

worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American servicemembers were slain during the long war. The ultimate victory over enemies in the Pacific and in Europe is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. The years 1941 to 1945 also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of domestic industry, which supplied our military on two distant fronts.

In Louisiana, there remain today more than 40,000 living WWII veterans, and each one has a heroic tale of achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny. Veterans in this HonorAir group began their service in 1938, before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and served in the European and Pacific theaters, as well as stateside. Some members of this group served as late as 1970. They served in various branches of the military—28 members in the Army; 18 in the Army Air Corps; 37 in the Navy, including three Sea-Bees; three in the Naval Reserves; eight in the Marines; one in the Merchant Marines; and four nurses from various branches.

Several of our heroes fought at Iwo Jima and others at Guadalcanal. Many of these veterans earned Purple Hearts, Bronze Star Medals, and Silver Stars. Some participated in the Battle of the Bulge and the D-day invasion of France at Omaha Beach. Others defended the Atlantic, Pacific, and Asiatic-Pacific Seas. As a soldier with the Army 1st Cavalry Division, one of our heroes was part of the liberation of Santo Tomas Prison Camp in Manila.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 99 veterans, all Louisiana heroes, that we welcome to Washington this weekend and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality.●

#### SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, this week we celebrate the 45th annual Small Business Week organized by the U.S. Small Business Administration. I would like to recognize the accomplishments of a small business owner who is a leader in his field and a contributor to Rhode Island's vital hospitality and tourism industry.

Today, the SBA will present the 2008 National Jeffrey H. Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year award to Robert Antignano of Angelo's Civita Farnese in Providence. This national award, which will go to a Rhode Islander for the first time, honors a family owned and operated business that has passed from one generation to another.

Angelo's Restaurant opened in 1924 and has become a landmark on Providence's Federal Hill as the State's longest operating family-owned restaurant. The founder and namesake of the restaurant, Angelo Mastrodicasa, envisioned a place where the working people of the neighborhood could find good food at affordable prices. Mr.

Antignano, who is the third generation of his family to run the restaurant, has continued to pursue this mission with great success. Since assuming ownership of Angelo's in 1988, Mr. Antignano has tripled the number of employees and increased revenues by more than 300 percent.

From Hollywood stars, New England sports legends, and national political figures to the family who comes in for Sunday dinner, Angelo's is the backdrop for so many memorable occasions. This restaurant is more than a place to eat; it is a slice of Americana where people from all walks of life sit elbow to elbow at the same white marble tables their grandparents and other family members may have shared over the years. The Butland award recognizes Angelo's legacy and its prominent place in our hearts.

I am proud of Mr. Antignano, his hard-working, committed staff, and all small business owners in Rhode Island, who together form an essential part of Rhode Island's economy. According to the SBA, small businesses comprise 96 percent of all businesses in the State. Time and again, small businesses, by virtue of their size, have proven their ability to be innovative and flexible, meeting emerging needs for new products and services and improving on those that already exist.

Once again, I congratulate Mr. Antignano and his family on their success and wish them many more generations of good customers, food, and spir-its.●

#### COMMENDING MORRISON CHEVROLET

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today during National Small Business Week I wish to commend a local auto dealership from Downeast Maine that recently won the Top Drawer Award from the Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce. Morrison Chevrolet of Ellsworth has been selling automobiles in Hancock County for nearly 80 years, and it shows no signs of slowing down.

The Top Drawer Award is presented annually to either a business or person that makes a lasting contribution to the development and improvement of the greater Ellsworth region. The award was founded in 1980 to commemorate the late Tom Caruso, who established Bar Harbor Airlines to "Link Maine With The World." It is clear that, through Morrison's solid and intelligent commitment to the customer and the community, it is highly worthy of this recognition.

Founded in 1930 by the present co-owner Bud Morrison's grandfather, Harry, Morrison Chevrolet began its storied history in Winter Harbor, about 25 miles east of its present location. The dealership has moved over time first to Bar Harbor and then to several locations in Ellsworth, finally settling on a new 23,000-square-foot facility on Route 1 in Ellsworth in 2005. Although it may have relocated, the company

has always been owned and run by a member of the Morrison family. Morrison Chevrolet has always stayed on the cutting edge, positioning itself to best survive in a competitive industry.

To keep current in providing the best possible service to their customers, Morrison's technicians attend training and certification classes, frequently via the Internet. Workers often use the company's conference room to link in to classes online. Morrison's also makes use of technology to augment its sales by continually increasing its Internet advertising. In fact, Mr. Morrison says that roughly one-third of his sales leads come from the Internet, and the firm ships cars—even Corvettes—across the country. Additionally, the dealership's Web site is a handy tool for the consumer, allowing clients to search available new and used automobiles, schedule service and maintenance requests, prequalify for purchasing a car, and calculate whether it is wiser for them to buy or lease a vehicle.

In addition to providing their customers with convenient options and caring service, Morrison's employees always find time for community involvement. Dave Keep, the used car sales manager, serves as an officer of the Ellsworth Masons, and P.J. Davis, who works in the sales department, is a member of the chamber of commerce's board. And Morrison's general manager Clyde Lewis is a member of the board of directors of the James Russell Wiggins Downeast Family YMCA, which has been assisting Ellsworth area families since 1961.

A staple of the local business scene for decades, Morrison Chevrolet is most deserving of the immense honor of the Top Drawer Award. By serving the customer and the community at the same time, Morrison's 47 employees exhibit the generosity and kindness of Downeast Mainers. Furthermore, by continuing to innovate its business practices, Morrison Chevrolet is well-positioned for future success and additional accolades. I commend Bud Morrison and everyone at Morrison Chevrolet for their accomplishments and wish them well in their continuing endeavors.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)