

intended to crush the American spirit; instead, they galvanized it to new strengths. We came together as a nation to grieve. We came together as a nation to bury our dead and to care for those who were hurt. We came together as a nation to rebuild. And we came together as a nation to pursue those who were responsible for the attacks and bring them to justice. We have accomplished a great deal with respect to those missions, but we have so much more to do. We must never become complacent. We must never lose our resolve.

We have a larger mission. President John F. Kennedy was on his way to deliver a speech at the Trade Mart in Dallas when he was assassinated on November 22, 1963. He was going to say:

We in this country, in this generation, are—by destiny rather than choice—the watchmen on the walls of world freedom. We ask, therefore, that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility, that we may exercise our strength with wisdom and restraint, and that we may achieve in our time and for all time the ancient vision of “peace on earth, good will toward men.” That must always be our goal, and the righteousness of our cause must always underlie our strength. For as was written long ago: “except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”

Being “watchmen on the walls of world freedom” is an awesome responsibility. There are times when the responsibility seems more of a burden than a privilege. There are times when the world’s problems seem absolutely intractable and we grow weary of it all. There are times when we as Americans disagree whether or how we should meet that responsibility.

Today, both houses of Congress are involved in a debate about the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action—JCPOA—with respect to Iran, a State sponsor of terrorism with nuclear ambitions. We have serious disagreements about whether to support the JCPOA. It is important, as we debate this issue, to remember that no one among us is clairvoyant or has a total grasp of the truth; no ideology or philosophy has a monopoly on wisdom. No party has complete political acumen. And no group has exclusive rights to use the word “patriot”.

If we want to honor the men and women on Flight 93 and on the three other hijacked jets, if we want to honor the people in the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon, if we want to honor the brave first responders who were climbing up the steps of the Twin Towers as people were streaming down the steps, and if we want to honor the service men and women who have given their lives in defense of our Nation, let us remember that what unites us as Americans is far more important than what divides us on particular issues, even an issue as existentially crucial as restraining Iran’s worst intentions and lawlessness. We are all Americans, each with the desire to see our families, our communities, and our Nation prosper, and to promote the American

ideals of peace and freedom and justice to every corner of the Earth.

About 100 miles east of Shanksville, there is another field consecrated by the blood of Americans who gave “the last full measure of devotion”—Gettysburg. As President Abraham Lincoln said, it is our responsibility to dedicate ourselves “to the unfinished work” which others “have thus far so nobly advanced”. It is our responsibility to dedicate ourselves to the “great task” remaining before us, and that task is “a new birth of freedom”.

As we remember and mourn those who died in the 9/11 attacks and those who have died since that dreadful day 14 years ago serving as “watchmen on the walls of world freedom”, let us meet our awesome responsibility united, as Americans, all of us patriots in our own way, acknowledging that it is our privilege and it is our destiny.

OBSERVING THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, Sunday, September 13 marks the 21st anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA. I have zero tolerance for domestic violence. No woman in this Nation should live in fear for her safety or the safety of her children. These victims need to have access to resources that can provide them with help. That is why I was proud to cosponsor this legislation when it was first enacted in 1994, and I am proud to have fought for every single one of its reauthorizations since.

The far-reaching impact of this legislation cannot be stressed enough. It has impacted the lives of millions of people—playing a crucial role in our communities by providing important services to those who are most vulnerable. Since the original VAWA legislation, millions of women have called the National Domestic Violence hotline who were desperate, who were fearful for their lives. When they called that number, they got help. I know that it saved lives.

As vice chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science, CJS, Appropriations Subcommittee, I fought to include \$479 million in funding in the fiscal year 2016 CJS bill for the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women—the highest funding level ever for these programs.

What is it that these programs do? They coordinate community approaches to end violence and sexual assault. They fund victims’ services like shelters and a national toll-free crisis hotline. They provide counseling to victims of rape and sexual assault. They help prevent sexual assaults from happening on college campuses. They also fund legal assistance to victims to be able to get court orders to be able to protect themselves from the abuser or from the stalker.

Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking are crimes

of epidemic proportions, exacting terrible costs on individual lives and our communities. Twenty-five percent of U.S. women report that they have been physically assaulted by an intimate partner during their lifetimes, one in six have been the victims of rape or attempted rape, and the cost of domestic violence exceeds \$8 billion each year. These are numbers and statistics, but they also represent real people.

In my home State of Maryland, VAWA programs have personally impacted people’s lives. For example, “Rita” who was married to “Jamie”—who was physically abusive to her, and then sadly to their four-year-old son, and had been arrested on several occasions for dealing drugs—was able to get important legal assistance through a VAWA-funded program.

Rita obtained a protective order against Jamie, pressed criminal charges against him, and he was found guilty of assault. Jamie is now where he belongs, locked behind bars.

The Sexual Assault Legal Institute, SALI, a program of the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, was able to represent Rita in her divorce proceedings and custody case. Although this case remains ongoing, through VAWA, the SALI program made it possible for Rita to get the important legal services she needed to protect herself and her son.

This story is just one of the many reasons why it is so important that we continue to invest in programs to combat domestic abuse and sexual assault, and help enable victims to rebuild their lives. This is why I want to recognize 21 years of VAWA as law today, and remember the countless number of lives it has impacted throughout the country. VAWA has put into place so many invaluable programs that are effective and relied upon by so many women and their families in Maryland and across the nation. That is the reason why I will continue to fight for it.

REMEMBERING BORIS NEMTSOV

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, last night I was honored to pay tribute to a dear friend and personal hero, the late Boris Nemtsov. Boris Nemtsov was the Russian opposition leader, former Deputy Prime Minister, and human rights activist who was murdered in February.

I ask unanimous consent to have my remarks printed in the RECORD.

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

Ladies and gentlemen, it’s a wonderful privilege to introduce a personal hero—whose courage, selflessness and idealism I find awe-inspiring—and ask him to accept an award on behalf of another personal hero, a man of very great courage and selflessness and idealism, Boris Nemtsov.

Vladimir Kara-Murza is deputy leader and co-founder with Boris of the People’s Freedom Party. He is the leading coordinator of Open Russia. In the U.S., Vladimir was a prominent and very effective advocate for

passage of the Magnitsky Act, which President Obama signed into law last December.

Most recently, he has eloquently and persuasively campaigned to expand the act to impose sanctions on those Russian journalists, who are so cowed and corrupted by the Kremlin, they have become indispensable to propagating the lies and atmosphere of hate, fear and violence the regime relies on to maintain power.

Vladimir is a brave, outspoken, and relentless advocate for freedom and democracy in Russia. All of his adult life and even as a boy, he has been a steadfast champion for the rule of law, for justice, for truth, for the dignity of the Russian people. And like others in Russia who place the interests of the Russian people before their own self-interest, he has paid a price for his gallantry and integrity.

In May of this year, he grew very ill and fell into a coma. As has happened to other Putin critics, Vladimir was poisoned in order to intimidate him or worse. His family brought him to the U.S. for treatment this summer, and we are all very relieved and grateful that he is recovering, and able to be with us tonight.

Vladimir, you are an inspiration to the work of this Institute, and to me personally. Your work is crucial to the progress of freedom and justice in the world. You're a credit to your family and your country. You've kept faith with your ideals in confrontation with a cruel and dangerous autocracy.

And you have kept faith—honorably and bravely—with the example of your friend and comrade, Boris Nemtsov, who died a martyr for the rights of people who were taught to hate him but who will one day mourn his death, revere his memory, and despise his murderers.

Boris Nemtsov is a hero of the Russian Federation. He doesn't need a posthumous Gold Star to deserve that distinction. What worth is a decoration from the hands of a tyrant and the sycophants and crooks who surround him? What meaning would it have? He is beyond the calumnies and scorn and cruelty of his enemies now. Freedom salutes Boris. Justice proclaims him a hero. The truth reveres his memory.

Putin could never understand Boris. He could never appreciate how someone could be impervious to threats and slander, to the lure of corruption and the oppression of fear. A man like Putin, who all his life has stood on the wrong side of history, on the wrong side of morality, of goodness, can't comprehend the power of righteousness. He is blind to the supremacy of love. He can't see that all lies are exposed eventually, hate is overcome by love, illicit power decays, while the truth endures forever.

The people who killed Boris and the regime that protects them are the enemies of the Russian people. They rob Russia of its wealth, its hopes, its future. They deny the God-given dignity of the people they misrule. They are thieves and murderers. And they are cowards. They fear justice. They fear truth. They fear a society in which ideals and morality are the foundation of law and order.

Boris wasn't afraid. He knew his enemies. He knew what they were capable of, but he would not be oppressed. He would not be oppressed by unjust laws or by violence and fear. He was a free man, and bravely so. He was accustomed to danger. But he lived for love and justice and truth. He had been threatened repeatedly and demonized by the regime's propaganda apparatus. Yet when his enemies took his life in the shadow of the Kremlin, they found him walking in the open air, enjoying the evening, unafraid.

It was an honor to know him, and among the greatest privileges of my life to call him a friend.

For his courage, for giving the last full measure of devotion to his country and his countrymen, IRI awards the 2015 Freedom Award to the late Boris Nemtsov. May we long find inspiration in his example. May we take renewed devotion to the cause he died to advance. And may we, too, live unafraid in the open air, for love and justice and truth.

Thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NIH'S OFFICE OF RESEARCH ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health, which was established on September 10, 1990, to end gender bias in medical research.

It is hard to believe that 25 years ago, women were not included in protocols at the NIH. Faux science said that our reproductive systems got in the way or that we had "raging hormones."

I was here 25 years ago, as a young Senator representing the great State of Maryland. I remember this big "landmark" study coming out. It showed that aspirin could help prevent heart attacks and save lives. Everyone was so excited. A relatively cheap and widely available medication that could improve cardiovascular health—this was a huge discovery.

But then we looked closer at the study, and what did we find? We found that the study tested the effects of aspirin on more than 22,000 men, but zero women. Zero women. This big, landmark study enrolled only men. How could that be? So we took a closer look, and we found that this study—and the exclusion of women from clinical trials—was not an aberration. We found that prior to 1989 clinical trials of new drugs were routinely conducted predominantly on men, even though women consume approximately 80 percent of pharmaceuticals in the United States and make up half the population. To add fuel to the fire, a 1992 report by the U.S. General Accounting Office found that less than half of prescription drugs on the market had been analyzed for gender-related response differences.

So what we had was a system where medical research was done based on male-only clinical trials, which led to the development of diagnoses, preventive measures, and treatments that were commonly used in women, despite never having been studied on women. As you might imagine, this didn't sit well with the women in Congress. It certainly didn't sit well with me.

At that time—in 1990—a lot was going on. George Bush the elder was in the White House. The gulf war was about to begin. The Hubble Space Telescope had just been launched. We didn't have a confirmed NIH Director, and the Human Genome Project had just begun.

There was a lot going on in the world. But the women of Congress knew that we had a real problem to

solve. At the time, the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues was comprised of myself and then-Representatives Pat Schroeder, Olympia Snowe, Connie Morella, and many others. On Aug. 22, 1990, Pat, Olympia, Connie, and I sent a landmark letter to the Acting Director of NIH, Dr. William Raub, requesting a public meeting to discuss how best to improve Federal research on women's health. We wanted all the key health people there: all 12 NIH Institute Directors, then-HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan, then-Surgeon General Antonia Novello, and the beloved Dr. Ruth Kirschstein.

Let me speak a moment about Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, a woman who provided direction and leadership to NIH through much of the second half of the 20th century. She was a daughter of immigrant parents. She weathered disgraceful prejudice and stereotyping of women and Jews. But that didn't stop her. Thanks to hard work and perseverance, she went on to become a key player in the development of the polio vaccine, the first woman Director of a major Institute at NIH, and a lifelong champion of the importance of basic biomedical research and training programs that provided opportunity to all talented students. The contributions made by Dr. Ruth Kirschstein to the NIH, to women's health, and to better health for all are invaluable.

But back to September 1990. On Sept. 10, 1990, the women of Congress got our meeting. We drove out to the NIH's Bethesda campus—Connie Morella, Olympia Snowe, Pat Schroeder, and BARB all showed up. So did Time magazine and the TV cameras.

And what do you know. President Bush announced Dr. Bernadine Healy as the first female Director of the NIH. Dr. Healy was a friend, a colleague, and an adviser. She was a gifted physician and a brilliant researcher and administrator. She was also a very special advocate for women. She was deeply committed to the advancement of women in science and biomedical research.

It is hard to believe that meeting at NIH happened 25 years ago today. And it marked the official establishment of the NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health.

The NIH Office of Research on Women's Health was established to do three things: ensure that women are included in NIH-funded clinical research; set research priorities to address gaps in scientific knowledge; and promote biomedical research careers for women.

Under Dr. Healy, the NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health really came alive. She appointed Dr. Vivian Pinn as its first Director. And today the Office works in partnership with NIH's Institutes and Centers to ensure that women's health research is part of the scientific framework at NIH and throughout the scientific community. I am so proud of what they have accomplished over the past 25 years.

Thanks to the Office of Research on Women's Health, the Women's Health