

in 1906 to its current location along the Soo Line Railroad. Columbus was named for its second postmaster, Columbus Larson, and it is thought to be the only place named Columbus in the United States that is not named for the famous explorer, Christopher Columbus.

Today, Columbus is a great place for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. Its location near Short Creek Dam adds to the beauty of its landscape and attracts all types of visitors, from the serious outdoorsmen to recreational golfers. Short Creek Dam is a sportsman's dream, with its abundant fish population and quiet seclusion. Columbus is also home to the Oilmen's Golf Tournament, which draws players from around the area.

Columbus is a close-knit community that values togetherness and cooperation. Community members work together to ensure Columbus remains a wonderful place to live and work. The residents of Columbus have many wonderful activities planned to celebrate their 100th anniversary, including parades, a talent show, open golf, games, a street dance, and much more.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Columbus, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Columbus and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Columbus that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Columbus has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RYDER, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 7 to 9, the residents of Ryder will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Ryder holds an important place in North Dakota's history. Originally, the town chose Centerville as its name, but the post office said that name was already taken. The town was eventually named "Ryder" because of Arthur R. Ryder, who lent his coat to the local postal official. To thank Mr. Ryder for his generosity, the postal official named the town after him. Many new businesses started to emerge in Ryder after its founding, including banks, hardware stores, general stores, livery barns, hotels, restaurants, grain elevators, a blacksmith shop, a photograph gallery, and three churches.

Today, Ryder is a vibrant community. The people of Ryder are very proud of their community, and they have a strong sense of camaraderie. Ryder is actively involved in creating new ideas for preserving the town that

is so dearly loved by the entire community. Ryder is planning 3 fun-filled days to celebrate its centennial, which will be enjoyed by people of all ages. Activities include dedication of a wall honoring the veterans of Ryder, a magic show, a street dance, and baseball games.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Ryder, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Ryder and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Ryder that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Ryder has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PLAZA, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 20 to 23, the residents of Plaza, ND, will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Plaza is a small town in northwest North Dakota. Despite its small size, Plaza holds an important place in North Dakota's history. Plaza was founded on July 20, 1906, on the Soo Line Railroad and was named to note the central plaza within the business district. The first train arrived in Plaza on December 6, 1906. Plaza was incorporated as a village in 1910 and as a city in 1951, with Roy Sandstrom elected as its first mayor. Among the town's residents were Walter J. Maddock, who served as Governor of North Dakota from 1928 to 1929.

Today, Plaza remains a small, pleasant agricultural town. Residents of the town gather at the hardware store and cafe, watch their children play at the baseball field, or work together at the local farmer's union chapter.

The community has many activities planned for its 4-day celebration. On Thursday, the celebration kicks off with train shuttle rides, a raffle, and several activities in the townhall. Friday highlights including a children's rodeo, a volleyball tournament, and a school alumni social. A parade, softball tournament, and fireworks display are among several of weekend activities. Historical tours of the town will also take place throughout the 4 days of celebration.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Plaza, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Plaza and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering tradition spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Plaza that have helped to shape this country into

what it is today, which is why Plaza is deserving of our recognition.

Plaza has a proud past and a bright future.●

JOHN GONSALVES RECEIVES DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MEDAL OF HONOR

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the winner of the Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor Award, Mr. John Gonsalves of Taunton, MA. Mr. Gonsalves was nominated by the members of the Molly Stark Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, DAR, in Manchester, NH, to receive this national award.

In the wake of September 11, Mr. Gonsalves was left, like many Americans, with the insatiable desire to do something to help those intimately affected by the tragedy. He was particularly struck by those who have made extraordinary sacrifices on the front lines in the military operations that have followed the September 11 attacks, our wounded soldiers.

Upon seeing these injured soldiers in news reports, Mr. Gonsalves was determined to use his lifelong trade to help these wounded heroes. Having worked extensively in the construction field throughout the last 20 years, he gained expertise in all phases of the construction process, business management, and OSHA safety standards. He started Homes For Our Troops—a nonprofit organization that builds and refits homes across the country for veterans wounded while serving in the Middle East. Mr. Gonsalves has pledged to build these specially adapted residences for our wounded soldiers so long as the need exists at no cost to them.

The brave men and women who put their lives at risk every day to protect our country need to know that their fellow citizens appreciate their sacrifices and will support them long after they return home from the front lines. Mr. Gonsalves' work promotes an extremely noble cause which ensures that our wounded troops, who have worked extraordinarily hard to protect our Nation, have the opportunity to find suitable housing when they return home.

Mr. Gonsalves has shown tremendous qualities of leadership, service, and patriotism by selflessly dedicating himself to a cause that serves a greater purpose and aids those who have sacrificed for our country, and he is certainly deserving of the DAR Medal of Honor Award. I congratulate him on his recognition and commend him for his service to the military community and the positive effects his organization has for our country and especially on our wounded soldiers.●

● Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I also wish to recognize John Gonsalves, a Taunton, MA, resident whose selfless work to improve the lives of troops returning home from battle will be honored with the Daughters of the American Revolution's, DAR, Medal of