Not only did they contribute to the America's victory in the Pacific, but they did so within a highly segregated military. Many went

on to serve in Korea and Vietnam, alongside their white counterparts. Montford Point Marine Edgar Huff became the first African-American in the United States Marine Corps to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major. His brother-in-law, Gilbert “Hashmark” Johnson, also served at Montford Point and earned the rank of Sergeant Major. Today, Montford Point's Camp Johnson at Camp Lejeune is named after him. I am proud to have been an original cosponsor of the 2006 House Resolution 80 to honor these Marines, and it is my privilege to recount their legacy today in the United States Senate.

I proudly celebrate the life and sacrifice of PFC Kenneth J. Tibbs, and all Montford Point Marines, on the occasion of this award of the Congressional Gold Medal.

MORRILL ACT 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this year marks the 150 anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1862, which led to the creation of our Nation's land-grant universities. In 1862, there were only six engineering or agricultural colleges in the entire United States. By 1880, there were 85, and by 1917 the total number had grown to 126. Two outstanding universities from Virginia are the beneficiaries of this legislation and carry on important traditions as land-grant universities: Virginia Tech and Virginia State University.

Founded in 1872 as an agricultural and mechanical land-grant college, Virginia Tech is the oldest land-grant college in the Commonwealth. Today, the school has the largest full-time student population in Virginia and the largest number of degree offerings of any Virginia university. As a leading research institution, Virginia Tech prepares its students to make an impact in the fields of technology and agriculture, among many others. Virginia Tech graduates have a positive impact everyday on the Commonwealth and on our country.

Virginia State University, founded in 1882, is the country's first fully State-supported 4-year historically black college and also a Virginia land-grant institution. Throughout the school's history, it has enriched the lives of its students and faculty as well as its surrounding community and indeed the entire Commonwealth. Virginia State University's leadership in providing an expansive academic program, a variety of student organizations, and a devotion to community service makes the school a model for historically black colleges across the nation.

Both of these superb academic institutions demonstrate exceptional leadership in the agricultural and mechanical arts in line with the original intent of the Morrill Act. As we remember the creation of this landmark legislation, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University stand as shining ex-

amples of its continued legacy. I am pleased to join my colleagues in celebrating the sesquicentennial of the Morrill Act.

TRIBUTE TO POET LAUREATE NATASHA TRETHERWEY

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the accomplishments of an extraordinary Mississippian. Natasha Trethewey, a native of Gulfport, Mississippi, has been named the United States Poet Laureate. I join my fellow Mississippians and fellow Americans in celebrating Ms. Trethewey, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, for receiving our country's highest distinction in the field of poetry.

This honor is the first of its kind for my State, but literary excellence is not new to Mississippi. Our great State has a rich literary history because of Mississippians like William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, and Tennessee Williams, who have paved the way for Ms. Trethewey's success in literature.

At the young age of 46, Ms. Trethewey has proven herself to be a talented and accomplished American writer. A prolific artist, she explored the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in her nonfiction work, “Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.”

Our incoming Poet Laureate has captured the hearts and minds of her colleagues and peers, earning her a fan base across our State and Nation. Librarian of Congress James Billington is among those captivated by Ms. Trethewey's brilliance. In 2004, at the National Book Festival, Dr. Billington described Ms. Trethewey as an American who is “absolutely unique.” Today, I am proud to repeat Dr. Billington's praise for this gifted Mississippian.

Natasha Trethewey is not only a leader in her field but also a teacher for this Nation's future leaders. She is a professor and Phillis Wheatley Distinguished Chair in Poetry at Emory University and is the Louis D. Rubin Writer-in-Residence for 2012 at Hollins University. She received her Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 2007 for her 2006 work, *Native Guard*. In the past year, Ms. Trethewey was named the Poet Laureate of Mississippi, an esteemed position my State is proud for her to hold.

Mr. President, I have the highest admiration for this accomplished poet, author, and Mississippian. I know that my fellow Mississippians share this pride in Ms. Trethewey's work and national recognition. I am honored to congratulate Natasha Trethewey on her appointment as the 2012 United States Poet Laureate.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO L.L.BEAN

● Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the men and

women of L.L.Bean as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. This legendary Maine company is one of America's most inspiring family business success stories and one of my State's most cherished institutions.

Many L.L.Bean customers know the story of the company's origin. Leon Leonwood Bean was an avid Maine outdoorsman who was tired of cold, wet feet while hunting or fishing. In 1912, he invented the Maine Hunting Shoe, a boot with leather uppers and a thick rubber sole. His fellow outdoorsmen liked the boot and a business was born.

The second, less-known part of the story really tells the tale. The rubber bottoms of those shoes separated from the leather tops and 90 of the first 100 pairs were returned. Although it nearly put him out of business, L.L. kept his word and refunded the purchase price. He borrowed more money, corrected the problem and, with undiminished confidence, mailed more brochures. L.L. had learned the value of personally testing his products, of honest advertising based on firm convictions and of keeping the customer satisfied at any cost.

Leon Leonwood Bean founded his business on his personal guarantee of "100 percent satisfaction in every way." In all the years since, that promise has been kept. Whether seeking expert advice, making a purchase, or exchanging or returning a product, generations of customers have found L.L.Bean to be a place where that first commitment to customer satisfaction still resonates.

Today, L.L.Bean is one of the world's most respected retailers, with sales exceeding \$1.5 billion. From the flagship store in Freeport, ME, to dozens of stores and outlets throughout the United States, more than 11 million people visit L.L.Bean stores each year. The company's famous catalogues are sent to 160 countries, and its Internet presence leads the industry. In its first century, the company has grown from a one-room operation selling a single product to a global enterprise providing some 4,900 year-round jobs, and that figure typically doubles during peak holiday season.

In addition to its remarkable retail success, L.L.Bean remains true to its origins as a manufacturer. In Brunswick and Lewiston, ME, more than 435 skilled workers craft such iconic products as the Maine Hunting Shoe, the L.L.Bean Boot and the Boat and Tote Bag. Leon Leonwood Bean made 100 pairs of boots in his first production run in 1912. Last year, Maine workers produced more than 400,000 pairs.

When the man *TIME* magazine called "The Merchant of the Maine Woods" passed away in 1967, leadership of the company was passed on to his grandson, Leon Gorman.

Soon after becoming president, Leon introduced the stakeholder concept, which clearly linked L.L.Bean's success as a business to key stakeholders—customers, employees, share-

holders, vendors, communities and the natural environment. In his 30 years as president, Leon Gorman led L.L.Bean from a \$4.75 million catalog company to an over-one-billion-dollar multi-channel enterprise. Leon firmly established L.L.Bean as a leader in the outdoors industry, offering high-quality equipment and apparel, backed by world-class service and products guaranteed to last.

It is fitting that L.L.Bean is celebrating its centennial with special projects that advance the company's guiding principles. These include the Million Moment Mission, in which L.L.Bean will contribute \$1 to the National Park Foundation for every outdoor moment shared by customers up to a total of \$1 million, and a commitment of an additional \$1.5 million at the local and State levels to encourage our young people to discover the outdoors.

I am often asked what L.L.Bean means to our State. As one of Maine's largest employers, the company certainly means a great deal to the thousands who work there. L.L.Bean offers careers with opportunities for advancement in a respectful, positive environment. The spin-off benefits to other Maine industries, including product vendors and business suppliers, are enormous. The continued commitment to Maine-made products—wreaths, maple syrup, mustard, furniture, running shoes, slippers, in addition to the company's famous tote bags and boots—sustains a great many businesses and households throughout our State.

Certainly, the sales, revenue, and growth numbers are impressive. Even more impressive is the fact that this family company succeeds in a modern, global economy with the timeless values that foster dedicated employees and loyal customers. It is a pleasure to congratulate the people of L.L.Bean on this centennial and to thank them for their contributions to our Nation and to the great State of Maine.●

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER PAGOULATOS

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Alexander Pagoulatos, an impressive young New Jerseyan who recently graduated West Point as the class of 2012's valedictorian. Hailing from Basking Ridge, NJ and a 2008 graduate of Ridge High School, Alex has strong roots in the Garden State. As a young man, he was well known for excelling on Ridge High's Varsity fencing team, as well as his dedicated service to his church and greater community. And when Alex applied through my office for a nomination to the United States Military Academy at West Point during his senior year, his outstanding record and bright future made it an easy choice.

At West Point, Alex continued to make us proud. As an economics major, he achieved the highest grade point av-

erage possible, the result of earning numerous A-pluses. This accomplishment is all the more impressive when one considers that he also minored in environmental engineering. For his success both in and out of the classroom, Alex earned awards of all kinds. This May, Alex graduated at the top of his class academically, physically, and overall, receiving his diploma as the class of 2012's valedictorian.

Alex's service to his Nation didn't end that Saturday at Michie Stadium. Upon graduation, Alex received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. Following his training at Fort Benning, he will deploy to Vicenza, Italy as a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

As a former soldier and a veteran of World War II, I commend Alex for his service to our Nation and recognize the sacrifices he is making in the name of that service. He has made my State of New Jersey extremely proud and I know he will continue his commitment to excellence in the Army. We all owe Alex an incredible debt of gratitude and I know that the people of New Jersey, and indeed Americans across our country are thankful for his dedicated service to our country and look forward to his future achievements.●

RECOGNIZING MAINE DAYBOAT SCALLOPS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, throughout the 112th Congress, I have consistently implored my colleagues to remember the value of our Nation's small businesses. These firms are uniquely equipped to devise and implement innovative business plans and strategies that are needed to strengthen challenged industries, and do so regularly. Nowhere is this more prevalent than in my home state of Maine. Today I rise to recognize and commend a newly founded small business, Maine Dayboat Scallops located in Bath, ME, and its owner Togue Brawn.

Ms. Brawn has more than two decades of rich and varied experience working in Maine's fishing and service sectors. She has, among other things, sold Bait Cups invented by her father; worked at Portland's Harbor fish market; sold space at domestic and international commercial fishing trade shows; served at the Portland Old Port's Fore Street and J's Oyster restaurants; worked on a number of fisheries research projects; served at the Maine Department of Marine Resources; and founded her own business.

During her tenure with the Department of Marine Resources, Ms. Brawn took a special interest in working to address the serious challenges facing Maine's scallop fisheries, which had become significantly depleted. By virtue of her knowledge, experience, and close ties with those involved in the industry, Ms. Brawn was keenly aware of the nature of the challenge facing the State: in order to advance the long-