

There are many American ideals that apply to Bill and Rose Mary. Their love story truly captures the American dream and I am proud to be part of their family, and honored to offer my congratulations on their 60th anniversary.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MOBRIDGE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of Mobridge, SD. Mobridge is a beautiful community located on the Missouri River, with friendly people and a strong local economy.

Long before the settlers arrived, the site of Mobridge was inhabited by mound dwellers. Following the mound dwellers were the Woodland Indians, who in turn were followed by the Mandan and Arikaras. The Sioux Indians arrived later, coming from the East. In the late 1800s settlers began moving onto the land that eventually became the site of Mobridge. General S.E. Olson owned the land on which the city was built. The idea that Mobridge should be the place where the Milwaukee Railroad met the Missouri River came to him while goose hunting. The name "Mobridge" came from the abbreviating of "Missouri Bridge." The Milwaukee Railroad reached Mobridge on September 9, 1906. A.H. Brown contributed materially to give Mobridge a convention center and marketplace. Monuments can still be found around the town, including the A.H. Brown Library, the Mascot Theatre, the Mobridge Wholesale building, and the Brown Palace Apartments.

Mobridge offers immense opportunities to those who enjoy the outdoors. With Lake Oahe near the city, Mobridge is able to hold national and regional fishing tournaments every year. The area also presents many good hunting opportunities, as well.

In Mobridge, there is a school, library, nursing home, three clinics, a beautiful nine-hole golf course, municipal airport, three parks, an outdoor swimming pool, the Mobridge Tribune, and 12 churches along with many other thriving businesses.

Each year Mobridge offers events such as parades, carnivals, and rodeos. The Lewis and Clark Renaissance Festival reenacts the visit of the famous explorers to the area, and local jazz bands can often be heard entertaining in the gazebos of parks.

The city will be celebrating this memorable occasion July 1st through the 4th with events such as a pancake breakfast, a school reunion, a dance, rodeo, parade, and fireworks along with other various activities. This celebration is an appropriate way to honor the past and a chance to look toward the future. I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Mobridge and to offer my congratulations to the residents of the community on this historic milestone.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF CROCKER, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Crocker, SD.

A cafe was the first business to open in Crocker in 1906. The cafe was soon followed by the Lambert Lumber Company and the Crocker State Bank. Eventually the town expanded to include a clothing store, pool hall, drug store, hardware farm machinery store, and a blacksmith. The first train ran through Crocker in 1907. Soon there were four trains a day, with a sleeper on one train en route to Minneapolis. The post office was established on February 6, 1907. The first Crocker school was moved into the town in 1908, on the corner of Vera Street and Third Avenue.

Today the Crocker Lutheran Church, which was founded in 1917, still remains a thriving place for its congregation.

I am proud to publicly honor Crocker on this memorable occasion. Small communities like Crocker are part of the backbone of our great State and help to preserve our agricultural roots and deep-seated character. After 125 years, Crocker still exemplifies what it means to be a great South Dakota community.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MOUNT VERNON, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of Mount Vernon, SD.

Mount Vernon, originally named "Arlandton," is thought to be named by a Virginian or someone who had wanted to pay tribute to George Washington's estate. The town plat was recorded in 1882 around the same time period that John Pease established the Mount Vernon Gazette. Closely following this, a hardware store, livery stable, lumber yard, drug store, cigar manufactory, hotel, and various other firms were established. Mount Vernon's survival, like many South Dakota communities, was largely dependent on the newly constructed railroad.

The community endured a fair share of hardship during the early years. In 1888, a ferocious blizzard caused conditions so intense that people froze to death just a few feet from shelter. Then in 1889, a fire burned down 53 buildings in the fledgling town and caused damage to many more. However, the community spirit was resilient, and the residents rebuilt.

Mount Vernon currently holds an estimated population of 477 citizens. It is still home to many thriving businesses, as well as the high school's Mount Vernon Mustangs.

I am pleased to announce that Mount Vernon celebrated its 125th anniversary

with a community celebration on June 16 to 18. There were numerous events scheduled, including a petting zoo, tractor show, golf tournament, and parade. This celebration was a fitting way to recognize Mount Vernon's long and productive history.

Even 125 years after its founding, Mount Vernon continues to be a vital community and a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to publicly honor Mount Vernon on this memorable occasion.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF WEBSTER, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Webster, SD. Webster is a vibrant community and an asset to the State of South Dakota. It is the county seat of Day County.

Webster is an excellent destination for outdoorsmen. Hunters will find an abundance of ringneck pheasant, as well as many duck varieties, Canada geese, and doves. Anglers will enjoy the excellent fishing at nearby Waubay Lake and many other area glacial lakes. For the winter months, miles of snowmobiling trails run around the town and the rest of Day County. It truly is "a place for all seasons."

Webster also boasts a variety of man-made attractions. The Blue Dog Lake Fish Hatchery opened in 1982, and it is the only cool and warm water fish hatchery in South Dakota. The facility sits on scenic Blue Dog Lake, which has a variety of hiking trails and outdoor facilities. Webster is also home to the Day County Museum and the Museum of Wildlife, Science & Industry. Residents benefit from the services of six churches, a golf course, the Webster Reporter & Farmer, and a variety of other businesses.

Today, Webster is a credit to South Dakota and our way of life. The town has just constructed a new high school to help educate its next generation of young people and to ensure the vibrancy and vitality of the Webster community for years to come. The people of Webster will celebrate their town's 125th anniversary from July 27 through the 30. I am proud to publicly honor this community on this special occasion.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of Sioux Falls, SD. Sioux Falls is the largest city in South Dakota and growing at a phenomenal rate. Sioux Falls is a progressive and diverse community with all the opportunities normally associated large metropolitan areas and the friendliness of a small town. I offer my congratulations to the people of Sioux Falls on this momentous occasion.

The waterfalls for which Sioux Falls is named have long been an attractive feature. Burial mounds have been found near the site dating as far back as 500 B.C. The area was settled by Europeans in the 1850s, when two groups made claims to land around the falls. Fort Dakota was established in 1865, and shortly thereafter the town began to blossom. The railroads arrived in the 1880s, and over the course of the decade the population leapt from 2,164 to 10,167. Other major events for the area include the opening of the John Morrell plant in 1909, establishment of an airbase in 1942, and the conclusion of construction of the interstate highways in the early 1960s.

Modern Sioux Falls boasts a wide variety of educational, cultural, artistic, and recreational opportunities. The city has offerings from both public and private universities, including Augustana University and the University of Sioux Falls, as well as many specialized and technical schools for those seeking to further their educational goals. The city is served by the Argus Leader newspaper. The Old Courthouse Museum and the Pettigrew Museum are major attractions, as is the historic downtown area generally. The Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science, the Great Plains Zoo, and St. Joseph's Cathedral are only a small sample of the interesting places and activities in Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls is celebrating its sesquicentennial with a variety of events over the summer, such as "150 Candles!", a musical tribute to the history of Sioux Falls; historic building tours; a sesquicentennial gala ball; a performance by He Sapa Dancers and Lakota Drum Group; a commemorative Sioux Falls Canaries baseball game and fireworks display; and a parade ending at Falls Park with a community picnic to follow. These activities will serve as a reminder of the shared history of the community and bring the close-knit people of Sioux Falls even closer together.

This anniversary is a significant milestone for Sioux Falls. After 150 years, the city is stronger than ever. I am pleased to publicly honor the achievements of this wonderful South Dakota community as they reach this juncture. As the slogan of the community celebration states, the citizens of Sioux Falls are "Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future."●

CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF ORTLEY, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the centennial of the founding of the community of Ortley, SD.

Ortley is situated in the southwestern corner of Roberts County. Ortley was established on the Sisseton Wahpeton Indian Reservation when C.E. Anderson purchased the land in 1906. The town was originally named Anderson Townsite. However, the name

was later changed to Ortley to correspond with the name of the township in which it is located. The town was incorporated in 1907, and the first elected trustees were C.E. Anderson, Paul Halvorson, and D.L. Branum.

One year after the land was purchased, Ortley experienced an immense building boom. In 1907, a railway company established a depot and stockyard in the town. A labor yard, meat market, hotel, bank, hardware store, and general stores were also constructed. In the area in which Ortley is located the principal industries have been farming, raising livestock, and dairying.

Small towns like Ortley add to the character of our wonderful State. I am pleased to announce that Ortley will be celebrating its centennial on July 1, 2006. There are numerous events scheduled, including a car and motorcycle show, parade, softball game, and barbeque.

A hundred years after its founding, Ortley continues to be a vital community and a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Ortley on this memorable occasion. ●

CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF STRATFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the centennial of the founding of the city of Stratford, SD. A latecomer in inclusion into Brown County, Stratford sprung up rapidly in just weeks.

Stratford was founded 100 years ago on the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroads. Stratford was a convenient commuter system to many of its neighboring cities at the time. In just 5 years, Stratford reached its peak population of 600.

Stratford is one of South Dakota's classic small towns. It has been the home of industry and farm-related businesses, and its meat market is known for its homemade sausages, hams, and liverwurst. The Taylor Honey Company, which processes about a million pounds of honey annually, was established in 1955 and is still a booming business. The community created Stratford's volunteer fire protection in 1911, and the post office and Badger Hole, a cafe and bar, are open to this day.

A hundred years after its founding, Stratford continues to be a vital community and a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Stratford on this memorable occasion. ●

CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF WECOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the centennial of the founding of the town of Wecota, SD. The town, with its five streets and five avenues, is a place of great charm and character.

Wecota became a town when the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroad was completed. Although small, Wecota has had a rich history. The first building to be established in the community was a small schoolhouse. A year later, the town's post office was organized, which stayed in operation for 75 years. Of the original buildings that were built, a depot, school, bank, and elevators remain to this day.

The town has subsisted through many hardships. In 1919, a fire destroyed two grocery stores and the meat market. Then in 1926 a destructive hailstorm damaged most of the community's crops. After the hailstorm, many of Wecota's residents began to drift to other towns, though a core of dedicated residents still occupies the town.

The name "Wecota" is derived from an Indian word meaning "friendship," and the town holds true to its name. A hundred years after its founding, Wecota continues to be a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Wecota on this memorable occasion. ●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF TEA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of Tea, SD. Tea is enriched with a vibrant history reaching back to the growth of the railroads and continuing to the present, with Tea now being the fastest growing city in the State.

Tea's unusual name was discovered when the community was asked to submit 10 town names to the Postal Service but only 9 could be decided upon. A recess was called during a town meeting at which tea was served. Someone suggested the name "Tea" be added to the list. Shortly after, this tight-knit community was informed that their new name would be Tea. Tea was officially incorporated in 1906.

Tea's first bank was opened in 1900 in the place that is now O'Toole's bar. Unfortunately, the bank went broke in 1922 prior to the Depression. Despite the failure of the bank, Tea developed beautifully with its own post office, schoolhouse, cafes, general store, and lumberyard. Woodman Hall was the center of the town's social activities, hosting everything from roller skating to school plays. More recently, a new high school was opened in August 2005 and is a point of pride for the community. Tea is currently served by the Tea-Harrisburg Champion newspaper.

I congratulate Tea in achieving 100 wonderful years. During the week of June 10, the community gathered to celebrate with a Wild West Show, the coronation of Ma and Pa Teapot and Ecumenical church service. This celebration tied the community together even tighter, as they commemorated their history and looked to their future.