from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Voinovich), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Frist), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. Carnahan), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Breaux), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Helms), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Miller), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Levin), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Wellstone), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Sarbanes), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Edwards), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. Gregg), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Fitzgerald) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 66, a concurrent resolution to express the sense of the Congress that the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor should be awarded to public safety officers killed in the line of duty in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

At the request of Mrs. Clinton, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Allen), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Bingaman), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Enzi), the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Smith) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1583 proposed to H.R. 2590, a bill making appropriations for the States Postal Service, the Executive Branch, and other purposes.

The creation of a national Oil Heritage Region will support the preservation of many natural, cultural and historical resources associated with the site of the first successfully drilled oil well.

The notion of drilling for oil was first considered by the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company who believed that "digging" for oil was too time consuming. Acting on the prospect of greater efficiency, the company sent Edwin "Colonel" Drake to Titusville, Pennsylvania in 1859 to undertake a drilling endeavor. Throughout the next year, Drake spent his time convincing investors; securing financing; and laying the groundwork to begin actual drilling. A year later, the derrick was built and drilling began. Results did not come immediately, but eventually. And so began the modern commercial petroleum industry.

Without a doubt, petroleum has played a major part in the history and ultimate development and industrialization of our country. Currently, more than 300,000 workers are employed in the oil industry nationwide with more than 8,000 companies producing oil in the United States. The importance of a national heritage region designation will ensure that the vision of a Pennsylvania company and Edwin Drake's persistence and ultimate success in oil drilling is not only preserved but cherished. Establishing a national heritage region will coordinate preservation activities and promote the region's cultural richness through exhibits, displays, and the development of educational and recreational opportunities.

I would be remiss not to mention the significant grassroots support associated with this effort. Introduction of this legislation is the product of much collaboration from individuals, businesses, and local government. A key element to securing designations of this kind is assurances of the community's collective and widespread support. I am confident that such support has been capably demonstrated and proven.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has also recognized these local efforts; as well the region's historical significance, by granting a state heritage park designation. Today, visitors are able to enjoy cultural and recreational opportunities in the scenic valleys and restored rivers like the Allegheny River and Oil Creek.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is rich with historical firsts, and the fruitful efforts of Edwin Drake and the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company are just one example. I am pleased to introduce this legislation today, and to have the shared support of my fellow Pennsylvania Senator, Arlen Specter.