

and great golfer. He is a family man—a wonderful and devoted father and grandfather. He would do anything for his family and friends and has touched the lives of many who will never be able to meet or thank him.

Jack worked for many years as a volunteer on the Hamilton Healthcare System Board of Trustees in Dalton and is now an honorary trustee. For all of his charitable giving and hard work, the hospital named the “Bandy Parking Plaza” in honor of Jack. He is the backbone of his Methodist Church and has worked on the board of the United Way. With his Junior Achievement honor, it is clear that Jack is devoted to educating young people at all levels, but he has also endowed the Bandy Chair in Preaching at Emory University, and the gym at Dalton State College is named for him.

Jack Bandy is a class act who is well loved in work and at home. He is interested in the lives and achievements in others and will be embarrassed that I am honoring him today. But I feel I would be remiss if I did not honor him for his achievements and sacrifices. He has given a great deal of his time and money to make Dalton, the State of Georgia, and our Nation a better place to live.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF CHELSEA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the founding of the town of Chelsea, SD. Chelsea is a rural community in Faulk County. Small towns like Chelsea are part of the backbone of our wonderful State.

Chelsea originally began in the middle of a wheat field, where extensions of the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroads met. There are competing stories for how the town was named. One says that Chelsea was named after the borough of London, one that it was named for a landowner in Chelsea, OK, and another that says it was named for someone from Chelsea, MA.

The first building to go up in Chelsea was two-story poolhall and saloon, built by H.E. Batteen. Other businesses soon followed. By 1909, there were 30 businesses in Chelsea, including a post office, weekly paper, bank, butcher, lumber yard, and drug store. There were at least three churches, including the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, which is still active today.

The area in which Chelsea is situated has both fertile farmland and excellent fishing and hunting. In particular, the area is known for its great pheasant shooting and the numerous hunting lodges that dot the landscape around Chelsea.

Small communities such as Chelsea do not always get the attention that they deserve, but it is places like Chelsea that help to maintain South Dakota's agricultural roots and deep-seated character. I am proud to honor Chelsea

on its 100th anniversary, and I am confident that the next 100 years will bring still more progress and prosperity.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of one of South Dakota's great cities, Aberdeen. Aberdeen is the third largest city in the State, and the county seat of Brown County. Aberdeen boasts a robust economy, first-rate hospital, two 4-year universities, art, culture, shopping, and outdoor recreation. Taken all together, Aberdeen has an exceptional quality of life, and things are only getting better for this dynamic city.

Aberdeen was founded in July of 1881 with the arrival of the Milwaukee Railroad and takes its name from the home town of the Milwaukee Railroad's Scottish President, Alexander Mitchell. As more railroads came into the area, Aberdeen became known as the “Hub City,” referring to its role as a busy intersection for trainlines. Aberdeen's citizens are justly proud of their city's history, and they have undertaken numerous successful projects designed to preserve and celebrate this heritage. The city's many historic attractions include the Granary Rural Cultural Center, Dacotah Prairie Museum, and J.L. Zeitlow Telephone Pioneer Museum, among others. In addition, Aberdeen is home to and promotes a lively and renowned antique market.

Perhaps Aberdeen's most famous early resident was Lyman “Frank” Baum, who would eventually write “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.” During his time in Aberdeen, Baum owned a store, Baum's Bazaar and later edited The Aberdeen Saturday Pioneer. Many believe that Baum's description of Kansas in “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” was based on his time in Aberdeen. Storybook Land, a theme park based on “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz,” commemorates Baum. Another nationally known figure from Aberdeen in more recent times is former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle.

Other institutions in the Aberdeen area include two 4 year universities, Northern State University and Presentation College; a top flight medical center, Avera St. Luke's Hospital; Wylie Park recreational area; and of course plenty of good hunting and fishing.

Aberdeen combines the warmth and friendliness of a small town with the cosmopolitanism associated with larger communities. I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Aberdeen, and to offer my congratulations to the residents of the city on this historic milestone. As the city motto states, Aberdeen is indeed “A Great Place to Live.”●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MELLETTE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Mellette, SD.

Mellette was incorporated into South Dakota in 1881, with the first store opening the same year. The community was named after Arthur Mellette, the first governor of South Dakota. By 1882, Mellette was a thriving town with 39 businesses including doctors, lawyers, and other professionals. The Western Enterprise was the first newspaper in Mellette, and by the time publication ended in 1941, the newspaper was the oldest, continuous paper in Spink County.

Today, Mellette is the home of 240 residents, 8 businesses, churches, and other civic organizations. The Mellette Volunteer Fire Department, established in 1895, still keeps residents safe. Northwestern Elementary, Middle, and High Schools also call Mellette home.

I am pleased to announce that Mellette celebrated its 125th anniversary with a community celebration on May 26 to 27. There were numerous events, such as karaoke, a flea market, a parade, an antique tractor pull, a horseshoe tournament, kid's games, and a Harley motorcycle raffle, followed by a community supper. A historical display included “Old Time” Mellette videos. The festivities were a fitting celebration to honor a wonderful community.

I am proud to publicly honor Mellette on this memorable occasion. After 125 years, Mellette still exemplifies what it means to be a great South Dakota community.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF GROTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the city of Groton, SD, and to recognize the 125th anniversary of its founding.

Groton was founded in 1881 in Brown County. Still standing from those early days is Trinity Episcopal Church which was built in 1884 as a place for the newly formed town to come together and gather as a community. Groton now has six churches and multiple gathering places to house its growing and thriving community.

Groton is home to the Granary Rural Cultural Center. Groton's commitment to fine arts and culture shines through in this establishment where art shows from artists from both North and South Dakota are on display. The Granary Rural Cultural Center not only promotes the arts, but also the heritage of those living in the Dakotas while celebrating and caring for the land.

One of the most notable pieces of Groton's history took place in 1923 when \$1,000 was stolen from the First

National Bank, while the tellers were held at gunpoint. During the holdup, one brave citizen ran outside to ring the alarm alerting the authorities of the situation. Fortunately, only minor injuries were inflicted in the ordeal.

Groton will be celebrating its 125th anniversary with a variety of events. Among the festivities will be an all-school reunion, Legion baseball, pancake breakfast, water carnival, bingo, tractor pull, parade, dance, fireworks display, and community church service. The anniversary will serve as an occasion to bring this close-knit community even closer together.

I am proud to publicly recognize Groton and congratulate the community on this achievement. As the people of Groton take this opportunity to appreciate how far the city has come from its beginnings, I know they will understand the important role Groton plays in making South Dakota the great State that it is.●

CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF BRENTFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I rise in order to pay tribute to the centennial of the founding of the city of Brentford, SD. The community is distinguished as the only "Brentford" in the United States.

Brentford was established in 1906 along the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad line and named by a railroad employee for Brentford, England. The town was built in less than a year and reached a peak population of around 300, with a current population around 70.

There are a church, gas station, restaurant, and two construction companies located in Brentford. Additionally, the Brentford Volunteer Fire Department serves Brentford City, Tetonka, and LaPrairie townships, and part of Clifton Township.

I am pleased to announce that Brentford will be celebrating its centennial on June 23 through 25. There are numerous events scheduled, including a parade, performances by Brentford area musicians, fireworks, a paintball tournament, and an antique tractor pull. This celebration is a fitting way to recognize this milestone for this pleasant and progressive community.

One hundred years after its founding, Brentford continues to be a vital community and a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Brentford on this memorable occasion.●

HONORING KENNETH BLACK OF MAINE

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the grand opening of the Maine Discovery Center and dedication of the Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth Black Exhibition Hall in Rockland, ME. This event represents the culmination of a lifetime of exceptional

achievement by former Coastguardsmen Kenneth Black who nearly single-handedly amassed the largest collection of lighthouse lenses on display in a museum anywhere in the United States.

The monumental efforts of Ken Black, known by many as "Mr. Lighthouse," have been a lifelong pursuit and truly a labor of love. Ken started his first exhibit many years ago at the base of America's first light Station in Boston Harbor. When he was commanding officer of the Rockland Coast Guard Station in the 1970s, he created a display of artifacts at the entryway building at the base of the tower, and a small collection started to grow and take on a life of its own. So much so—that when the admiral in charge of the first Coast Guard district in Boston took note of what Ken was doing, he named him as the official curator of the First Coast Guard District Marine Exhibit. That appointment offered Ken a fortuitous opportunity to begin amassing lighthouse artifacts.

Exemplifying the best of Maine's can-do spirit, Ken meticulously went to great lengths, literally piece by piece, to seek out, collect, and store these maritime marvels. Eventually, this collection would be housed in what would become known as the Shore Village Museum. Lacking pretense of any kind, this unassuming, home-spun dream became a landmark museum and a destination point for maritime and lighthouse enthusiasts everywhere until its closing in 2004.

Because of Ken's persistent pursuit and uncommon initiative, his legacy of work can now be viewed as part of the Maine Lighthouse Museum which has the distinction of being home not just to the world-renown lighthouse lenses but also to one of the most revered exhibits of lighthouse artifacts and Coast Guard memorabilia in the United States. One thing is clear above all else, we owe Ken a great debt of gratitude for having the unrelenting industry, foresight, and diligence to collect, preserve, and showcase these artifacts.

As the sponsor of the Maine Lights Program in the 104th Congress, I am extraordinarily proud of the indispensable contribution Ken has made to the discipline of lighthouse history. As I said in my letter on the opening of the Maine Lighthouse Museum last June, this legislation allowed many outstanding individuals and organizations to share their fondness for lighthouses by working to record the history of lighthouses and keep that history alive. And, indeed, that is precisely what has happened.

Through the tireless and indomitable work of Kenneth Black, for whom this exhibition hall is rightfully named, generations today and to come will have the pleasure of viewing these time-honored artifacts. I saw them firsthand last summer when I toured the museum and was awed and extremely impressed, and I know that this new addition will be equally re-

markable. For all of these reasons, I am deeply pleased to honor the astounding contributions that Ken has made toward bringing to greater light these valuable gems of history. I also want to acknowledge and thank the many individuals and groups who have shared in Ken's vision and joined with him in making this dream a reality. The city of Rockland and the State of Maine are incredibly fortunate to have this exceptional Lighthouse Museum in its midst. It is most fitting that the U.S. Coast Guard presented a well-deserved lifetime achievement award to Ken Black for unflinching vigilance and continued perseverance in saving and presenting these lighthouse artifacts.●

TRIBUTE TO R. GERALD DAVIDSON

● Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of a remarkable Missourian. The First Baptist Church of Arnold, MO, has announced the retirement of its longtime and much beloved pastor, R. Gerald Davidson. Dr. Davidson has served as a pastor for the last 50 years, the last thirty of which, he has dedicated to the First Baptist Church of Arnold.

Dr. Gerald Davidson is a visionary leader and has been instrumental in furthering and directing the ministry of the church. Today, the First Baptist Church of Arnold is the third largest church in the Missouri Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. Davidson's personal dedication to the gospel has never faltered, and his own personal example has set the standard for both his church members and Baptist leadership throughout the Nation.

In fact, Dr. Davidson's vision and his good works have reached throughout the world. On numerous mission trips he has preached the gospel in Mexico, Haiti, Jamaica, South Africa, Taiwan, Brazil, Indonesia, Russia, Romania, Belarus, Slovenia, Croatia, Bolivia, India, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Kenya.

However, Dr. Davidson's dedication starts at home. He has been married to his wife Verlena Stone Davidson for 51 years. She has been an equal partner in the ministry, serving side by side with her husband. The Davidsons have three children, Doug, Debbie, Darla, and are blessed with 10 grandchildren.

Dr. Davidson's many accomplishments throughout his distinguished career are a result of hard work and dedication. The Arnold community joins me in appreciating Dr. Davidson's dedicated service.●

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FOR MURDO, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize my hometown of Murdo, SD, which is celebrating its centennial this year.

Located in Jones County, the town of Murdo was established in 1906 when a lot sale was held to distribute the land that originally belonged to cattle