

I must close now. . . . As a 31 year Navy and Marine Corp veteran I wish to leave you with a saying that we, in the service of our country, always thought was strictly a nautical blessing. . . . In point of fact, it is a universal phrase of good luck as one departs on a voyage in life. . . . It reads: "Let me square the yards . . . while we may . . . and make a fair wind of it homeward". I wish you all in this audience "Fair Winds and Following Seas". . . . God speed to you and St. Mikes . . . and thank you for listening . . .

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN PEARCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont athletes are no strangers to the U.S. Winter Olympic team. In 2009, the Hartland, VT, raised Kevin Pearce was readying himself to be a member of that team when tragedy struck. During a routine half-pipe training session for the 2010 Olympics, Kevin suffered a traumatic brain injury and was nearly killed when he crashed and struck his head. Since then, Kevin, with the support of his family, has worked to recover and heal from that terrible accident. I have heard firsthand from Kevin how instrumental his younger brother David was in providing positive feedback and encouragement as he completed his physical therapy. Together with his older brother, Adam, Kevin started the Love Your Brain Foundation, which offers support to survivors of traumatic brain injuries, their families, and their caregivers.

The Love Your Brain Foundation recently held its free annual retreat in Lincoln, VT. The foundation's mission extends beyond simply providing support to survivors; it also works to raise broader public awareness about the condition. Kevin, Adam, and those who support the mission of the Love Your Brain Foundation believe that traditional treatment options, as well as alternative methods of care, can help survivors of traumatic brain injuries lead full and healthy lives. The foundation's annual retreat enables people from around the country, and some from Canada, who are dealing with traumatic brain injuries to share their own personal stories and to sharpen skills in workshops focused on music, yoga, and nutrition education.

Whether the result of sporting accidents or from a vehicle crash, injuries sustained on the hiking trail or the battlefield, there is still much to be learned about traumatic brain injuries and how best to help those who sustain them recover. That is why the work of the Love Your Brain Foundation makes a real difference.

Kevin Pearce's life forever changed the day of his accident. He and his family have taken that tragedy and turned it into an opportunity to advance public awareness. His story is one we can all be inspired by, and his road to recovery is one we should all from and seek to emulate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a May 28 article written by Vermont Associated Press reporter Lisa Rathke, entitled "Injured snowboarder helps brain injury survivors," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Associated Press, May 28, 2016]

INJURED SNOWBOARDER HELPS BRAIN INJURY SURVIVORS

(By Lisa Rathke)

LINCOLN—A near-fatal halfpipe crash while training for the 2010 Olympics ended Kevin Pearce's snowboarding career and changed his life forever. Six years later, Pearce, 28, continues to cope with his traumatic brain injury that he will carry with him for the rest of his life and he's helping other survivors do the same.

Pearce, who grew up in Vermont, and his brother started the Love Your Brain Foundation to support traumatic brain injury survivors and caregivers. The foundation provides workshops for yoga teachers to cater their classes to brain injury survivors. It also offers a free yearly retreat for those with traumatic brain injury and their caregivers that is taking place this week in Lincoln, Vermont, and hopes to offer retreats in other parts of the country.

The foundation raises money to cover these activities and is working on educating young athletes about the importance of "loving their brains" and preventing concussions.

About 50 people from around the country and Canada are attending the third annual event that also features nutrition education, art, music and other mindfulness activities. Attendees can also share their personal stories.

"There was a huge missing piece to traumatic brain injuries and there's such an unknown for so many people of what to do after they sustain this injury," said Pearce, following a morning yoga class at the retreat in a barnlike building on a hillside.

Alternatives such as acupuncture, yoga and meditation are proving helpful to traumatic brain injury survivors in their recoveries, said Dr. Roger Knakal, medical director of physical medicine and rehabilitation and the University of Vermont Medical Center.

One of the hardest parts about traumatic brain injuries is that they are invisible injuries, said Pearce's brother Adam.

The biggest eye-opener was how isolated people can become from a brain injury, he said. "When you have a brain injury, you feel so not normal," said Pearce. "You're thrown back into the regular world. You're expected to be as you were before this. We're not able to do that because we're now a new person."

Pearce was considered, along with Shaun White, to be one of America's top athletes in the sport at the time of his crash. On New Year's Eve in 2009, he struck his head during half-pipe training in Utah. He was in critical care for a month and then acute care for two weeks before moving to a rehabilitation center in Denver. He had to relearn how to walk, talk, even swallow. The family then moved back to Vermont where he continued rehab.

Pearce, who now lives in Bend, Oregon, continues to do cognitive therapy and is seeing eye therapists in Chicago to help with vision problems. He maintains a busy schedule, speaking to various groups about his story and the importance of "loving your brain" and showing the 2013 documentary about him called "Crash Reel."

Ari Havusha, 20, of Vancouver, returned to the retreat for the third time this year. He said he suffered several severe concussions and an eye injury as a teen soccer player and another severe concussion later during a college fall. He lives with a constant headache.

Havusha withdrew from McGill University in Montreal and returned home, where he became anxious and depressed. His mother pointed to the Love Your Brain retreat and right away, Havusha said, he knew he had to do it. "It was a huge turning point for me,"

he said. "I saw other people and their traumatic stories and I was able to connect with other people. Suddenly I was kind of lifted out of that isolation I felt so heavily."

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL BILL GORTNEY

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I honor an exceptional leader and aviator. After 39 years, a lifetime of service to our Nation, ADM Bill Gortney is retiring from the U.S. Navy. On this occasion, I find it fitting to recognize Admiral Gortney's many accomplishments and years of uniformed service to our Nation.

As the son of a U.S. Navy captain and WWII aviator, Admiral Gortney was no stranger to the challenges and opportunities of naval aviation. After graduating from Elon College with a bachelor of arts in history and political science, he entered the Aviation Officer Candidate School and commissioned in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1977. He earned his wings of gold as a naval aviator following his graduation from the jet strike pilot training pipeline in 1978. He is a 1996 graduate of Naval War College and earned his master of arts in international security affairs.

Admiral Gortney moved through the ranks quickly, moving from commander to four-star admiral in 8 years. Despite his rapid ascent through the command naval ranks, Admiral Gortney still managed to log over 5,360 mishap-free flight hours and completed over 1,265 carrier-arrested landings primarily in the A-7E Corsair II and the F/A-18 Hornet. Admiral Gortney has completed seven tours of command, starting with the VFA-15 Vallions and culminating with his third commanding tour in U.S. Central Command, as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command / U.S. 5th Fleet, where he provided support to maritime security operations and combat operations for Operations Enduring Freedom And Iraqi Freedom.

Admiral Gortney's first flag tour was as the deputy chief of staff for Global Force Management and Joint Operation, U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk. This was followed by assignment as Commander, Carrier Strike Group 10 onboard the USS *Harry S Truman*, during which time he was promoted to a two-star rear admiral. After promotion to his third star, he was assigned as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet/Combined Maritime Forces, Bahrain. He also served as director, joint staff, from 2010-2012. In 2012, he became Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. His final assignment prior to retirement was that of Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command. It is the first and only position that places a single military commander in charge of the protection of

our Nation from any potential attacks on U.S. soil. It is also the only binational command in the world's existence between Canada and the United States.

During his tenure there, Admiral Gortney redefined the mission for USNORTHCOM's future, furthering the bonds that have secured the skies above the homelands for 60 years. He built a personal trust critical to the strength of the alliance with our partners in Canada, Mexico, and the Bahamas and was able to expand the traditional bounds of security cooperation. He increased military-to-military training and interaction. Within the homeland, Admiral Gortney's keen intuition led to a deliberate campaign plan to protect the United States forces from the threat of homegrown violent extremists. He led the Department of Defense planning to support lead Federal agencies to minimize the threat of both the Ebola and Zika viruses.

Throughout his career, Admiral Gortney's message of empowerment and his relentless desire to seek creative solutions to the commands' challenges has served as an example to all during his lifetime exemplary of military service. I join with the members of the Senate Armed Services Committee in expressing my respect and gratitude to Admiral Gortney for his outstanding service to our Nation. I offer heartfelt thanks to Bill; his wife, Sherry; their children, Stephanie and Billy; daughter-in-law, Jackie; and grandchildren, Gavin and Grayson. Congratulations to all on Bill's retirement from the U.S. Navy after a lifetime of dedicated service. To Bill, trusted leader and dedicated patriot, fair winds and following seas.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRIANGLE X RANCH

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I appreciate having this opportunity to share some news with the Senate about a very important anniversary we are celebrating in my home State. This is the year the Triangle X Ranch, one of our State's great attractions, is marking its 90th year of operation.

As you can imagine, the Triangle X has quite a story to tell of those 90 years. It began in the early 1900s when a visitor fell in love with an especially beautiful area of Wyoming. It continues to this day, its 90th year, cared for over the years by five generations of the Turner family.

The people of my home State have a great fondness and appreciation for the Triangle X because it reminds us of our Western heritage and our love of the land and all it provides. It reminds us of our growth as a State and what it was like to live in Wyoming back in those days.

The Triangle X Ranch Web site tells the story of the ranch. It begins, back in the early 1900s, when John and Maytie Turner liked to take "fun vaca-

tions," as they called them, to Yellowstone National Park. It was during one of those visits they had a chance to see an area around Jackson Hole for the first time. It was one of those story-book encounters—or to put it another way: love at first sight.

Life was a lot tougher back then, so when they decided to make the area their home, they had to bring their sons back with them to get things started. It took a tremendous effort to build their home so they would have a place to stay. Even today, it is hard to imagine what an effort it took for them to live what had become their dream.

For starters, they had to bring the logs from some felled trees to their home site so they could build the basement of what would become their home. Once that was done, they had a place where they could live while they built the rest of their house.

Everything was difficult. Providing for the essentials they needed took planning and some time. Just taking a trip to the nearest town took several days. They had to grow or produce their own food, and while they were at it, they had to come up with ways of making something of a living.

This paragraph from the history section of their Web site says a lot about what their life was like back then for them and for many of those who had left the comforts of home and traded them for the great freedom and excitement of Wyoming and the West: "Because there was no electricity, wood supplied heat and kerosene lamps brought light to interiors. Refrigeration was provided by large chunks of ice that had been cut from nearby beaver ponds in the winter and stored in piles of sawdust to keep through the summer. A fresh meat supply was provided by the Turners' cattle herd, chickens and big game harvested in the fall. Surprisingly, most of these methods of supply continued through the 1940s."

The next generation saw more changes to the ranch. It was now a dude ranch. Their Web site describes how it became an "authorized concession of the National Park Service—the last dude ranch concession within the entire National Park system."

Today, a fifth generation of the Turner family is working the ranch and greeting guests, both new and returning friends, the lifestyle their family has loved for all these years. As each guest comes to the Triangle X, they receive the kind of education you just can't get from watching a movie or reading a book. You are immersed in a lifestyle that provides you with a front row seat to what life was like in the days of the old West.

As you can tell, I enjoy talking about the people of Wyoming, our businesses, and our unique brand of hospitality. I can't encourage you strongly enough to come to Wyoming and get a taste of what life was like back in the days when the West was the best part of our

national heritage—and you will see that it still is. When you come to my home State, you might stop by the Triangle X and then explore some more of Wyoming and the West.

Our homegrown businesses are one of the special things about Wyoming. Together, they form the backbone of Wyoming's economy and they keep us headed in the right direction. They are the strength of Wyoming and the West, and they are one of the reasons why people keep flocking to Jackson and the other cities and towns of Wyoming.

I will close by once again congratulating all those who are a part of the Triangle X story. They have made a difference in our State and in the lives of all those who come to visit. I would also like to invite my colleagues to come and see my home State. You can't beat our scenic beauty, hospitality, and our history and legacy as a State. I can promise you that you will have an adventure in Wyoming that you will remember for a long time to come.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PEASE GREETERS' 1000TH FLIGHT

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate the Pease Greeters' nonprofit organization for more than 11 years of continuous service in greeting our troops and civilian personnel from the Department of Defense, DOD, passing through the Pease International Trade Port in Portsmouth, NH. In June of 2016, they will have welcomed more than 1,000 flights passing through the trade port on their way to or from Afghanistan, Iraq, or other areas of conflict in the world.

The Pease Greeters organization was created in May of 2005 when an unannounced plane carrying members of the U.S. military landed at the Pease International Airport. The airport director, maintenance manager, and airport employees quickly got together to meet and greet these troops, offering coffee, donuts, and a big thank you for their service. Soon thereafter, the airport director discovered that additional charter flights would be arriving at Pease. Upon learning this, he reached out to the Seacoast Marine Corps League for assistance welcoming the troops and putting together a fitting ceremony to show respect, appreciation, and honor for their service.

Once word spread, dozens of citizens from New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts, lent their support to organize what quickly became known as the Pease Greeters, whose mission is to promote broad participation in this welcoming of heroes, paying special attention to the education of school children by instilling respect and admiration for the troops through formal ceremonies for each flight. Whether it is 4 a.m. in the morning or 4 p.m. in the