a path of steady growth. Through his leadership the school has gained many new and talented faculty members, and has seen substantial growth in its endowment. He has initiated capital improvement projects on the school’s campus, expanded the school’s internationalization efforts, and has developed new clinics and institutes to focus on distinct fields of legal study. And he has sustained and built upon Vermont Law School’s environmental law program, which has been rated the best program in the nation for the last three consecutive years, and in the top two for the last 21 years. These continuing successes are reflective of Dean Shields’ strong leadership and the dedication of the faculty, staff, and students who sustain a vital community of learning and innovation in the hills of central Vermont.

During his career in public service, Dean Shields served as assistant to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and as counsel to Senator Frank Church. After he earned his law degree, he served as a law clerk for the late Judge James Oakes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, for whom a classroom building at Vermont Law School is named.

In the private sector, he served as a partner at Chicago and Washington, DC law firm of Gardner Carton and Douglas, where he was nationally recognized for his expertise in non-profit law, corporate law, health care law and international trade law.

Dean Shields has also made important contributions to education and scholarship beyond Vermont Law School. In Brattleboro, VT, he served as a foreign student advisor and assistant to the president at the Experiment in International Living and as an adjunct professor of economics at Marlboro College. In Marlboro, Vermont, Dean Shields has also been involved in foreign policy issues through editing and writing, and as a member of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations and the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dean Shields recently overcame serious illness with grace, humility, and determination. As he moves into the next chapter of his life, Marcelle and I wish him and his wife Genie the best for continued health and happiness.

I thank Dean Shields for his 8 years of dedicated service at Vermont Law School, and I convey my admiration and respect for the contributions he has made to Vermont. He will leave Vermont’s young law school and its faculty, staff and students in a strong position for continued growth and success. I am sure that what he will miss most will be all of those who have worked with him and learned from him. I wish him all the best.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CROSIER

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor John Crosier for his outstanding service to the State of New Hampshire’s residents and business community.

John retired as president of our State Chamber of Commerce, the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire, in 2004 after 16 years. He has served the residents of my State as a trustee of the University System of New Hampshire, a position which he has held for the last three years. In 2004, he appointed him to, as a member of the board of governors for the New Hampshire Forum on Higher Education, as a member of the executive committee of the Whittmore School of Business and Economics, and as a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee representing State chambers of commerce. Before he came to New Hampshire, he worked in Massachusetts as the head of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable and as Commissioner of Employment Security for the neighboring State. He was appointed by a Republican Governor and reappointed by a Democratic Governor.

John has been a board leader at numerous nonprofits, including the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the Junior Achievement, Leadership New Hampshire and the American Cancer Society.

Throughout his years as the head of the Business and Industry Association, and through his nonprofit board leadership, John’s guiding principle has been what’s best for New Hampshire.

When I was Governor of New Hampshire, John Crosier was one of my most trusted advisors. A gentleman always, his courage of conviction and pragmatic optimism for our State’s future always trumped ideology. He has been, and continues to be, a role model for civility in public discourse.

John’s commitment to New Hampshire was evident in his visionary work on the State’s most extensive research project, which resulted in a statewide economic strategy in 1996—An Agenda for Continued Economic Opportunity in New Hampshire. That plan set forth by John has been credited with my State’s recent strong economic recovery in the New England States.

Pieces of it are still being used today as a framework for New Hampshire, and it served as the foundation for a similar report by my administration during my second term as Governor. His belief that the health of the business sector is closely tied to issues of education, environment, and the nonprofit sector has contributed to the leadership of our State and will continue to guide our State in the future.

I thank John Crosier for his service to New Hampshire and for his well-deserved retirement. I am grateful for his friendship, leadership and advice throughout the years.

RECOGNIZING FALCON PERFORMANCE FOOTWEAR

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, in cities and towns all across America, there are businesses that are synonymous with the communities they serve. Maine has historically been home to a number of companies from local paper mills to Bath Iron Works. In the Lewiston-Auburn region, Falcon Performance Footwear has been part of the fabric since 1963, producing high-quality shoes and boots for generations of firefighters and American manufacturers.

Today, Falcon’s sole focus is on making reliable, sturdy, comfortable boots, particularly for consumers in labor-intensive jobs. The company produces a number of cutting-edge industrial boots, and in 2006 began working with the Maine Firefighter Trust, a New Hampshire small business, to create a state-of-the-art boot for firefighters designed with an athletic shoe platform rather than a more rigid welted sole to provide added flexibility. Falcon added mining boots to its repertoire in 2009, which feature a type of leather that resists many of the salts and minerals frequently encountered by miners.

Over the past decade, Falcon has worked with the Maine MEP to improve productivity, allowing the company to better compete in the global economy. As a result of this collaboration, Falcon has increased its productivity by 60 percent, retained over 50 jobs, increased its sales, and trained all of its employees. Falcon has also been a supporter of, and advocate for, the MEP program, and recognizes the immense value of its services to small and medium-sized manufacturing companies across the country. Today, the result of their partnership with the Maine MEP over the past 5 years, clients have reported increased and retained sales...