

to those who are here today, it has a bright future.

#### RECOGNIZING WESTVIEW ORCHARDS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Westview Orchards of Romeo, MI on its 200th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1813, the orchard has been a part of Michigan's way of life. It is where families go to pick their own peaches and strawberries in the summer, and where they go to pick apples, take wagon rides and enjoy the cider mill in the fall. It has been a source of fresh food since the War of 1812 was being waged from Michigan to New England to New Orleans.

Michigan was a prime battleground during the War of 1812, and the British were winning every major engagement. The Union Jack flew over settlements in Michigan from Mackinac Island to Detroit. By the summer of 1813, it seemed likely that when the war ended, the Michigan Territory would belong to the British Empire.

That all changed with the Battle of Lake Erie, when American forces defeated the British Navy and changed the tide of the war. One of the heroes of the battle was Michael Bowerman, who had come from New York to fight for his country. In gratitude for his service, the United States offered him a plot of land in Michigan.

And so it was that Michael Bowerman packed up his belongings and set out to start a new life for himself and an enduring legacy for his family. In his pockets, he carried a few peach pits from his father's farm in New York. He found his homestead in present-day Romeo, built a cabin and founded the farm that is today known as Westview Orchards.

It started with a small garden and orchard, with the family transporting the fruit by horse and wagon to Port Huron to sell at the farmers market. He later expanded the farm to include livestock and field crops. When a bear attacked one of his pigs, he came to the rescue and fought off the bear, earning him the nickname "Fearless Mike." As the years passed, his farm and his family grew, and in 1880, his son, Byron, planted 10 acres of peach trees that laid the foundation for Romeo's famous peach festival that is held every Labor Day Weekend.

For the last 200 years, the descendants of "Fearless Mike" have carried on his legacy. His sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, great-grandsons, great-granddaughters and more—have worked tirelessly to build the wonderful orchard that serves thousands of families in Michigan every year.

One great-grandson in particular made critical innovations on the farm. Harvey Bowerman took over the farm from his father, Byron, and his brother, George. Harvey modernized the farm

and built the foundation on which it stands today. He built the white clapboard house that the family still calls home. He and his son, Armand, transitioned the farm from using workhorses to using tractors. Harvey sold the hog and dairy operations, focusing the business on growing fruits and vegetables. He also added a grading room and built a custom peach grader and de-fuzzer machine to improve efficiency. His greatest innovation, though, was forced upon him in August of 1930.

It was a typical August day in an unusually good harvest year, and Harvey was loading his truck full of peaches from his record harvest to sell at Detroit's Eastern Market 40 miles to the south. Harvey was not the only grower having a record year, though. As he was preparing to leave, he received a call from Eastern Market that said, "Don't come down, Harvey. The market is flooded with so many peaches we can't sell 'em all."

As every farmer knows, once you harvest your crops you have to get them to the market quickly before they spoil. In desperation, Harvey tried something different: knowing that the Detroit Urban Railroad trolley had a stop just down the street, he turned his truck around so the back was facing the road in front of the farmhouse. His success selling the peaches to passengers forever changed the way he and his descendants marketed their fruit.

Harvey passed the farm to his son, Armand, and when Armand suddenly passed away in 1981, Westview's fifth and sixth generations took over. Today, the family farm is in the hands of Katherine Bowerman Roy, her daughters Katrina Roy Schumacher and Abigail Jacobson, and Abigail's husband, Bill.

Westview Orchards is the oldest farm in Macomb County. It is a place where families from across the county and beyond visit to pick their own fruit, take wagon rides around the farm, and enjoy the corn maze, ice cream shop, cider mill and farmers market.

Westview Orchards is a true Michigan success story, born of hard work, dedication and a commitment to innovation. I congratulate the entire family—from "Fearless Mike" Bowerman to Katherine, Katrina, Abigail and Bill—on 200 wonderful years.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 90TH MISSILE WING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 50th anniversary of the 90th Missile Wing stationed at Frances E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, WY.

For the past half century, the dedicated men and women of the 90th Missile Wing have served with unwavering dedication to the security of our Nation. Known to their fellow airmen as the "Mighty Ninety," this wing, with its five groups, displays excellence and commitment to the mission.

On July 1, 1963, the 90th Strategic Wing came into existence amid growing tensions with the Soviet Union. Protecting our national security throughout the Cold War and into present day, the 90th Missile Wing provides our Nation's best, most reliable, most accurate strategic deterrent. Tasked with deterring an attack, the missile wing has worked extensively with the Minuteman I and Minuteman III systems, as well as encompassing the full lifecycle of the Peacekeeper Missile. Today, these men and women maintain and protect our Minuteman III resources 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year—truly placing service to our country above all else.

The 90th Missile Wing has been named the best Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Wing the past 2 years, earning the Blanchard Trophy in 2011 from U.S. Strategic Command and the Williams Trophy in 2010 and 2012 from Air Force Global Strike Command. The men and women who serve in the Mighty Ninety are second to none. Airmen from the 90th have gone on to serve our Nation in the Pentagon and international conflict zones. Additionally, just this month, the wing was turned over to its first female commander, Col. Tracey Hayes. Colonel Hayes has committed to continuing the standard of excellence.

At this very moment, there are crewmen out in the missile fields, security teams on patrol, and support personnel of the 90th Missile Wing standing watch, ready to execute. They focus exclusively on their mission to "provide preeminent combat capability across the spectrum of conflict." The Mighty Ninety continue to be an integral part of America's national defense.

Congratulations and a profound thank you to the members of the 90th Missile Wing and their families.

#### TRIBUTE TO DOMNELIA "NELLEN" BUDD

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Nellen Budd, my longtime office manager and dedicated staffer whose patience, organizational skills and kindness have served the people of Alaska very well for many years. She has listened to thousands of Alaskans on the phone and in person, and directed many people toward help when they needed it most.

Nearly 40 years ago, a young professional named Domnelia "Nellen" Regal, traveled from the Philippines to the United States to realize a dream. Nellen married Larry Budd and raised three sons in Alaska: Earl, Don and Evan Budd. All three of her sons currently serve in the U.S. military, as does her daughter-in-law Kay. As a working mother, Nellen balanced home, social, church and career responsibilities with finesse and gained an excellent reputation as an esteemed professional.

For 25 years, Nellen greeted the people of Anchorage and kept city hall