Unfortunately, we do not know the full extent to which malnutrition plagues seniors across the country. It is for this reason that last fall I called on the U.S. Government Accountability Office to examine what is known about the caloric and nutrient needs of older adults as well as the extent to which federally funded nutrition programs that serve older adults are meeting their nutrition needs.

No seniors should have to choose between putting food on the table and taking their medications. That is why, as ranking member of the Aging Committee, I authored a bill, the Nourishing Our Golden Years Act, to improve seniors’ access to the senior food box program, my bill assures that seniors are not kicked off the program simply because of red tape and difficult deadlines.

We cannot solve malnutrition without better understanding the issue. Older Adults’ healthcare providers and healthcare professionals require guidance on the identification of and interventions for seniors facing this crisis. I am pleased to raise awareness about malnutrition among seniors as part of Malnutrition Awareness Week.

TRIBUTE TO MATT MEAD
Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to share my appreciation for Governor Matt Mead. He will complete his second term as Wyoming’s commander in chief this year. It is an honor to recognize his devotion to our servicemen and women.

In the Wyoming legislature, Governor Mead established the Governor’s Military Support Commission. This commission assists veterans with problems or requests for information. In 2011, he saw a need to recognize those just beginning their service. Now, he regularly hosts enlistment ceremonies for young men and women who commit to joining the Armed Forces.

At these special events, Governor Mead takes time to share his appreciation for their bravery, patriotism, and desire to serve our Nation. His warm words of inspiration provide reassurance to these young people and their families as they embark on this magnificent journey. Since the first ceremony, a total of 3,035 enlistees have been recognized for answering the call of duty.

Governor Mead is not alone in his efforts to celebrate their selfless sacrifice. He is aided by the Hon. Gary Hartman, who serves as Mead’s military and veteran policy analyst. Judge Hartman is a U.S. Air Force veteran who served in Vietnam. Judge Hartman coordinates each ceremony and plays a vital role in ensuring each and every one of these talented individuals is celebrated.

In addition to his military service, Judge Hartman served for 25 years on the Fifth Judicial District Court. His extensive knowledge of the law, along with his passion for veterans’ affairs, allowed him to help bring a veterans treatment court to Laramie County. The program’s unique approach aims to get non-violent offenders and mentees back on the right path.

Matt attended 22 deployment ceremonies for members of the Wyoming Air and Army National Guards. In 8 years, exactly 2,235 airmen and soldiers have been deployed to fight the war on terror and protect our Nation.

Matt knows the importance of supporting our troops, both at home and overseas. He visited deployed troops on six separate occasions to bring words of support and encouragement from home. In 2008, Matt attended 52 deployment ceremonies for members of the Wyoming Air and Army National Guards. In 8 years, exactly 2,235 airmen and soldiers have been deployed to fight the war on terror and protect our Nation.

Governor Mead is dedicated to thanking those who have already served. During 2012, he attended 53 Veterans Day and welcome home events. These welcome home ceremonies began as a way to honor veterans of the Korean conflict and the Vietnam war who returned home without receiving proper recognition of their service and sacrifice.

In addition, he signed legislation designating Interstate 25, which runs north to south from Buffalo, Wyoming, to the Colorado border, as the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Highway.

Finally, under his direction, the Wyoming Veterans Commission assisted over 8,000 veterans and family members with problems or requests for information. Matt’s determination to provide high-quality care and support to Wyoming’s veterans is unparalleled.

Matt does not stop at honoring veterans and supporting Active-Duty servicemembers. In 2011, he saw a need to recognize those just beginning their service. Now, he regularly hosts enlistment ceremonies for young men and women who commit to joining the Armed Forces.

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