

age was a great loss, but he left behind a legacy that will be cherished for generations to come.

I rise today in tribute to this outstanding leader and to offer my deepest condolences to his wife Norma, family, and friends.

Growing up in Aroostook County, the heart of Maine's potato industry, I saw every day the importance of family farms to our way of life and to our communities. Bernard was a leader in this iconic Aroostook industry.

Born in Limestone, ME, near my hometown of Caribou, Bernard began farming with Norma's father, Herman Ward. In addition to helping to build a strong and successful family business, he served the industry in numerous agricultural organizations at the local, State, and national levels.

Bernard served as Maine's commissioner of agriculture from 1988 to 1996 during Governor McKernan's administration. During my own service in State government, I had the pleasure of working alongside Bernard, a leader of uncommon energy, intelligence, and dedication.

During their 67 years of marriage, in both Aroostook County and our State capital of Augusta, Bernard and Norma were active volunteers in their community, serving youth programs, civic organizations, schools, and their church. Upon Bernard's retirement in 1996, the couple devoted countless hours to the Augusta Food Bank, helping their neighbors in need throughout the capital region.

In 2012, Bernard and Norma were honored with the Maine Agriculture Commissioner's Distinguished Service Award. The citation accompanying that award described them as "two of the most accomplished, yet humble, contributors to Maine's agricultural community" who personified the traditional, hard-working Maine farm family.

Bernard Shaw was guided by the traditions that define Maine, and he strengthened them for the future. His invaluable contributions to agriculture and to our State will be deeply missed, but he will long be remembered for his leadership and vision.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today we remember the life of Bernard "Bernie" Shaw, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 88. As a lifelong resident of Maine, a wonderful husband and father to three, and a champion for agriculture, future generations will continue to remember Bernie by the lasting impact he has left on the State.

Originally from Limestone, Bernie attend the Limestone schools and later the University of Maine. It was after this that he met his beloved wife, Norma. In over 65 years of marriage, Bernie and Norma raised three children—Steve, Susan, and Sara—all while running a successful family farm and giving back to their community in numerous ways.

Bernie first began farming with Norma's father, Herman Ward, and eventu-

ally took over the family business, before moving to Augusta in 1987. From 1988 to 1994, Bernie served the State of Maine as the commissioner of agriculture. Over the years, he served on local, State, and national level agriculture committees, drawing from his own experience as a former Aroostook County potato farmer. Only a few out of the many groups he championed for, Bernie devoted his time to the Maine Potato Council, the Maine Potato Board, the Agricultural Bargaining Council, and the Land For Maine's Future Board.

After retiring, Bernie devoted much of his time to volunteering at the Augusta Food Bank, and the Windsor Fair. He was honored for this commitment back in 2012, when he received the Agriculture Commissioner's Distinguished Service Award, along with his wife, Norma. Both were lauded for their weekly efforts with the food bank and their success in expanding the number of families able to be helped.

Bernie Shaw represented in so many ways the values we hold dear in Maine: family, faith, community, service, and tradition. We have much to be thankful for in Maine because of Bernie's dedication and service to the State, and he will be deeply missed by many.

RECOGNIZING CONNORS-EMERSON SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Connors-Emerson School in Bar Harbor, ME, on being named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Serving students from kindergarten through the eighth grade, this outstanding school is one of only 342 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The Blue Ribbon designation continues a tradition of quality education at Connors-Emerson. Since first being named a Blue Ribbon School in 2004, educators and staff have deepened and expanded standards-based teaching and learning. More than half of the faculty have advanced degrees or certification as master level teachers. A strong commitment to professional development ensures that teachers and staff, as well as students, are lifelong learners.

Bar Harbor is the gateway to Acadia National Park, and the school has a strong ethic of environmental responsibility. Currently, the seventh grade students at Connors-Emerson are working on an expeditionary learning unit which is exploring the effects of climate change on Acadia and all of Mount Desert Island.

Bar Harbor also is home to the MDI Biological Laboratory and to the Jack-

son Laboratory, world-renowned research institutions. Connors-Emerson excels in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. The math team and robotics team have received honors at both the State and national levels, and the school has been awarded several grants to advance STEM education.

Fully 98 percent of students in grades five through eight participate in after-school activities. From the State champion jazz band and drama to Destination Imagination and the Outdoors Club, students are encouraged to pursue their interests.

As a school community, Connors-Emerson is dedicated to the values of fairness, compassion, honesty, responsibility, respect, and courtesy that help to create a positive, diverse, safe, and caring learning environment.

This Blue Ribbon Award is a tribute not only to the students but also to the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Connors-Emerson School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate excitement and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens. I congratulate the entire Bar Harbor community for this well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING FALMOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Falmouth Elementary School in Falmouth, ME, on being named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Serving students from kindergarten through the fifth grade, this outstanding school is one of only 342 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The Blue Ribbon designation continues a tradition of quality education in Falmouth. Established just 6 years ago, the elementary school is relatively young; however, it has a rich history steeped in tradition. The union of two schools in 2011 created the largest elementary school in Maine. One of those schools, Plummer-Motz, received a Blue Ribbon Award in 2005, and the dedication to quality education was expanded through a transition that was guided by a team of representatives from each of the two schools.

Faculty and staff at Falmouth are committed to both academic excellence and each child's social, emotional, and physical health. They work to ensure a