

the President of the United States the authority to use armed force to assist the Republic of Vietnam in the defense of its freedom against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1965, ground combat units of the Armed Forces of the United States arrived in the Republic of Vietnam to join approximately 23,000 personnel of the Armed Forces who were already present there;

Whereas, by December 1965, approximately 184,000 troops of the Armed Forces of the United States were in Vietnam, and by 1969, the number of such troops reached a peak of approximately 549,500, including members of the Armed Forces who were supporting the combat operations from Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Japan, the Philippines, and aboard Navy vessels;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet-Nam (commonly known as the "Paris Peace Accords") was signed, which required the release of all prisoners-of-war of the United States held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all Armed Forces of the United States from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on March 29, 1973, the Armed Forces of the United States completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese forces captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under Communist control;

Whereas more than 58,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States lost their lives in the Vietnam War, and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States were wounded in Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam;

Whereas the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States and a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the public of the United States to acknowledge and honor the efforts and services of those veterans;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were often wrongly criticized for the decisions of policymakers that were beyond the control of those members; and

Whereas designating March 29, 2019, as "Vietnam Veterans Day" would be an appropriate way to honor the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 29, 2019, as "Vietnam Veterans Day";

(2) honors and recognizes the contributions of the veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Vietnam during war and during peace;

(3) encourages States and local governments to designate March 29, 2019, as "Vietnam Veterans Day"; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe Vietnam Veterans Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that—

(A) provide the appreciation that veterans of the Vietnam War deserve;

(B) demonstrate the resolve that the people of the United States shall never forget the sacrifices and service of a generation of veterans who served in the Vietnam War;

(C) promote awareness of the faithful service and contributions of the veterans of the Vietnam War—

(i) during service in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(ii) to the communities of the veterans since returning home;

(D) promote awareness of the importance of entire communities empowering veterans and the families of veterans in helping the veterans readjust to civilian life after service in the Armed Forces; and

(E) promote opportunities for veterans of the Vietnam War—

(i) to assist younger veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in rehabilitation from wounds, both seen and unseen; and

(ii) to support the reintegration of younger veterans into civilian life.

RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Indian Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 100.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 100) recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize two remarkable female leaders of the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribes in honor of National Women's History Month. Both Tribes have reservations in the State of Connecticut and are an integral part of our community. The women I recognize today represent so many other Native American women who were strong in conviction, fearless in leadership, and dedicated to preserving their Tribal identity.

Dr. Gladys Iola Tantaquidgeon was a Mohegan Medicine Woman born in 1899. After learning tribal spirituality and herbalism from her "grandmothers," Dr. Tantaquidgeon studied at the University of Pennsylvania, writing in the field of anthropology and working with noted anthropologist Frank Speck. She researched herbal medicine among related east coast Tribes in order to broaden her Mohegan pharmacopeia. For her impressive academic achievements, Dr. Tantaquidgeon received honorary doctorates from the University of Connecticut and Yale University. She was also inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame and received the National Organization for Women's Harriet Tubman Award, the Connecticut Education Association's Friend of Education Award, and numerous Native American honors.

Her contributions extended beyond academia. In 1931, she, her brother Harold and their father, John, founded the Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum in Uncasville, CT, using education to help remedy prejudice. Then in 1934, John Collier, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, recruited Dr. Tantaquidgeon to serve as a community worker on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. For 9 years, she served as a specialist for the newly formed Federal Indian Arts and Crafts Board to promote Indian art, encouraging the restoration of critically important ancient practices the Federal Government had prohibited at that time.

Dr. Tantaquidgeon used her strong sense of social justice to support women in difficult situations by working as the Niantic Women's Prison librarian in the 1940s. She continued her life of service to others when her personal records of correspondence about Mohegan births, graduations, marriages, and deaths played a pivotal role in gaining Federal Recognition for the Mohegans in 1994.

Throughout her amazing 106 years of life, she led the way for women, especially women of color, to seize new opportunities and for everyone to engage in a greater level of discussion and education about Native American history and culture. Her legacy will leave a positive academic and social impact for years to come.

The other exceptional woman I wish to remember today is Martha Ann "Matt" Langevin, a Mashantucket Pequot Indian. Born in 1901, she spent her entire life in Mashantucket and dedicated her years to researching traditional medicinal uses for indigenous plants and herbs.

Ms. Langevin strongly advocated for the preservation of the Mashantucket Pequot land, culture, and way of life. She stood at the forefront of efforts to defend the Tribe's lands whenever State or local government officials tried to take them away. Her readiness to protect her community demonstrates Ms. Langevin's indomitable determination.

She was also an incredibly thoughtful, loving friend to many. With three siblings and seven half-siblings, Ms. Langevin was considered a beloved aunt by her nieces and nephews, as well as by other Pequot children who stayed with her when their parents left to find work. She took excellent care of the children.

Much of Ms. Langevin's life focused on gardening, preserving food, and watching over her ancestral lands. One of her most important undertakings was her constant work to preserve Pequot traditions and land, a task she took up with great passion and conviction. An inductee into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, Ms. Langevin will be remembered for her compassion and zeal for continuing traditions and looking after the people and the lands she loved.

I applaud both of these women's immense accomplishments, and I hope my

colleagues will join me in recognizing Dr. Tantaquidgeon and Ms. Langevin as we celebrate National Women's History Month.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 100) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 7, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MILITARY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 118 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 118) recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2019, as "Military Retiree Appreciation Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 118) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 14, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CONDEMNING THE MARCH 15, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACKS IN CHRIST- CHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 124 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 124) condemning the March 15, 2019, terrorist attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand, offering sincere condolences to all of the victims and their families, and expressing and standing in solidarity with the people and Government of New Zealand.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 124) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 27, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline for first-degree amendments with respect to the cloture motions filed during today's session relating to H.R. 268 be at 4 p.m., Monday, April 1, 2019.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTER SUPPRESSION

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, the most important words in our Constitution are the first three. We all know them: "We the people," written in supersize font so we don't forget what our Constitution is all about—government, as Lincoln put it, of, by, and for the people, or, as Jefferson put it, government designed to produce laws that reflect the will of the people.

We don't see that now. We don't have a government of, by, and for the people. Instead, we have a system that has been profoundly corrupted. It has been corrupted by gerrymandering. It has been corrupted by voter suppression and intimidation. It has been corrupted by dark and dirty money that has flooded our campaigns and wiped out the voice of millions of Americans. That is where we are now in this corrupted state.

We have debates on the floor that are all about helping a small group of people within a circle of power and privilege rather than having bills that help the citizens of the United States of America. In fact, we have a President who just this week said his goal was to

tear down healthcare for 30 million Americans, to wipe out the expansion of Medicaid, to wipe out the tax credits that assist so many Americans with being able to afford insurance, to wipe out the protection to be able to get healthcare if you have a preexisting condition, and to wipe out the ability of your children to be on your policy until the age of 26. That is government by and for this very little circle of privilege and power instead of the people of the United States of America. We saw it in other ways too.

In 2017, we saw a bill that reached into the Federal Treasury, took \$1.5 trillion, and gave almost all of it to that small group of people inside that circle of privilege and power while it ignored the rest of the country. That is what happens in corrupt countries. The power elite reach in, take the Treasury for themselves, and ignore the will of the people.

Every Member of this body took a pledge to the Constitution of the United States—a Constitution not founded on we the powerful but on we the people. So I ask: Are we going to honor that oath? If we are going to honor it, it means we have to stand up and end this deep and vast corruption.

Yesterday, Senator UDALL and I and all of my colleagues on this side of the aisle introduced a bill that is designed to take on gerrymandering, to take on voter suppression, and to take on dark money. Let's talk about gerrymandering.

The Supreme Court has never done a thing about it even though it is clearly all about having the powerful choose its voters rather than having the voters choose their Representatives. It is a complete shredding of the vision of the Constitution. The Supreme Court utterly failed to act. It has a case before it now, and it will have another opportunity, but don't hold your breath.

The time to address gerrymandering is before it is done. How do you do that? You do that with independent commissions. Independent commissions have been adopted in States like Iowa, and they have been widely received by the citizens as an issue of fairness. Yet, across so many States, we have congressional districts that are deliberately gerrymandered to favor the parties in power. It has happened in Democratic States, and it has happened in Republican States. You see it sometimes by the crazy configurations of the map. Sometimes you see it when a State that is essentially equally divided between the parties produces congressional Representatives heavily leaning to one side.

It is hard to remedy after the fact, but you can remedy before the fact by having independent commissions across this country. The way you take that on is you have a group of six individuals. They take two from the Democrats and two from the Republicans and two of whom are Independents, and they may select a broader set of participants—maybe an additional three