

I want other Senators to know of Mr. Gazaryan and Mr. Vitishko, and hope that calling attention to them and their work might cause the Russian authorities to recognize that their responsibility is to uphold the law and protect the environment on behalf of the Russian people, not to persecute Russian citizens who have the courage to do so themselves.

LOVING v. VIRGINIA ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, on June 12, 1967, during a period of significant political and racial tension in our Nation, the Supreme Court issued a unanimous landmark decision in *Loving v. Virginia* that overturned laws banning interracial marriage. This decision ushered in a transformative moment in American history. As we approach the first anniversary of another landmark Supreme Court decision in the *Windsor* case, we should remember the foundational work that was laid when the Supreme Court came together nearly 50 years ago to uphold the civil rights of all Americans to marry the person they love.

In writing for the majority in *Loving*, Chief Justice Earl Warren declared “the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual, and cannot be infringed by the State.” My wife Marcelle and I had been married just 5 years at the time, and on that June day, we were overwhelmed with pride and joy for the many couples affected by this historic decision. Now married for over 50 years, I cannot bear to imagine a world where I would have been prohibited from marrying the person I love because of something beyond my control.

As I reflect on the landmark *Loving* decision, I am filled with pride for my home State. Throughout history, Vermont has taken a leadership role in America’s journey to build a more just society. Vermont was the first State in the Union to outlaw slavery, and Vermonters offered shelter to runaway slaves seeking refuge while in transit to Canada—serving as one of the last stops on the Underground Railroad. Vermont was also the first to adopt universal manhood suffrage, regardless of property ownership.

It is because of this history that it is not surprising that Vermont has been at the forefront of our Nation’s march toward marriage equality: Vermont was the first State to provide civil unions back in 2000, and on April 7, 2009, Vermont once again led the Nation by granting marriage equality for the first time through democratically elected officials on a bipartisan basis instead of through the courts.

This is not to say that it was easy. The initial move toward civil unions fomented heated debate among Vermonters and throughout the Nation. But several courageous leaders, such as the late Republican U.S. Senator from Vermont Bob Stafford,

showed us the way, and their advocacy for equality was powerfully moving. Like many Vermonters, I listened to advocates, friends, and neighbors who reminded me that love and commitment are values to encourage and not to fear. I continue to be inspired by the inclusive example set by Vermont.

Five years ago Vermont’s State Legislature passed the Marriage Equality Act, which provided marriage equality for all Vermonters. Since then, more than 3,700 same-sex couples have married in the State of Vermont, 19 States and the District of Columbia have marriage equality, and the Supreme Court has decided a landmark case on the issue of same-sex marriage.

One year ago this month, the Supreme Court struck down section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage for purposes of Federal law as “only a legal union between one man and one woman.” The Court concluded that the law deprived couples of equal liberty as protected by our fifth amendment. All Americans deserve equal justice under the law, and Marcelle and I celebrated this important decision, which honored the *Loving* decision and pushed the Nation farther on its path toward equality.

In 2007, on the 40th anniversary of the *Loving* decision, Mildred Loving reflected on her life and weighed in on the issue of marriage equality. She said:

Surrounded as I am now by wonderful children and grandchildren, not a day goes by that I don’t think of Richard and our love, our right to marry, and how much it meant to me to have that freedom to marry the person precious to me, even if others thought he was the ‘wrong kind of person’ for me to marry. I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry. Government has no business imposing some people’s religious beliefs over others. Especially if it denies people’s civil rights.

I am still not a political person, but I am proud that Richard’s and my name is on a court case that can help reinforce the love, the commitment, the fairness, and the family that so many people, black or white, young or old, gay or straight seek in life. I support the freedom to marry for all. That’s what *Loving*, and *loving*, are all about.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have made civil rights a priority of our Committee’s agenda and a priority in the Senate. I often hear from those who think that the struggle for civil rights is over—that this issue is one for the history books. If only that were true. If only every American could marry the love of their life and have that union recognized. If only hate groups stopped targeting communities based on their sexual orientation, race, religion, or national origin. If only racial discrimination in voting was a thing of the past, but it is not. We must keep up the fight on our path toward a more perfect union.

This month we celebrate and honor the real love behind both the *Loving* and *Windsor* decisions. Their fight to be with the one they loved spans dec-

ades, but their lessons stand the test of time. They are the kinds of Supreme Court rulings that future generations will point to when they consider the Supreme Court’s most notable decisions. The march toward equality must and will continue until all individuals—regardless of sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, or disability—are protected and respected, equally, under our laws.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. WILLIAMS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, for several years now I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing Robert L. “Bob” Williams. Bob hails from Independence, KY, and is a member of our Nation’s Greatest Generation. Like so many in that generation, he answered the call of duty and fought valiantly in the Second World War. I rise today to honor his service to this country.

Early on the morning of June 6, 1941, Bob was among the first Allied paratroopers dropped into Normandy as a part of Operation Overlord, on the historic day of D-day. Several hours later, the largest amphibious assault in the history of war would commence. For the time being, however, Bob and his fellow paratroopers fought behind enemy lines, securing the roads and bridges that were vital to the operation’s success. You could say that these men constituted the tip of the sharpest sword this Nation has ever thrust into battle.

The airborne soldiers’ mission that day was extremely dangerous—simply making it to the battlefield through the barrage of German anti-aircraft fire was a feat in itself—yet Bob displayed remarkable courage under fire. Upon landing, an enemy machine-gunner placed 12 bullet holes in his baggy pants pockets. Undeterred, Bob continued to fight that day, and for 10 more days until he was seriously wounded on June 16.

Since the war’s conclusion, Bob has done his part to keep alive the memory of those who served. On the 50th anniversary of the D-day invasion, he joined 18 fellow veterans in re-creating their parachute jump into Normandy. He has also written a book containing his, and other veterans’ stories from the war. Most recently, Bob was honored to be inducted into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame in March of this year.

As the Second World War drifts further and further into the past, it becomes increasingly important that we remember the sacrifices made to secure victory. So today, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring Robert L. Williams and his service to his country during the great battle to make the world safe for democracy that was World War II.

Mr. President, the Lexington Herald-Leader recently published an article detailing Bob Williams’ and other Kentucky World War II veterans’ stories

from the war. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, June 5, 2014]

VETERANS FROM LEXINGTON, LOUISVILLE AREAS MARK D-DAY ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEKEND

(By Jim Warren)

On D-day morning, 70 years ago Friday, Winchester's Jonah Thomas was an Army combat engineer in one of the first landing craft to hit Omaha Beach.

German shells obliterated the boat almost the instant it touched the sand.

"I didn't see anybody else there when we hit the beach, so maybe they didn't have anybody else to shoot at," Thomas recalled. "They blew that boat to smithereens."

A soldier in front of Thomas was struck in the face. Thomas was covered with his blood.

"I would have been hit if he hadn't been there," Thomas said. "There were 44 men crammed in that boat, and hardly anybody survived."

Thomas, now 89, was one of the few who did.

He'll be among about 80 veterans from the Lexington and Louisville areas who are flying to Washington early Friday, the 70th anniversary of D-day. They'll visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Iwo Jima Monument, and the National World War II Memorial before returning Friday evening. A public welcome is planned at Blue Grass Airport when they return.

D-day, June 6, 1944, was when roughly 160,000 American, British and other Allied troops stormed into Nazi-held France along a 50-mile stretch of beaches in Normandy.

It was one of history's biggest military operations. More than 5,000 ships and 11,000 planes supported the landings, which launched the final campaigns that ended World War II in Europe in May 1945.

Within five days after D-day, more than 300,000 soldiers, 54,000 vehicles and 104,000 tons of supplies had come ashore.

But for the first few hours, the D-day invaders struggled just to survive a wave of bullets and shells from German guns. About 12,000 Allied soldiers were killed, wounded or captured, including roughly 6,000 Americans.

London's Owen Edwards, then 18, was a Navy coxswain, steering one of the landing boats headed for Omaha. His job—delivering a 20-man medical team to the beach—looked impossible.

"Eighty-eight millimeter shells were hitting so close they were throwing water into the boat," Edwards remembers. "It was so intense, that I finally turned the boat toward another part of the beach where the shelling wasn't as heavy. I probably wouldn't have made it if I hadn't done that."

Edwards, now 88, is another veteran who'll be making the trip to Washington Friday. He eventually landed the medical team safely on Omaha, one of two runs he made to the beach that day.

"It was complete chaos," Thomas said. "There were bodies everywhere, wrecked equipment, tanks that never made it, soldiers that drowned going in. It's a miracle that we took that beach."

Thomas visited Omaha Beach in 1993, and stood on the spot where he landed his boat.

"The beach was so quiet and peaceful then, but I could visualize what it was like on June 6, 1944," he said. "It was pretty emotional."

The French invited Robert L. Williams to visit Normandy for the 70th D-day anniversary.

But Williams, 91, decided to stay home in Kenton County.

"I'm getting too old for nine hours on an airplane," he said. "Besides, I've been there and done that."

Williams, a 101st Airborne Division paratrooper, had one of D-day's most dangerous jobs. He was among about 13,000 Allied paratroopers who parachuted into Normandy to seize and hold strategic roads and bridges before the invasion.

Williams survived days of heavy fighting in Normandy, but was seriously wounded on June 16, 1944.

Fifty years later, he helped organize a recreation of the original parachute jump for the 50th D-day anniversary on June 6, 1994. Williams and 18 other original D-day paratroopers parachuted into Normandy from a World War II era C-47.

"The government said, 'There's no way we're going to let you do that, you're all too old,'" Williams recalls. "We did it anyway."

He says the 1994 jump was one of the most satisfying things he's ever done.

"People were beginning to forget about World War II back then," Williams said. "I think that jump kind of brought it all back. To me, it was more exciting than D-day."

The boat carrying Lexington infantryman John A. Palumbo was blown out of the water 100 yards off Omaha Beach on D-day. It was his first taste of combat.

Palumbo splashed shore. But a bullet destroyed his BAR light machine gun and left shrapnel in his right arm.

Eventually, he hooked up with some more experienced soldiers, helped them get through a minefield, and found cover on a bluff behind the beach. He never fired a shot on D-day, but saw much heavy fighting later.

Palumbo, now 93, landed on a sector of Omaha Beach code-named "Easy Red."

"There was nothing easy about what we went through there," he recalls. "No one on that beach was rear-echelon. Everybody was a front-line soldier on D-day. Period."

Palumbo often says that every day of his life since D-day has been a bonus, because he didn't expect to survive.

"I'm glad I went through it," he said, "rather than having any of my heirs go through it."

Ray Swafford, now 88, of Manchester, was a sailor on the minesweeper YMS-247, destroying underwater mines to clear a safe path for ships taking troops to Normandy.

It was dangerous work. The night before D-day, another minesweeper hit a mine and exploded.

"We had to leave the survivors in the water, and that hurt real bad," Swafford remembers.

After clearing mines, Swafford's ship spent D-day guiding landing craft toward shore, picking up survivors, even trying to draw German gunfire away from soldiers on the beach. They also went to assist the destroyer USS *Corry*, which was sinking.

But Swafford was most unnerved by German "E-boats," small fast craft that fired torpedoes.

"We couldn't shoot back at them because we might hit our own ships," he said. "Those torpedoes still bother me today. I really don't like to think about it."

Swafford isn't going on Friday's Washington trip, but he said he might mark the 70th anniversary by cooking out with some friends.

"The captain of my ship stopped here to visit me once about 20 years ago," Swafford said. "He asked what I thought about D-day, and I said, 'It seems like a bad dream.'"

"He said, 'That's the way it seems to me too.'"

FY14 INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I am pleased to speak today on the Senate's passage last night of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. I would like to speak briefly on the bill itself, as well as the process for its passage.

As Members know, the intelligence committee produces an authorization bill every year that both authorizes funds for the intelligence community and sets out legislation that authorizes and limits intelligence activities. This is the primary vehicle for legislation on intelligence matters and serves as one of the most important tools by which the intelligence committee, and indeed the Congress, is able to carry out its oversight duties.

From the committee's formation in 1976 through 2004, the Congress passed intelligence authorization legislation every year. Unfortunately, that streak came to an end during the last decade, and there was no Intelligence bill signed into law from 2005 to 2009. It is no coincidence that during this period the congressional oversight was also at a low point.

When I became chairman of the committee in January 2009, one of my top priorities was to reinstitute the annual authorization bill process. Fortunately, I was joined in that goal by then-vice chairman of the committee Kit Bond and by the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Silvestre Reyes. We also, importantly, had the support of the majority and Republican leaders in the Senate and the leaders of the two committees with the greatest shared interest in the bill, the Armed Services Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

I am proud that the Congress has passed and the President has signed Intelligence authorization bills each of the past 4 years. With the Senate's action yesterday, we stand ready to pass a fifth.

The committee's preparation of the Fiscal Year 2014 Intelligence Authorization Act last summer was disrupted by the leaks, beginning in June 2013, of materials taken from the NSA by former contractor Edward Snowden. The committee held roughly a dozen hearings in the following months on NSA programs like the bulk phone metadata program conducted pursuant to title V of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, and the targeted collection of electronic communications of non-U.S. persons outside the United States under section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. These were programs that had already been the subject of considerable committee oversight and discussion over the past several years.

The committee also received briefings on the extent of damage caused by the leaks and on the shortcomings of the internal security measures to prevent someone from accessing,