

brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our great country during the Vietnam war. It is a memorial, built by the American people, designed to ensure that names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice would never be lost to history.

By telling the stories of the men and women who fought and died in Vietnam, the Education Center will help visitors understand their courage, sacrifice and devotion.

And through interactive exhibits and primary source materials, visitors will be able to better understand the profound impact the Vietnam war had on their family members, their home towns, their communities and the Nation. Visitors will understand the importance of The Wall and the role it continues to play in healing the wounds left by the war.

The Vietnam Memorial has always been profoundly meaningful to me, both as a moving way to honor those who died and a remarkably effective means of healing the terrible national wounds from that war. The Education Center will be an important complement for both of those efforts. I hope to continue to play a role in making the Education Center a reality and look forward to the day that the United States can share the rich stories there with all visitors. When that time comes, I will be grateful to the Australian people and mindful of their kind generosity.

I wish to thank the Prime Minister, the government of Australia, and the Australian people for their strong support for this worthy endeavor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING FORT LUPTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the students and staff at Fort Lupton Middle School, whose relentless hard work and dedication to improving student achievement and setting students on the course toward success has earned the school the title of National Middle School of the Year.

The award is presented by the National Association of Middle School Principals to schools that go the extra mile to address the needs of students at the middle school level through academics and activities. And Fort Lupton Middle School's teachers and students are willing to go that extra mile and then some.

In a story published earlier this year in the Fort Lupton Press, sixth-grade language arts teacher Liz McCachren said that most people assume that her job as a middle school teacher isn't very fun. "I want people to know that it's not scary," she said. "There's nothing scary about these kids or this building. It's a really good middle school. . . . The students just make my day brighter. Every day, I can't wait to be here. That's why this school is

unique. Because we like each other. We work together."

By working together, the teachers at Fort Lupton created Power Hour, giving students time to do their homework while teachers are available to assist. And it is not just teachers working together. Students are taking ownership of their education and helping one another succeed. Through the program "Where Everybody Belongs," Fort Lupton eighth graders serve as mentors for incoming sixth graders, so they adjust to their new school and surroundings and are better equipped for success.

Programs like these help lay the groundwork for student success, and they have built a sense of pride and community at Fort Lupton Middle School. These kids are excited and eager to learn, and they are setting a wonderful example for their peers across the state of Colorado and the country.

As we continue to push forward to do the important work of improving public education and make sure our public schools prepare our kids to be leaders in the 21st century economy, we must continue to listen to the voices, ideas and aspirations of principals, parents and students, like those at Fort Lupton Middle School.

I join all members of the Fort Lupton community and the State of Colorado in congratulating these bright kids and their teachers for a job well done and look forward to their continued success.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY, PARKERSBURG

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of West Virginia University at Parkersburg. For five decades now, West Virginia University at Parkersburg has provided affordable and accessible higher education opportunities to the citizens of the Mid-Ohio Valley and the State of West Virginia.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg began with humble roots. In 1961, the college opened in an abandoned elementary school as the Parkersburg Branch of West Virginia University. One hundred and four students enrolled that fall.

West Virginians believed in the ability of West Virginia University at Parkersburg to grow and succeed. In 1965, the citizens of Wood County passed a bond levy to build the college's campus at its present location, making it the only state-supported school to be funded by a local initiative. Truly, West Virginia University at Parkersburg is a college built by its community.

In 1971, it became one of the State's first freestanding community colleges. It developed a solid reputation—which continues today for—its quality technical programs and transfer degrees. In 1989, when the State legislature re-

structured higher education in West Virginia, it was reestablished as a regional campus of West Virginia University.

Today, West Virginia University at Parkersburg is a WVU-affiliated institution, and is the only community college in West Virginia accredited to offer bachelor's degrees. Growing from its modest beginnings with 104 students, the commuter campus now has more than 4,500 area residents enrolled in classes, making it the fourth-largest public college in West Virginia.

Its students are a blend of traditional and nontraditional students pursuing more than 40 programs of study. Most are the first in their family to attend college. Many juggle classes, work, and often families as well. They may "stop out," and later return. Throughout the campus, you can see pride in pursuing the dream and the reality of completing a college degree.

And, throughout its growth and many changes, the college has stayed true to its mission and reinvented itself to serve changing educational needs and deliver workforce-ready graduates prepared to excel in a global economy. As it marks its 50th anniversary, West Virginia University at Parkersburg remains committed to serving the Mid-Ohio Valley region as an accessible, student-centered learning community that is recognized as an exceptional place to learn.

Thousands of West Virginians have started or resumed their college educations at West Virginia University at Parkersburg. It truly is "the community's college." I salute Dr. Marie Gnage and the past presidents at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for a half century of excellence in education, training, and community engagement.●

RECOGNIZING LOST VALLEY SKI AREA

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, outdoor recreational activities are a staple of Maine's winter, past and present. From skiing to snowmobiling, visitors have flocked to Maine for decades to get a chance to enjoy the mounds of fresh snow our State enjoys every year. I rise today to recognize Lost Valley Ski Area, located in the city of Auburn, which this year is celebrating its 50th year of operation.

Lost Valley has been an Auburn staple since it was founded by Otto Wallingford and Dr. Camille Gardner in 1961, when it first began enticing people from the Twin Cities and the surrounding areas to its slopes to learn how to ski. It was then that a 700-foot tow rope was installed in a little known area named Perkins Ridge, where children used to navigate through the trees to a clearing, or "The Lost Valley," as it was called. That clearing now holds "the Lodge," where after a long day on the slopes, newly minted skiers can enjoy a hot cup of cocoa by the stone hearth. Additionally, the 55 acres of trails are now