

adding sexual orientation to the U.S. military's equal opportunity program. Roughly a year after that historic decision, Eric Fanning, an eminently qualified public servant, with a long track record of working on behalf of the men, women, and families of our Armed Forces, finally was confirmed by the Senate to become the Secretary of the Army. Secretary Fanning is openly gay, and his confirmation reflects a long overdue but commonsense understanding that sexual orientation and gender identity are not relevant to one's ability to serve this nation.

Our military was not alone in taking steps to ensure that all who wish to serve their country and community are able to do so without discrimination.

The Boy Scouts of America announced that, "the national executive board ratified a resolution removing the national restriction on openly gay leaders and employees."

I think this move by the Boy Scouts is worth noting because it impacts two issues that I find very important to the future of this country: the welfare of our children and encouraging civic involvement. The Boy Scouts of America are one of our most venerated civic organizations serving young people. I believe that no individual should be prevented from serving their country or enriching their community based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Boy Scouts' decision not to discriminate will lead to more well-rounded scouts.

For as much progress as we have seen in the last year, there have been several recent events that show our need to recommit to building a more perfect union for all Americans.

The shooting on June 12 in Orlando and attacks on LGBT individuals across the country and abroad show that in far too many places across the world, being openly LGBT still carries great risk.

That an attacker would target this venue, especially during Gay Pride Month, is a horrific tragedy and a senseless loss of human lives.

My deepest sympathies are with those killed and injured in this terror attack and hate crime, along with their families and loved ones. My thanks go out to the first responders who saved lives in the midst of such danger. There is no simple solution to preventing this type of tragedy. But one step that would help is for Congress to enact commonsense gun safety legislation in the coming days.

American values of tolerance, compassion, freedom, and love for thy neighbor must win out over hate, intolerance, and homophobia.

No one should fear for their lives simply because of who they are. This moral truism extends beyond the LGBT community. And so it is disturbing that State legislatures have recently taken steps to breathe new life into the defunct and deplorable practice of separate but equal facilities. Attempts to restrict the use of public fa-

cilities by transgender people is unsettling to say the least.

As a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE, Parliamentary Assembly, I take special note when foreign legislatures take steps to codify discrimination.

When we see discrimination happening in our own society, we must take action.

In our democracy, state-sponsored discrimination sends two strong messages. First, it tells those who are being discriminated against that the government does not fully recognize you as an equal member of the society. Secondly, it sends a not-so-subtle wink and a nod to private citizens and businesses that further discrimination and abuse will be tolerated.

Thankfully, Americans of every gender sexual orientation, and gender identity have spoken out against these laws.

In the U.S. Senate, I have been a proud ally of the LGBT community and will continue to oppose efforts to return to a time when our government-sanctioned discrimination.

This struggle for equal rights continues not only in our States, but here in the Congress. The House of Representatives, for example, recently considered a provision to prevent businesses that contract with the U.S. Government from discriminating against LGBT employees. It is shameful that, in 2016, the Congress of the United States of America cannot agree that discriminating against Americans based on a core identifying characteristic is wrong, just as it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of race or religion.

Congress should take up and pass the Equality Act, which I am proud to cosponsor, which would provide comprehensive antidiscrimination protection for LGBT individuals in areas such as housing, education, employment, credit, and public accommodations.

Congress should take up and pass my End Racial Profiling Act, which prohibits discriminatory profiling by law enforcement officers, including profiling based on gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

As ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I have worked to put international human rights at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy, whenever possible. The international community has made notable strides in ensuring that LGBT individuals are treated with the respect and dignity that all people deserve.

Nepal took the commendable step of including LGBT protections in their new constitution. Malta, Ireland, Thailand, Bolivia, and Vietnam all passed laws protecting transgender individuals.

Ukraine outlawed LGBT workplace discrimination, Kazakhstan struck

down a dangerous anti-LGBT law, and Mozambique decriminalized homosexuality. These are small but important steps.

But as much as we can and should celebrate global progress on these matters, we have also seen troubling setbacks. In too many countries, being LGBT still is criminalized or met with violence, most recently with the brutal murder of Xulhaz Mannan, a USAID employee at the U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh and editor of Bangladesh's first and only LGBT magazine. Tragically, what happened to Mr. Mannan in Bangladesh is seen over and over again around the world. LGBT rights are human rights, and as we engage with the international community on human rights, we must prioritize LGBT rights.

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, the American experience is about individuals working together to build a more perfect union by changing hearts, minds, and policy. Since our founding, the U.S. Senate has played a key role in achieving this goal. It is very clear that ensuing LGBT Americans are afforded all the same rights and protections as their neighbors is central to building that more perfect union. The Senate should stand as a bulwark against intolerance and guardian of civil rights for LGBT individuals everywhere.

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to recognize the Baltimore Pride Celebration. Baltimore Pride will be held for the 41st time on July 19-24. Baltimore has a strong LGBT community with a long history of activism and civic engagement. The Baltimore Pride Celebration is a chance to celebrate all the amazing contributions LGBT Baltimoreans make to my hometown.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD HAYES

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Pearl Harbor survivor and World War II veteran, Howard Hayes. Mr. Hayes was aboard United States Coast Guard Cutter Roger B. Taney, USCGC TANEY, and moored in Honolulu Harbor as the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred right next door. It gives me great pleasure to honor Mr. Hayes for his bravery and service during World War II, especially on that specific day, December 7, 1941, when he selflessly placed his life on the line to defend our Nation.

Mr. Hayes joined the U.S. Coast Guard on October 21, 1940, and served on USCGC TANEY as a cook second class. His battle station was manning the range finder on the bridge of the ship. On December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Mr. Hayes saw the planes flying overhead and knew it was not a drill. After arriving at the range finder, Mr. Hayes and his crewmates were able to shoot down four planes during the attack. I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Hayes for his service and sacrifice, which are invaluable to our Nation.

Recently, Honor Flight Nevada transported Mr. Hayes to see his ship for the first time in 71 years and made arrangements so that he could go on-board USCGC TANEY. During his visit, Mr. Hayes saluted the flag and honored his fallen comrades. He is the last known surviving member of the ship's crew from that day. This is truly an incredible opportunity provided by Honor Flight Nevada. No words or actions can adequately thank Mr. Hayes for his service, but those who went above and beyond to make this trip possible stand as examples of how we should honor our veterans.

As a World War II veteran, Mr. Hayes' commitment to his country, as well as his dedication to his family and community, exemplify why the legacy of all World War II veterans must be preserved for generations to come. These veterans truly are the Greatest Generation, selflessly serving not for recognition, but because it was the right thing to do. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals, but to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

Mr. Hayes displayed true courage and loyalty in defending our country, especially on that historic day during the attack on Pearl Harbor. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Hayes for all that he has done for our country. I wish him well in his future endeavors.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMISSIONING OF USS "NEVADA," SSBN 733

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 30th anniversary of the commissioning of USS *Nevada*, SSBN 733. I am proud to honor one of Nevada's namesake ships and all Americans that served aboard her.

Launched on September 14, 1985, USS *Nevada*, SSBN 733, is a U.S. Navy *Ohio*-class ballistic missile submarine and the fourth U.S. Navy ship named in honor of our great State. She was sponsored by Carol Laxalt, the wife of then-U.S. Senator Paul Laxalt. Upon launch, Captain F.W. Rohm was in command of the Blue Crew, and Captain William Stone led the Gold Crew. The submarine was then commissioned on August 16, 1986. She is now one of eight *Ohio*-class ballistic submarines homeported at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, where crews have worked tirelessly to preserve this national treasure. It gives me great pleasure to honor the history and heritage of this ship and her crew members who sacrificed so much defending our freedoms.

The brave men and women serving in the U.S. Navy have demonstrated true commitment to our Nation with their

selfless actions and exemplify why the legacy of all veterans must be preserved for generations to come. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals, but to ensure they are cared for after their return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation, including those who served on USS *Nevada*, SSBN 733.

Today I ask that we recognize the 30th anniversary of the commissioning of USS *Nevada*, SSBN 733, and all that sailed aboard her. I am both humbled and honored to commemorate these brave men and women and to celebrate this important milestone. May we never forget the legacy of this great submarine and her gallant crew.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF GUILFORD, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the town of Guilford, ME. Located in the heart of the beautiful Maine Highlands on the banks of the mighty Piscataquis River, Guilford was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today.

Guilford's incorporation on February 8, 1816, was but one milestone on a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, Maine's Western Mountains were the hunting grounds of the Abenaki Tribe. The reverence the Abenaki had for the natural beauty and resources of the region is upheld by the people of Guilford today.

Early settlers at the dawn of the 19th century were drawn by fertile soil, vast forests, and fast-moving waters, which they turned into productive farms and busy mills. With the Piscataquis providing power, Guilford became one of the premier manufacturing communities in northern New England, with skilled workers producing everything from textiles and furniture to toothpicks and violin strings. The wealth produced by the land and, by hard work, innovation, and determination, was invested in schools and churches to create a true community.

Guilford is a town of patriots. Throughout the town's history, the men and women of Guilford have stepped forward to serve our Nation, and the veterans memorial stands in solemn tribute. It is significant that a highlight of this year's bicentennial celebration was the rededication of the Guilford Memorial Bridge in their honor.

Guilford is a town of involved citizens. The active historical society, volunteer fire department, and library are evidence of a strong community spirit. The planning and volunteerism that have gone into this yearlong bicentennial celebration are evidence that Guilford's spirit grows only stronger.

This 200th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in

calendar years. It is an occasion to celebrate the people who for more than two centuries have worked together and cared for one another. Thanks to those who came before, Guilford has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GARRY RAYNO

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor one of New Hampshire's finest and most respected journalists, Garry Rayno of the New Hampshire Union Leader. Garry is set to retire after a long and impressive career covering news and people in the Granite State.

Today, he and his wife, Carolyn, live in Bow, just a few miles from our State's capital. Garry currently works in the Union Leader's State House Bureau, where he has had a front-row seat for debates that impact the future of our State. These days, he is perhaps best known for writing the State House Dome column, a must-read round-up of political news for readers following events at the State House in Concord.

As a first-rate journalist, Garry has committed himself to putting forth the facts and figures so that New Hampshire residents can be apprised of legislation, votes, and negotiations that impact their daily lives. His writing allows readers access to detailed accounts of everything from political careers of New Hampshire State representatives to our State's efforts to combat the opioid abuse epidemic.

It has been a pleasure to work with Garry over the years during my time at the attorney general's office. We will certainly miss his straightforward analysis and reports of what's happening in Concord. Since announcing his retirement, numerous letters to the editor by citizens and elected officials alike have been published in the Union Leader, thanking Garry and lauding his excellent and informative coverage of the Legislature.

I join with New Hampshire residents, as well as his colleagues, in thanking Garry for his unparalleled service to our State and commitment to journalistic integrity. I am very proud to celebrate and recognize Garry, and I wish him and his wife, Carolyn, all the best as they enter this new chapter. •

REMEMBERING DONNA KELLEY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to remember Donna Kelley, a longtime reporter and anchor at KARN News Radio in Little Rock, who passed away last weekend.

Donna made the move from Orlando to Little Rock to join the KARN news team 14 years ago. Her voice quickly became a mainstay on the airwaves in central Arkansas, where listeners turned to her as a trusted source of