

work ethic and his dedication. It didn't take long before he was promoted and took on additional responsibilities, working on some of the most difficult and complex issues that in which we have been involved.

He was really the heart of my staff working on finance issues. He spent a lot of time with retirees who lost their pensions when our auto companies went through bankruptcy, and he talked with them all the time to keep them updated on what we were doing to help. He took the lead on housing issues, working with families whose dreams were shattered when their homes were lost to foreclosure. He spent his final days working on an amendment that I cosponsored to help retired pilots who lost their pensions when the airline they worked for went bankrupt. He was so proud that we were able to include that amendment in the Federal Aviation Administration bill.

During our work last year on the Small Business Jobs Act, Sean's help was absolutely invaluable. He put together information for small business owners letting them know how to take advantage of the new law. He grew up in Farmington Hills, MI, and he was a very important part of our team working on issues related to the automobile industry, so critical for Michigan's future and for our economy.

He took great pride in his work for our great State. Through hard work and service, he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout—the highest rank in scouting. When he applied for a job in our office he wrote, "At a young age, I was volunteering to do community . . . service in Metro Detroit to better the community and that work shaped my desire to serve Michigan." And he served Michigan well.

In college, he secured a coveted internship in the office of the Governor, working in constituent services. After graduation, he worked on a congressional campaign and for Senator LEVIN's campaign, always willing to lend a hand and make a difference.

What really stands out about Sean is how good he was with people. On Capitol Hill, patience is sometimes a rare commodity, but Sean had more than enough to go around. When everyone was running a mile a minute, Sean was a beacon of calm. When his coworkers were stressed to the point of breaking, Sean could diffuse it with a wonderful one-liner that brought everything back into context.

He was also an amazing friend and had a quiet, charming sense of humor. His favorite day of the week was when the cafeteria served chicken wings. He would get a group together and go down to lunch on "wing day"—he looked forward to that day all week long.

Sean McGee was a young man who brightened so many of our days, and he will be terribly missed.

I offer my sincerest condolences to his parents Tom and Sharon, to his

brother Tom, and to his girlfriend of many years, Katie Kulpa, whom Sean loved so much. Sean was a gift to all of us, and we will always be thankful for the precious time we had with him.

Next Tuesday would have been Sean's 27th birthday. It is hard to believe we won't be able to celebrate with him. But we can honor him by living our lives as he did.

William Penn, one of the founders of our great Nation, said, "I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."

That is how Sean lived his life, and that was the gift that he gave to all of us who knew him.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO VICTORIA MALOCH

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I recognize Victoria Maloch from Magnolia, AR, for being selected for participation in the annual United States Senate Youth Program.

Created in 1962, the United States Senate Youth was organized to encourage an understanding of our government with an emphasis of how its three branches work and how elected officials work for their constituents and create policies that impact our Nation and the world. The weeklong visit to Washington, DC, allows students to meet and interact with lawmakers, appointed officials and staff who are involved in crafting legislation and making decisions that influence our laws.

This program brings together some of our Nations top youth leaders, like Victoria, who show a commitment to public service. An outstanding student at Emerson High School, Victoria excels both in and out of the classroom.

She serves as president of the 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America; vice president of Arkansas Junior Brangus Breeders Association; secretary of the Science Club and captain of Quiz Bowl. Victoria is a member of the Beta club, Future Business Leaders of America, and Family Career and Community Leaders of America. She was a People-to-People ambassador and volunteers in her community with the Youth Advisory Council and Today's Youth Tomorrow's Leaders program. Victoria plans to attend the University of Arkansas and continue her education in law school.

Victoria is very deserving of this honor. I congratulate her for her determination, dedication, and service and encourage her growth as a leader.●

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 30th anniversary of Marin Agricultural

Land Trust, MALT. Located in Marin County, CA, MALT was the first land trust in the United States to focus explicitly on farmland preservation. Since its founding in 1980, MALT has successfully protected more than 41,800 acres of California's land on 66 family ranches and farms.

Thirty years ago, in response to a changing economy and increasing urban expansion, biologist Phyllis Faber and dairywoman Ellen Straus recognized that in order to preserve Marin's 150-year-old tradition of family farming and protect the county's tremendous natural resources, ranchers and environmentalists would need to work together. Phyllis and Ellen co-founded MALT, bringing together a diverse coalition of ranchers and environmentalists who came together to pursue their vision for conserving Marin's pristine farmlands. By providing an alternative to the sale of farmland, MALT has protected thousands of acres of open grasslands, fertile floodplains, oak woodlands, and mixed evergreen forests that would otherwise have been sold or developed.

Working in areas stretching from the salt marshes of Tomales Bay to the Douglas-fir forest crowning Hicks Mountain, MALT continues to be an environmental and community leader. In addition to establishing easements, MALT runs a variety of stewardship and educational programs, including its Farm Field Studies Program in which more than 1,700 students from 35 schools recently participated. MALT also coordinates hikes and tours, giving residents opportunities to explore and experience Marin's stunning agricultural landscapes first hand.

MALT is also doing its part to reduce greenhouse gases and integrate the agriculture industry into the fight against climate change. As a founding member of the Marin Carbon Project, MALT is working with project partners in an attempt to sequester carbon in Marin's rangeland soil using agricultural management strategies.

Due to the dedicated efforts of its 5,000 members, staff, volunteers, funders, and partner agencies, MALT has helped revitalize local agriculture while preserving the ecological value of the land. Each year, Marin County produces millions of dollars in livestock, livestock products, feed, and crops, without diminishing the county's biological vitality.

Over the past year, despite difficult economic times, MALT achieved permanent protection for a goat dairy, a small-scale sheep ranch, and a grade A Holstein dairy that has been in operation since 1933. These crucial projects were funded through a combination of grants from public agencies and donations from private individuals.

The Marin Agricultural Land Trust's vision and commitment to protecting California's ecological, environmental, and agricultural endowment should be commended. Please join me in congratulating MALT for its three decades