

shown the world the “stuff” of which Americans are made: an unquenchable love of freedom and an unwavering commitment to democracy. I have heard it said that 9/11 did not test America’s character; it revealed it.

For the better part of the 20th century the United States and our allies fought a successful battle against the genocidal forces of fascism and totalitarianism. We defeated the Nazis. We won the Cold War. In the bloody struggle between ideologies, democratic governments triumphed over repressive regimes.

Since that day, we have consecrated the time and place where these terrorist acts occurred. We have commemorated the brave and dedicated individuals who faced 9/11 and its consequences head-on. We have honored and laid to rest our fallen war heroes. We have rebuilt the mangled section of the Pentagon, honored Flight 77’s bravery in the Pennsylvania countryside and returned Ground Zero in New York City to the world’s vibrant center of economic activity. When I think of these locations, I am reminded of the words President Lincoln delivered at Gettysburg that “we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract”.

We have also made mistakes but we acknowledge and learn from those mistakes.

I believe we will prevail against this enemy for the same reason we have been victorious in previous conflicts: the overwhelming majority of people in the world want freedom and justice and dignity and opportunity. I am confident because America remains a beacon of hope to the oppressed everywhere. I am confident because I know this generation will meet all challenges and threats we face as a Nation as successfully as we met the challenges and threats of the last century. We must remain clear-eyed as to identity and objectives of our enemy and the distinction between us. We cannot shrink when the oppressed cry for freedom and the enslaved call for justice.

The 9/11 anniversary is especially poignant this year as it falls just 3 days short of the bicentennial of the Star-Spangled Banner, our National Anthem. The greatest navy in the world bombarded Fort McHenry for 25 hours, starting on September 13, 1814. British troops were poised to move into Baltimore after Fort McHenry fell. The Nation’s capital was in flames; the Nation’s future was in grave doubt. And then, an amazing thing happened: Fort McHenry did not fall to the British. A huge, glorious flag was flying over the fort as dawn broke on September 14, 1814. The British forces retreated. One of the darkest hours in America’s history turned into one of its brightest moments, and Maryland lawyer Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the Star-Spangled Banner.

We will have additional challenges in the months and years ahead. But we must never forget the sacrifice previous generations of Americans have made to safeguard our liberty. And we must never forget that our enemies fight because they have so little freedom while we Americans fight because we have so much freedom and that makes all the difference.

RECOGNIZING CANYONLANDS

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, thank you for the opportunity today to pay tribute to a timeless feature of Utah’s beautiful geography: Canyonlands National Park. This week, citizens of Utah and friends around the United States join together in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Canyonlands National Park. As one of the “Mighty Five” national parks in Utah, the Canyonlands celebrate a landmark anniversary, and are a source of great pride for Utahns and the outdoors community nationwide.

Canyonlands National Park is located in the southeast of our State where the otherworldly cliffs, recesses, and red rock attract climbing, mountain biking, and rafting enthusiasts from across the globe. Anyone who walks down Main Street in Moab can hear languages from German to Japanese to English, as well as accents from all over America. People plan and save for years to visit Utah to behold the invulnerable landscapes of the Canyonlands. As one stands on the edge of a 1,000-foot cliff, while seeing hundreds of miles in all directions, nature somehow puts life in perspective.

This perspective gained should not be underestimated. There is a story in common between those who visit the park and the land they experience. It is a story told in rock layers that echo ancient seas, coastal mud flats, braided streambeds, and wind-blown dunes hundreds of feet thick. It is the story of time and change, to which all of God’s creation is subject. Clues to this past lie preserved in stone, along the walls of deep gorges where great rivers once roared. The three main regions of Canyonlands: the Island in the Sky, Needles, and the Maze, were once an environment quite different and more lush. In what is now desert, shallow seas once ebbed and flowed. In many ways the story of Canyonlands is a story of transformation, and this is something to which we can all relate. We are reminded of the hunter-gatherer peoples who once flourished in Canyonlands by the Native American rock art, in the “Great Gallery” region, that dates back as early as 2000 BC. When I consider those painted figures together with the mosaic of colors, shapes, and pinnacles of Canyonlands, I, like many others, recall the enduring relationship between man and nature. It is this continuing legacy that we call our attention to today.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the people, both elected officials and citi-

zens, who possessed the foresight to recognize the value of Canyonlands and created the park 50 years ago. These efforts did not come without controversy and today much controversy remains. The area around the park holds diverse importance to the local community and a variety of stakeholders. Many spend their free time exploring over 2,500 miles of roads around the park in four-wheel drive vehicles while others find a special peace in the solitude of the Canyonlands desert. These interests may seem in conflict, but the vast lands of Utah amply accommodate the equally vast spectrum of pursuits.

For several years now, the Utah congressional delegation has been developing a public lands bill that will bring certainty and balance to the areas around Canyonlands and other landscapes in Utah. The land surrounding the national park would be protected with designations to ensure that our grandchildren can stand on the same red rock cliffs to look at the glorious sunsets that our pioneer ancestors saw and view vistas people from around the world come to see today. The bill will benefit our children by exchanging State lands in areas that do not produce revenues, with Federal lands that can be developed responsibly. The revenues derived, as a result of the thoughtful development enabled by these exchanges, will benefit school children in Utah. Only Congress can make these changes to the way our public lands are managed. At a time of congressional dysfunction, this is one area of positive happenings.

What better way to celebrate the anniversary of Canyonlands National Park than by bringing certainty to a region that has been denied stability for one-half century? I am proud to be a part of this ongoing process to protect the land surrounding Canyonlands National Park.

AMERICORPS PROGRAM ANNIVERSARY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the AmeriCorps program.

I want to take a moment to say thank you—thank you to all of the volunteers and service workers out there. They are selflessly taking time out of their lives to help their fellow Americans in times of need. They are the ones out there building homes, clearing thousands of acres of forest burnt by wildfires, tutoring and mentoring our children, and assisting the elderly. They are unflagging, unflinching, and determined to make a difference.

National service has always been a passion of mine. When we started in the 1970s with the establishment of a domestic volunteer corps—similar to Peace Corps—I wanted to capture the fervor, the passion, and dynamic qualities of a social movement that would bring people to arms wielding change. At some point, it seemed we lost sight of what Alexis de Tocqueville called

“habits of the heart”—neighbor helping neighbor. I wanted to help turn the ME generation into the WE generation.

That is why in 1989 I, along with Senators Kennedy and Nunn, introduced the National and Community Service Act—a bill to establish the Corporation for National and Community Service to oversee and coordinate our national volunteer efforts. This important legislation also created a demonstration program that has since evolved into what we know today as AmeriCorps.

I believe that AmeriCorps is the embodiment of the spirit of volunteerism and service to our country. When creating this program, I did not just want to create another government program. I did not want this to be another bureaucratic agency. What I wanted to do was capture the fervor, passion, and dynamic qualities of a social movement that would bring people to arms wielding change. I think we were successful in doing just that.

I am so proud of what AmeriCorps has accomplished and become. I never dreamt that I would be standing here 20 years later knowing that the AmeriCorps program would be the force that it is today. The data doesn't lie—it is quite impressive. Over the past 20 years, more than 820,000 AmeriCorps members have served our communities and country, providing more than 1 billion hours of service.

My home State of Maryland is lucky. We have 1,600 AmeriCorps members, and 5,400 Senior Corps members. Their stories are poignant, whether it is a Teach for America Corps member helping a child with long division after school, or a National Civilian Community Corps member helping restore order to communities after a devastating storm or an AmeriCorps member helping veteran families readjust to civilian life. Every day, national service changes lives. They all meet compelling human needs by helping out in our neighborhoods and communities across the country.

I used to be a social worker for Baltimore, but now I am a social worker for America, and I believe civic responsibility is worth investing in. I want to continue to make sure that we make this kind of investment in AmeriCorps because the next generation is carrying the torch for national service. We must remember that it is not only young people signing up to serve their country. It is seniors serving as a foster grandparent to children who have been abused or neglected. It is veterans trading in their uniforms to work with Habitat for Humanity, building homes for their fellow service members. It is seasoned professionals heading into the corps, trading in corporate cubicles for classrooms and putting their real-world education to use. The next generation knows the importance of national service. Their dedication to its mission is inspiring.

Five years ago, I was at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore recovering from ankle surgery. An aide was helping me

get back in bed and asked me if I knew Senator Kennedy. She said, “They tell me you had something to do with National Service. I was in AmeriCorps.” She was working in modest means—she had heard you could work parttime, earn a bachelor's degree from college, and that there wasn't an age limit. At the local health department, she started to do some outreach. Her supervisor told her, “You have a real talent.” This woman said, “People like me are never told they have a talent, but I found I had a talent by working for AmeriCorps.” Through an AmeriCorps stipend, she completed her degree in social work and helped her grandson get into college. She is just one of the many who have been touched by AmeriCorps, who have changed the lives of others through service.

These stories and the work that AmeriCorps volunteers do give me profound hope, because while one person can make a difference, together we can make a change. I am so pleased to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the AmeriCorps program and look forward to the next 20 years.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to recognize the bicentennial of our national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, and of Defenders Day. I thank Senator CARDIN, my partner in the Senate, for submitting a resolution to commemorate this occasion. Defenders Day, which inspired our national anthem, is momentous in the history of our Nation, the State of Maryland, and the City of Baltimore.

Two hundred years ago, the brave City of Baltimore led the way in the War of 1812 defending our Nation and holding the American line. Our troops stopped the British advance and claimed a much-needed victory for Baltimore and for the Nation.

Some call the War of 1812 the forgotten war. I believe it was the war that forged our Nation. As the United States entered the war, it was a loose collection of States. As we emerged from it, we were on the path to becoming a true Nation.

It was also during this war at the Battle of Baltimore that we gained an enduring icon of national patriotism in our National anthem, inspired by the naval battle at Fort McHenry. Fort McHenry is now a revered National monument and a historic shrine.

The Battle of Baltimore was a rousing victory in the dark days following the British attack on our Capitol. The British had just burned Washington, setting our Capitol and White House ablaze, and hurting America's morale.

Less than a month later, the British sent a fleet of ships toward Baltimore sailing up the Bay to break America at the war's frontline in what is known today as Patterson Park, but first they had to get past Fort McHenry.

The British bombed the Fort for twenty-five consecutive hours. Nearby,

a young lawyer named Francis Scott Key watched from a ship where he was being held. When the smoke cleared on the morning of September 14, 1814, he saw the fifteen stars and fifteen stripes of the American flag streaming over the Fort. He was so thrilled that despite the bombs bursting in the air, “our flag was still there.” He went on to write the lines of the song that later became our National anthem, the Star Spangled Banner.

That day the line was held in Baltimore in our young country's war against the world's most powerful Nation. Fort McHenry has made history, and Fort McHenry has seen history. I am proud to represent Fort McHenry and Baltimore, and I encourage the passage of this resolution commemorating Fort McHenry, Defenders Day, and the Star Spangled Banner.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of the War of 1812's Battle of Baltimore. The State of Maryland is proud of its contributions to this “Second War for Independence,” which reinforced United States sovereignty and gave birth to our national anthem. While Star-Spangled 200 events are already underway in my home State, I wish to spend a few minutes to discuss the War of 1812 and the story of Francis Scott Key's poem “Defense of Fort M'Henry.”

A generation after the United States declared its independence from Great Britain, the mercantilist ties between the two countries were not fully severed. The British impressed American merchant seamen, enforced illegal and unfair trade regulations, colluded with certain Native American tribes to attack frontier settlements, and attempted to block westward expansion. The United States declared war to reassert autonomy over its own affairs, establish free trade, protect sailors' rights, and ensure that our Nation could prosper from sea to shining sea.

President James Madison eloquently outlined these justifications more than 200 years ago when he called on “all the good people of the United States, as they love their country, as they value the precious heritage derived from the virtue and valor of their fathers [to] exert themselves in preserving order, in promoting concord, in maintaining the authority and efficacy of the laws, and in supporting and invigorating all the measures which may be adopted by the constituted authorities for obtaining a speedy, a just, and an honorable peace.”

The contributions of the U.S. Navy were instrumental in repelling the British during the War of 1812. The U.S. Navy barely had a dozen warships compared to the hundreds of ships comprising the British fleet. British ships were undermanned, however, while well-trained and talented officers and seamen took command of American ships. These men were largely from coastal States, like Maryland, and