

higher job-growth, and to improve the standard of living and quality of life of our children and grandchildren—undertakings that take much time and effort. Isaiah's message makes the importance and urgency of these undertakings no less daunting, but does reassure us that if we trust in the Holy Spirit, he will allow us to persevere.

I urge all Americans to celebrate National Bible Week to discover the lessons, inspiration and guidance that God's scripture provides for each of us.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING SIXTEENTH STREET COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to recognize and congratulate the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center on its 40th anniversary.

Located in the heart of Milwaukee's diverse south side, the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center provides high quality health care services to low income and non-English speaking residents in its surrounding neighborhoods. Providing more than just basic health care, the center offers a full range of social services, health education, and important mental health services.

The Sixteenth Street Community Health Center began in 1969 when a small group of residents opened the Health Contact Center with the goal of providing care to central city residents who may not otherwise have access to medical services. Residents throughout the neighborhood came together to ensure that the health center had the resources and support it needed to thrive.

Just 10 years after it opened, the health center doubled in size. Throughout its history, it has partnered with the city of Milwaukee, local hospitals and clinics, and charitable organizations to continue its growth and expand the services it provides to patients. Today, the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center offers prenatal care, social services, environmental health education, HIV treatment and prevention education, physical therapy, nutrition and wellness education, and much more. In 2006, it opened its second clinic and last year it served more than 27,000 patients.

I have a long and proud history of working with the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center. The center, widely recognized as an exemplary health organization, is a treasured vital community asset. For 40 years, the staff of the center has worked diligently to fulfill its mission of providing care to as many people as possible regardless of income or insurance status. In Milwaukee, the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center is synonymous with quality health care, community service, and passion for all.

On behalf of our State and Nation, I applaud the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center on 40 years of out-

standing service and wish them continued success and a strong future.●

REMEMBERING RICHARD NEAL FOSTER

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the life of one of Alaska's most dedicated public servants. Representative Richard Neal Foster served as a member of the Alaska House of Representatives for nearly 21 years. Since his election in 1988 he represented the residents of Nome and 28 villages with great love and dedication. Alaska will remember him this Friday at a memorial service in Anchorage.

A lifelong Alaskan, Representative Foster was born and raised in Nome. He received a business administration degree from the University of Alaska. He managed Foster Aviation, a family-run air service started by his father in 1946. He was a civic leader in the community of Nome serving on the boards of the Bering Straits Native Corporation, the Sitnasuak Native Corporation, Nome Eskimo Community, and the Northwest Campus of the University of Alaska.

Representative Foster will be remembered for a lifetime of public service. After serving two tours in Vietnam as a captain in military intelligence he was awarded the Bronze Star. He received a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army through the University of Alaska, Army ROTC program. As a man with passion for Alaska, he later served with the Alaska Army National Guard in Nome.

During his tenure in the Alaska State legislature, he served as majority whip from 1993 to 2007. Showing his commitment to address the challenges of rural Alaska, he was a member of the Bush Caucus as well as the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Task Force Committee. And, in 2009, he was honored as a University of Alaska Distinguished Alumni because of his dedication to public service.

As one of the longest serving members in the Alaska legislature, it saddens me to acknowledge that Alaska has lost one of our truly great leaders. I had the honor of serving in the legislature with Representative Foster. He was a man with an infectious laugh and he had a great love for the Seward Peninsula and the State of Alaska. Never letting divisive politics come between friendships, he was known for his humility and friendliness to both Republicans and Democrats. His "Friday at Fosters" events, where he hosted legislators, staff, administration officials, friends, and visitors for a Friday evening jam sessions for over 17 years, will be sorely missed.

Foster loved the outdoors of the Seward Peninsula, a region with a rich mining history. He spent his summers at Hannum Creek, working on his family's mining claims. One time, he and his sister Iris and son Neal walked 80 miles of the historic mining trail from Quartz Creek to Hannum Creek to ex-

perience the journey of "Old Timers." In addition, Foster was known for his love of military history including the Civil War and World War II and was a collector of military weapons.

He is survived by his wife Cathryn of Eatonville, WA; seven sons, Neal Foster of Nome, AK; James Foster of Anchorage, AK; Nathan Foster of Ellendale, ND; 1st Lt. Jason Weber, LCpl Richard Foster, Ramsey Foster, and Chandler Foster, all of Eatonville, WA; and two daughters, Maria Stevens of Tacoma, WA, Tiffany Sanchez of Miami, OK; and sister Margaret "Iris" Magnell of Laguna Hills, CA.

Foster's public service to the State of Alaska will continue to positively impact the lives of Alaskans for decades to come.●

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MEN UNITED

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the National Association of Black Men United, NABMU, and congratulate them for 10 years of dedication to advancing education.

The National Association of Black Men United has been instrumental in increasing college students' graduation rates in my home State of Arkansas. Their focus on graduating students at the University of Central Arkansas has sparked expansion to Howard University in the District of Columbia.

Furthermore, the National Association of Black Men United was founded on the principle that everyone who attends college should reach the goal of graduation, regardless of race. The purpose is to assist black men in obtaining a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. The organization provides men with the tools needed to increase graduation rates and improve economic advancements within the African-American community. These tools include educational forums, workshops, mentorship programs, and financial plans to guide students to graduation. NABMU's vision is to expand across the country, helping individuals in all corners of the United States.

NABMU teaches a set of 10 primary responsibilities that encourage students to earn their degree. These responsibilities range from sitting in the front of the classroom, being diligent with their finances, and being responsible for their own actions. Another vital function of the organization is to assist young men in finding careers in the field of their choice.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the National Association of Black Men United and especially their chapter at the University of Central Arkansas for their outstanding work.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES EARLE CRAFTS

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Charles Earle Crafts of

Livermore, ME, who is to be awarded three exceptional valor awards on November 9, 2009, for his extraordinary service to this Nation. Charles will be presented with the prestigious Silver Star Medal for his heroic role in combat against an overwhelming Viet Cong force at the Battle of Binh Gia, South Vietnam, on December 29, 1964. In addition, he will be awarded the Bronze Star Medal in honor of the 2 years, 1 month, and 24 days he spent in brutal jungle captivity as a prisoner of war—and the Bronze Star Medal with a “V” (valor) device for his outstanding achievement in smuggling out critical information for the United States—risking further retribution—I might add. Indeed, all Americans owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Charles for his inexhaustible service to this country contributions that we will never forget and that truly epitomize the valor of every man and woman courageous enough to wear our Nation’s uniform.

In fact, a year before most Americans became aware that there was a violent war being fought against the democratic government of South Vietnam, Charles was drafted into the U.S. Army and trained as a radio operator. Then, in November of 1964, he was sent to Saigon and became a military advisor to the Army of South Vietnam, ARVN, which was engaged in a bloody struggle against the Viet Cong insurgents.

That December, as Viet Cong forces attacked and held the village of Binh Gia which is located about 50 miles east of Saigon, Private Crafts, in his capacity as the radio operator for Sergeant Harold George Bennett, accompanied the 33rd ARVN Ranger Battalion in an attempt to retake Binh Gia. As they approached the village, their much smaller force of approximately 350 men came under heavy fire from an enemy force that was later estimated to be near 5,000 strong.

The majority of the ARVN Rangers were killed, wounded, or captured during the horrific battle that followed, but despite all of the challenges, Crafts successfully rebuffed attempts by the Viet Cong to jam radio transmissions during the deadly carnage around them. And due to his deft and flawless operation of their portable radio, they were able to warn approaching American helicopter pilots not to attempt a rescue of them in the Viet Cong killing zone.

Shortly thereafter, Sergeant Bennett and Private Crafts were captured as prisoners of war—forced to survive disease including several bouts of malaria, as well as malnutrition and even terrible retribution for attempting to escape—being told, on myriad occasions, that, “dying is easy; surviving is much more difficult.”

Both Crafts and Bennett would later be joined by CPT Donald G. Cook, a U.S. Marine Corps officer who was severely wounded at Binh Gia 2 days after their capture. And under the steadfast leadership of Captain Cook,

all upheld the military Code of Conduct to the utmost of their individual ability while resisting frequent Viet Cong interrogation and indoctrination sessions—facing untold hardships on behalf of each and every American. These brave men, in the face of such profound adversity, sustained themselves by their faith, trust in their country, and above all, each other.

And through all of the trials and tribulations, in light of the countless reasons to give up hope, Charles remained resolute—and that unwavering determination to survive and to return home came to fruition as the Viet Cong political leadership decided to release two American POWs, choosing Charles and Sgt Sammie Womack. A brief ceremony was held on February 16, 1967, in the midst of the jungle, but it was after they boarded a Vietnamese bus, stopping at a U.S. military checkpoint, that they again tasted freedom on February 23 that our Nation holds so dear. And as if all that Crafts had endured and accomplished had not been enough, he smuggled documents out of the jungle, providing even further intelligence for our country.

Following several months of hospitalization—growing stronger with each passing day—Charles was honorably discharged on May 17, 1967, with the rank of specialist four class, E-4. Throughout the entire ordeal, his parents, the late Leroy Bradford Crafts and Virginia (Voter) Crafts, never gave up hope for the return of their only son. And return to Maine he did to a welcoming and loving family, to a most grateful community and State, and, although he didn’t know it at the time, his future wife Juanita during a ceremony where his high school alma mater dedicated their yearbook to him. Now that is fate!

Throughout his entire life—from his time at International Paper Company to his role as a national service officer for the Disabled American Veterans and, of course, his tireless service to this country while serving in the Army—Charles has exemplified the very best that this Nation has to offer, and he is a shining example for why we celebrate Veterans Day every year.

It goes without saying that Charles Crafts is a true American hero who risked his life, time and again, so that our lives could be better. There are no words to adequately thank or appropriately honor Charles for all that he has done, but it gives me, and surely everyone in Maine, immeasurable pride that the Department of the Army has now approved three awards for Charles Earle Crafts: the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action during the Battle of Binh Gia, on December 29, 1964, the Bronze Star Medal with “V” device for valorous achievement in smuggling out several documents—hiding those documents among his few possessions and memorizing those which he was unable to sneak past the guards—and finally, the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service while caring for his fellow pris-

oners under extreme duress by his captors.

These awards reflect Charles’ unending patriotism and boundless spirit that, quite literally, saved lives and made this country stronger. And as we laud Charles for his limitless contributions to our Nation, I cannot help but also thank Retired Colonel Doug Moore, whose sterling efforts over the past decade were critical to collecting and providing the necessary information to ensure this fitting recognition for Charles’ heroic service in Vietnam.

I could not be more pleased to join with Charles’ friends and family in celebrating these phenomenal accolades and his remarkable service with his wife of 15 years, Juanita; his son, Jason, and wife, Julie, of Jay, ME; his two stepsons, Alan Levesque of Lewiston, ME, and Andy Levesque and fiancée Tara Averill of Poland, ME; his two sisters, Patricia Ridley of Wilton, ME, and Ann Crafts of North Jay, ME; as well as his four grandchildren, soon to be five—Sarah, Emma, Whitney and Bailey. It goes without saying that families and loved ones are undeniable pillars of strength for their tireless support and indispensable devotion to our veterans and to our country.

The enduring truth is that neither a single day nor single ceremony is enough to honor America’s veterans. We owe them and we owe Charles Crafts our praise and thanks on every day that we enjoy the blessings of liberty and benefits of security. These medals presented to Charles will be a lasting testament, commemorating his unflagging spirit of placing love of homeland above all else which has been the string upon which our pearls of freedom, liberty, and democracy have always been strung.●

RECOGNIZING MORRIS YACHTS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, four centuries ago, in my home State of Maine, a group of colonists settled on the mouth of the Kennebec River. There, they built the Virginia, a 30-ton pinnace that voyaged across the Atlantic Ocean at least twice. By constructing the first English-built ship in North America, these early Mainers engendered a rich tradition of shipbuilding that continues still today. In this time of economic volatility, Maine shipbuilders who carry on this lofty practice are some of the many small businesses that are piloting our Nation out of this recession. I rise today to note the achievements of one of these remarkable companies, Morris Yachts, which is headquartered in the picturesque Maine village of Bass Harbor.

Since his business first set sail in 1972, Tom Morris has added immensely to the abundant history of Down-east shipbuilding. Mr. Morris’s passion for sailing spawned from summer vacations in Maine with his family. Similarly, he instilled his zeal into his son, Cuyler, who joined him at the wheel of Morris Yachts in 1995. With father and