MacDill's humble start began during its construction when aircrews of the 29th Bomber Group landed their B–17 Flying Fortress bombers on a nearby dirt airstrip in farmer John Drew's fields after flying antisubmarine patrols in the Gulf of Mexico. Later named Drew Field, this strip is now known as Tampa International Airport.

Formally dedicated on April 16, 1941, MacDill was primarily known for training bomber aircrews of the III Bomber Command. Intrepid but inexperienced crews learning to fly B–26 Marauder bombers at MacDill were glad of Tampa's warm climate when ditching their aircraft in the waters surrounding the field. The regularity of this occurrence prompted air crews to jokingly coin the phrase ''Once a day in Tampa Bay.''

MacDill proved its strategic significance during World War II as an antisubmarine patrol and air defense base home to B–24A Liberators of the 44th Bomber Group and Seversky P–35 aircraft of the 53rd Pursuit Group. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, MacDill again displayed its geographical importance, serving as a prime location for staging B–47 Stratojet and B–52 Stratofortress bomber aircraft.

Transitioning from a primarily bomber base once home to the famed B–17 Memphis Belle, MacDill became a Tactical Air Command installation flying the F–84 Thunderstreak jet fighter. From the 1960s through the early 1980s, F–4 Phantom II fighters filled its skies, followed by F–16 Fighting Falcons in the 1980s and 1990s. The base is now an Air Mobility Command installation, home to the 6th Air Mobility Wing and its 310th Airlift Squadron and the 91st Air Refueling Squadron.

MacDill is also home to the headquarters of two of the U.S. military's unified combatant commands: U.S. Central Command, whose area of operations encompasses the Middle East and parts of North Africa and Central Asia, and U.S. Special Operations Command, tasked with oversight of the component special operations units of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

Non-Department of Defense tenants of MacDill Air Force Base include the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center, which operates the NOAA ''Hurricane Hunter'' fleet of WP–3D Orion and Gulfstream V aircraft. The U.S. Department of Agriculture also conducts its antimedfly operations out of MacDill.

More than 13,000 military and civilian personnel are involved in operations at MacDill, and the surrounding community is home to approximately 170,000 retirees who use health and welfare services on the base. MacDill is a vital economic driver for the Tampa Bay area and is not only a source of jobs for the community, but also a welcome source of pride in our Nation's Armed Forces.

I am confident that MacDill Air Force Base will remain an important strategic installation for our military and continue to play an important role in protecting the safety of Floridians and all Americans. I am proud to honor its 75 great years of service.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEST BUY

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to speak to honor the 50th anniversary of Best Buy.

Best Buy was founded in 1966 as a stereo store called the Sound of Music in St. Paul, MN. Since then, it has grown from that one store into a Fortune 100 company with over 1,000 locations across the U.S., as well as Canada and Mexico.

In 1966, Richard M. Schultze—a Minnesota native and former member of the Minnesota Air National Guard—and Gary Smoliak opened the Sound of Music on the corner of Hamline and St. Clair Avenues in St. Paul. By 1969, Schultze assumed sole control of the company, which had grown to three stores and was listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market.

Then in 1981, disaster and inspiration struck. The Sound of Music store located in Roseville, MN, was hit by a tornado which tore the roof off the building and destroyed the showroom. Schultze showed the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit characteristic of Minnesota. He decided to have a ''tornado sale'' in the Roseville's store's parking lot and promised ''best buys'' on everything. Needless to say, the sale was a success.

The Sound of Music was renamed Best Buy Company, Inc., in 1983 and had grown to seven stores and $10 million in annual sales. Later that year, Best Buy opened its first megastore in Burnsville, MN.

By 1992, Best Buy had reached $1 billion in revenues. In 1999, Best Buy was added to the Standard and Poor's 500 index. Best Buy has consistently been one of the Minnesota-headquartered companies in the Fortune 500 and currently ranks 71st on the Fortune 500 nationally. And Best Buy was named company of the year by Forbes in 2004.

So why do people shop at Best Buy? Maybe it is because they have updated their showrooms and a commission-free salesforce. Or maybe it is the wide range of products, interactive touchscreens kiosks and the demonstration areas for home theater systems and computer software. Best Buy also pioneered the concept of specialized in-store customer service areas by establishing a Geek Squad unit in each store.

Best Buy has also been a good corporate citizen in Minnesota. Since 2007, Best Buy Company has generously given over $50 million and over 140,000 volunteer hours to Minnesota nonprofits. And they don't just care about people, they also care about the planet. Best Buy operates the largest retail consumer electronics and e-waste recycling collection program in the U.S. Over 1 billion pounds of recycling has been handed over to certified recyclers helping to keep the environment clean. Best Buy has also been named to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency top-100 list of green-power purchasers.

• Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I join my colleague in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Best Buy.

Best Buy's innovation and leadership has turned a once small, Minnesota company into the successful and responsible multinational corporation it is today. They are a vital component of the Minnesota economy and integral to our communities, and in celebration of their anniversary, I would like to take some time to recognize their important work to tackle one of the most pressing issues facing our society today: climate change.

Climate change is a very serious threat to our planet, and Best Buy has risen to the challenge by taking proactive steps to reduce their carbon footprint. They have joined with other major American companies in signing the White House's American Business Act on Climate Pledge. As part of the pledge, Best Buy has committed to reducing carbon emissions in their operations by 45 percent of 2009 levels by 2020, which builds on the 26 percent emissions reduction they have already achieved. As a company committed to delivering sustainable technology solutions, Best Buy also committed to continue offering an assortment of energy-efficient products to help consumers reduce their carbon footprint, too. Best Buy's pledge represents a collaboration between government and industry to address climate change and take serious action now.

They have also taken steps to protect our environment by helping consumers responsibly dispose of their electronic goods. Their recycling program has grown into the largest retail recycling program in the nation and, to date, has processed over 1 billion pounds of consumer electronic devices and appliances. Their dedication to sustainable practices has a meaningful impact on the future of our planet.

Best Buy's continued excellence serves as a model to other businesses throughout the State and across the Nation, and I congratulate them on 50 years of business.

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I thank my colleague for his statement and agree.

Best Buy started with one store in St. Paul 50 years ago. It is now a multinational company with 125,000 employees who give back to their communities and work to reduce the impact of used electronics on the environment.

For 50 years, Best Buy has brought the latest consumer technology and electronics products and services to its customers and remains a proud Minnesota company. That is why I am proud to honor Best Buy.•

## SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the paper and forest products industry to support their advancement of six sustainability goals.

There are about 18,000 hard-working men and women employed by the forest products industry in the State of Maine where we have about 40 wood products and paper manufacturing facilities contributing over $900 million to the economy through jobs and wages and over $4 billion in industry shipments of products, making the forest products industry one of the largest manufacturing sectors in our State.

Sustainability is inherent to the pulp, paper, packaging, tissue, and wood products manufacturing industry. These products are made from renewable and recyclable resources, and these companies have a good track record of managing natural resources in order to ensure they can continue making useful products in the future.

In 2011, the industry established the Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 initiative pursuing one of the most extensive sets of sustainability goals established for a U.S. manufacturing industry.

By 2020, the Better Practices, Better Planets goals aim to exceed 70 percent paper recovery for recycling, improve purchased energy efficiency by at least 10 percent, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from member facilities by at least 15 percent, increase the amount of fiber procured from certified forestlands or through certified fiber sourcing programs in the U.S. from 2005 to 2020 and work to decrease illegal logging, improve worker safety by 25 percent, with a broader vision of zero industry injuries, and reduce water use in member facilities by 12 percent

This week the American Forest & Paper Association released their 2016 report on the industry's performance. The industry works with government agencies, communities and other stakeholders to employ advanced sustainability practices benefitting the economy, environment and society and transparently reports on their performance. I am pleased to announce that the industry has met the greenhouse gas emissions and safety goals ahead of schedule.

These companies are committed to sustainability along the entire value chain, starting with the renewable resources they acquire to make their products. AF&PA members procured 98 percent of their fiber through certified fiber sourcing programs and have also increased the amount of fiber procured from certified forestlands to 29 percent.

Also, AF&PA companies are strong proponents of international efforts to suppress illegal logging and to reduce the demand for illegally harvested forest products.

AF&PA's mandatory Environment, Health & Safety Principles require that members have health and safety policies in place. Implementing worker training, increased automation, and a host of injury preventive measures and safeguards allowed AF&PA members to reduce their incidence rate by 40.8 percent between 2006 and 2014. These companies are committed to continue to look for new ways to reach their aspirational goal of zero workplace injuries.

The industry's purchased energy efficiency improved by 8.1 percent due to investments in energy efficiency projects. Many pulp and paper mills are largely energy self-sufficient, 56 percent of electricity needed to power manufacturing processes was self-generated, and, in some cases, supplying energy to the electric utility grid.

Improved energy efficiency and the use of less carbon-intensive fuels and carbon-neutral biomass enabled the industry to significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. These companies reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 16 percent, surpassing the goal of 15-percent reduction.

Water is a valuable natural resource and a vital component of the papermaking process. The forest products industry directly returns about 88 percent of the water it withdraws and uses in its manufacturing processes. Ongoing technology and innovation enable water to be reused and recycled 10 times, on average, throughout the pulp and paper mill process before it is treated in a wastewater system and returned to the environment. So far, water use at these pulp and paper mills was reduced by 6.5 percent since 2005.

The industry's commitment to sustainability extends beyond the manufacturing process: More than 60 percent of paper consumed in the U.S. was recovered for recycling each year since 2009, reaching a record 66.8 percent in 2015.

Paper recovery success is possible thanks to the millions of Americans who continue to recycle at home, work, and school every day. In 2014, 96 percent of the U.S. population had access to community curbside and/or drop-off paper recycling services. AF&PA works to promote paper recovery by creating materials to educate consumers about best recycling practices.

I ask my colleagues to join us in congratulating this industry on taking steps to improve environmental performance, continue economic progress and support our communities. I am proud of this industry's progress and their continued commitment to advance sustainability performance.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SUMMER LEARNING

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to take a moment today to stress the importance of providing young people with safe places to learn during the summer months. Summer is in full swing, and families are deciding how their children's time will be spent while school is out. Unfortunately, not all families in America can afford enriching experiences like summer camps and summer tutors.

That gap between families who have resources and those that do not is expressed clearly in their children. Evidence shows that students who lack access to summer learning, informal or structured, start the school year behind. When many kids are having to review last year's lessons, then all the kids have to spend that time reviewing last year's lessons. This puts all our kids behind.

Simply put, the long summer break should not be a long break from learning.

With Oregon's 4-year high school graduation rate at an alarmingly low 74 percent, it is long past time we shine a spotlight on summer learning loss and its impact on our students' path toward graduation. Summer learning loss has consequences that can damage a child's long-term academic and career success. That is especially important in my State where one in four teenagers doesn't make it to graduation on time.

Research by the National Summer Learning Association shows that most students lose math and reading skills during summer break. And unfortunately, students from low-income families fare even worse. The sad truth is that most students lose about 2 months of grade level equivalency in math computation skills over the summer months, and low-income students lose an additional 2 months in reading achievement.

As parents, community leaders, educators and policymakers, we must provide every resource possible to bridge that gap for disadvantaged and low income students. I have long fought to close the achievement gap and support all students on a path toward high school graduation and beyond.

I know so many great education advocates in Oregon who share these goals, and I want to commend Oregon's tremendous educators who work on this effort every single day. My good friends at Oregon Afterschool for Kids have made a strong commitment to keep kids learning all summer long. Their efforts to open up school libraries and school cafeterias in Woodburn, Salem, Eugene, and around the State have truly made a difference in children's lives by providing them with a safe and welcoming learning environment during the summer. I have often seen parents bring their children for a free lunch and stay for the free books.

This year, I hope to see even more communities come out and support our students by hosting summer learning activities. Even if you cannot attend events to serve lunch and read stories to classrooms full of children, remember that supporting summer learning is easy. Volunteering your time or donating books or crayons to neighbors is another way to support young learners. More ideas can be found in the ''Summer Learning Tip Sheet for Parents'' provided by the National Summer Learning Association.