

have a strong tradition of honoring our veterans. In fact, when I started a North Dakota Veterans History Project 5 years ago to record the stories of our veterans for future generations, the outpouring of interest resulted in more than 1,500 interviews.

So I did not find it surprising that when the WDAY television station based in Fargo, ND, organized an "Honor Flight" to bring veterans of World War II to Washington, D.C., it had an overabundance of donors and too few seats to accommodate all the veterans. But WDAY has chartered a flight to Washington next month and will bring 100 veterans of World War II to see the memorial on our National Mall that was built in their honor. My colleagues, Senator CONRAD and Congressman POMEROY, and I will host a reception for them in the historic Russell Caucus Room.

I can't think of a better way to pay tribute to these heroes than this trip to our Nation's Capital. Many of them will visit for the first time the World War II Memorial that is a powerful symbol of the sacrifice they made for the safety and freedom of our country and the world.

This is a group of Americans who were appropriately labeled "the greatest generation" by Tom Brokaw. I remember reading his book some years ago and marveling again at the dedication those young men, and some young women, expressed to this country. They dedicated their lives to defeating the fascism and Nazism that threatened the peace and prosperity of the world. They kept the free world free. Many paid for it with the ultimate sacrifice—their lives.

Several years ago, I was reminded just how important their sacrifice was when I was part of a congressional delegation involved in discussions with members of the European Parliament. We had been discussing some differences between the United States and the Europeans for some time. It was at this point that a European delegate stopped me and said, "Mr. Senator, I want you to understand how I feel about your country."

He said, "In 1944, I was 14 years old and standing on a street corner in Paris, France, when the U.S. Liberation Army marched in and freed my country from the Nazis."

He said, "A young American soldier reached out his hand and gave that 14-year-old boy an apple. I will go to my grave remembering that moment. You should understand what your country means to me, to us, to my country."

To me, this man's story is a testament to the respect and admiration people around the world feel for our country. And this is because the "greatest generation"—those same men and women who will visit Washington next month—were willing to leave their homes so many years ago and travel around the world to fight an enemy that threatened our freedom. They did it without complaint and

without question. They loved their country.

There is a verse that goes, "When the night is full of knives, and the lighting is seen, and the drums are heard, the patriots are always there, ready to fight and ready to die, if necessary, for freedom."

The men and women who will travel to Washington next month are patriots who answered when duty called. The Honor Flight is an expression of our thanks for the sacrifice they made that is too large to ever fully repay.

#### ANNOUNCING THE BIRTH OF ROBERT RILEY LUGAR

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, Char and I want to share with all of our colleagues and friends the joyous news of the birth of Robert Riley Lugar on April 16, 2007, at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, DC. Robert Riley was a healthy 8 pounds at birth. His parents are our son, John Hoereth Lugar, and his wife, Kelly Smith Lugar, daughter of Renee Routon Conner and the late Robert Lee Smith. Robert Riley was born at 6:21 p.m., and within the next hour, Renee, Char, and I were in the delivery room to admire a very healthy newborn baby boy and to congratulate John and Kelly as we shared these unforgettable moments together. Robert Riley joins his big brothers Preston Charles and Griffin Mack.

Kelly and John were married on November 3, 2001, in the Washington Cathedral with Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, former Chaplain of the Senate, presiding. They and their families and guests had enjoyed a rehearsal dinner in the Mansfield Room of the Capitol on the night before the wedding. Kelly worked with many of our colleagues during her service to the administration of President George Bush and our former colleague, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham, as Deputy Assistant Secretary with responsibilities for congressional relations. She now has a private consulting business. A graduate of the University of Texas, she was once a member of the staff of Congressman RALPH HALL of Texas. John Lugar came with us to Washington, along with his three brothers, 30 years ago. He graduated from Langley High School in McLean, VA, Indiana University, and received his master's of business administration degree from Arizona State University. He is currently a vice president with Jones Lang LaSalle, a commercial real estate services and investment management firm.

We know that you will understand our excitement and our gratitude that they and we have been given divine blessing and responsibility for a glorious new chapter in our lives.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LENEXA, KANSAS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I wish to honor the city of Lenexa, KS. On

May 8, Lenexa, which is known as the City of Festivals for the numerous festivals and events it hosts each year, will mark its 100th anniversary. This grand event will be part of a weeklong community celebration of history and culture.

Lenexa was platted in 1869 by French-born civil engineer Octave Chanute, who, in addition to designing the original Hannibal Bridge over the Missouri River in Kansas City, also served as a mentor to the Wright Brothers in their quest for flight.

Lenexa was named for Na Nex Se, a highly respected, hard-working Shawnee Indian woman, the daughter-in-law of Chief Black Hoof. Thirty-eight years later, on May 8, 1907, Lenexa was incorporated as a City of the 3rd Class.

In Lenexa's earliest days, people from various backgrounds and cultures came together to form this great city. With a population of approximately 300, the young community boasted a healthful location, graded schools, three churches, suburban train service, excellent telephone service, and an electric railway station.

Today, Lenexa has grown to a population of 46,000 residents and enjoys a healthy business base and is considered a city of choice for a variety of high-tech and bioscience companies. The city also is looked to as a leader in local government initiatives, including watershed management and public safety.

Lenexa cherishes its rich history, heritage and culture, and with this celebration marking the city's 100th anniversary, Lenexa honors its past while looking forward to the future. I congratulate Lenexa and its residents, and I wish them an outstanding second hundred years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP ARETHA E. MORTON

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I wish to honor one of the great inspirations to the young people of my hometown, Bishop Aretha E. Morton, who will be retiring this week from the Tabernacle Full Gospel Baptist Cathedral in Wilmington.

On this day, 48 years ago, she preached her trial sermon; 24 years later she was ordained, becoming the first woman to pastor a Baptist Church in Delaware. She has now served longer than any pastor in her church's almost 90-year history.

She also made history in 1993 by becoming the first woman, and the first African-American, to be a chaplain for the Wilmington Fire Department.

Around Wilmington, where everyone knows Bishop Morton, she is affectionately called "Mother"—and for good reason. She has spent her career reaching out to my city's youth, inspiring students to achieve and offering something that those in trouble don't have enough of—hope.