

## TRIBUTE TO JOHN GILLILAND

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to commend John Gilliland, who worked for me on the trade staff of the Finance Committee for the last 2 years. He left to go work for the law firm of Miller and Chevalier, where I know he will be a great success.

We were lucky to have John with us on the Committee for 2 years. But he has been working hard on public policy issues for much longer than that.

John began his Senate career in the office of my good friend and colleague, Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN. John worked for 2 years as her legislative counsel on trade and agriculture issues. Senator LINCOLN, of course, was instrumental in helping us pass the 2002 farm bill and the Trade Act of 2002, and John was her key staffer on both pieces of legislation.

My staff worked closely with John on these issues, and everyone was so impressed by him that I hired him to help us on the Finance Committee.

I am glad we did. John has been a tremendous asset. He knows agriculture and trade inside and out. I am always amazed that I can ask him almost anything, and he not only knows that answer, but can give me all of the history, politics, and nuance.

His knowledge of agriculture was particularly important for Montana, where farming and ranching are the engine of our export income. John is somebody who I trusted to represent me in Montana, and someone who I trusted to represent Montana here in Washington. That alone is saying a lot.

John worked on some difficult and important issues while on the Finance Committee. He played a key role in the Australia free-trade agreement and was responsible for oversight of WTO negotiations. He was also a strong advocate for our work to end the embargo against Cuba, and he helped negotiate the first ever Montana-Cuba agriculture trade deal. In fact, John traveled with me on several of my trade missions, including to Cuba, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

John is also someone who is very dedicated to his family. He is lucky to have a wonderful wife, Rebecca, and three great kids—Will, Hudson, and Rebecca Jane. And they are fortunate to have a hard-working and talented husband and father.

Now, all of this is not to say that John doesn't have his faults. Most of his colleagues give John a hard time for not being able to match his clothes. Their criticism is warranted. In fact, on a trip to Thailand last year, we finally forced him to buy a new suit and some dress shirts. I am confident that we have now set him on the right path.

Having visited John at his desk, I can also say that I am happy that OSHA never paid him a visit. I heard someone describe John and his office best when they said that he combines southern

charm with northern efficiency and third-world desk organization.

All of that said these are about the worst things you can say about John. In fact, you would be hard pressed to find a person who does not like John. He is truly one of the nicest and most genuine people you will ever meet. There are a lot of people in this town with substantive knowledge, but there are few who can put together the substance, personality, and strategy and be truly exceptional. John is one of those people.

I always say that public service is one of the most noble things a person can do. John Gilliland embodies the best in public service. He is aces. And I wish him the best.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## CONGRATULATING BODE MILLER

• Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a great Granite Stater, Bode Miller. On Saturday Bode became the first American in 22 years to ski his way to the overall World Cup title. An Easton, NH native, Bode perfected his talents on the slopes of Cannon Mountain and now serves as the Director of Skiing at Bretton Woods. His style may not be conventional. It has been said that, like a good many New Hampshire natives, he has a mind of his own and enjoys doing things his own way. That independent spirit helped him do something else his own way this past Saturday—win the overall World Cup trophy.

The American World Cup drought has been in place since 1983 and, as Bode said on Saturday, had grown into “curse” proportions. In New England, we don't take kindly to sports “curses.” Since the turn of the century, New Hampshire's sporting faith has been rewarded with three Super Bowl trophies from the New England Patriots and, of course, the much talked about World Series title in October by the Boston Red Sox. Bode's extraordinary feats on the ski slopes of Europe have gained him worldwide recognition and has an extra special importance for those from New Hampshire who enjoy some of the best skiing in the world in the White Mountains. We are proud that the slopes we enjoy skiing each winter, albeit at speeds much slower than Bode, have been the training ground for the world's best skier.

Bode donned his first pair of skis at the age of 3 and spent much of his early skiing life on the slopes of Cannon Mountain. He entered his first race when he was 11 and attended the Carrabassett Valley Academy in Maine and went on to the Junior Olympics in 1996, where he first made a name for himself. Bode competed in the 1998 and 2002 Winter Olympics, and he has collected eighteen World Cup wins over his career.

At 27 years of age, Bode Miller has accomplished the most sought-after spot of every skier, and has done so with his own style, determination, physical stamina and personality. Today we congratulate Bode Miller on this tremendous accomplishment, and we look forward to continuing to follow the eventful progress of the world's greatest skier.●

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY GEORGE WIDMAN

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I come to the floor today to wish a legendary North Dakota businessman, George Widman, a happy belated birthday. On Saturday, March 12, George turned 85. He celebrated this momentous birthday yesterday with friends and family. I never forget George's birthday because we share March 12 as our birthdays.

George and I have known each other many years, and his resiliency is something I have long admired. Following the disastrous floods and fire that struck downtown Grand Forks in 1997, George was wondering whether or not his world famous Widman's Candy Store would see another day. He told his wife, Betty, they could build the new candy store anywhere in the world, but they both agreed it was best to stay in Grand Forks and rebuild their business they had spent so many years crafting into a downtown Grand Forks landmark.

After Grand Forks had started to rebuild following this disastrous flood, George was kind enough to send every U.S. Senator a Widman's chocolate bar with the words “thank you” imprinted on it. This describes George's approach to life: give of yourself for the benefit of others.

George epitomizes everything North Dakota represents. Growing up during the Great Depression, he learned at an early age that in order to succeed hard work is required. He is very proud of his military service in World War II. He is a Navy veteran and served on the USS *Bunker Hill* from 1942 until his ship was hit in battle in 1945. He is devoted to his family, his community, and his Nation—all reasons we should pay tribute to George on his birthday and every day.

Today, three of George's six children are also in the candy business. Even though he has long passed the normal retirement age in our Nation, he stills comes to work every day to make candy and interact with the public he loves dearly. As George puts it, it's not about the money, but the people he serves.

Again, it is my pleasure to honor George on his 85th birthday and wish him continued health and happiness.●