

principles of limited government, free enterprise, and personal responsibility in our Constitution. Let us also pay tribute, then, to our founding mothers who fought and who secured these cherished blessings of freedom and liberty for their daughters and granddaughters yet to come in the same document. Today, we remember their legacy. Let's respect their legacy.

A century after the Senate voted in favor of the 19th Amendment—on this very day 100 years ago—I encourage all Americans to treasure their right to vote. The suffragists of yesterday helped shape the course of history to ensure all Americans today and for sure in the future will carry the torch of freedom, liberty, justice, and opportunity for all for generations to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, first, I want to congratulate the senior Senator from Iowa and say what a wonderful story that is about his mom. And to see a picture like that—it is such an inspiring story. He certainly has a lot to be proud of in many, many ways.

I say to the Senator, now I know more about you, knowing that you had such a smart and strong mom. That tells me a lot. Thank you for sharing that.

I rise with two short topics today. First, I, too, want to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. Even more so, I rise today to celebrate the brave and determined women who fought so hard and for so long for our right to make our voices heard.

I remember coming into the U.S. Senate in 2000 and finding out that it wasn't until 2001—the first year I was here—that we actually had enough women in the Senate to have one woman on every committee, a woman's voice on every committee. It is incredible, actually, that it took until 2001. But this was an important milestone at the time, as together we have been able to achieve many different milestones for women's voices, and we see that continuing to happen.

I want to speak specifically about Catharine Fish Stebbins, a woman from Detroit who was one of those women who fought so hard at the very beginning and on whose shoulders we really stand. She may not have been as well known, but she was a suffragist and an abolitionist. She signed the Declaration of Sentiments at the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls in 1848.

One of the resolutions in that document said: "It is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to elective franchise," and she took that very seriously.

In 1871, accompanied by her husband, Catharine tried to register to vote. She was told no. She tried again, this time

accompanied by a friend who lived in another ward. That friend, Nannette B. Gardner, argued that she was a widow and a taxpayer and that she should be allowed to register. But Catharine was once again told no.

In 1872, she tried to register again. This time, she was told no, but she did get election officials to admit that, in their words, "Mrs. Stebbins would have all the required qualification of an elector, but for the fact of her being a woman."

Catharine never did get to cast a ballot before she died in 1904. Yet I believe she would be extremely proud of how far we have come as a country and how far we have come in Michigan.

Last November, Michigan elected a woman Governor—our second woman to be elected Governor—a woman secretary of state, a woman attorney general, reelected a woman to the U.S. Senate, and elected three new women Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. It was extraordinary.

That is progress, but in my mind, the real progress was that being women wasn't the story. We didn't win because of the novelty of having all of these women running for statewide office. We didn't win thanks to some "pink wave" that was talked about in the press. We didn't win because we focused on "women's issues" because, as we know, every issue is a woman's issue. Instead, each of us won because we were strong and qualified candidates who earned our nominations and ran forward-looking and positive campaigns focused on issues important to Michigan families. Everyone was judged on their own. People weren't talking about our gender and whether it was OK to have women in all of these top positions; instead, they were talking about our qualifications and who was the best candidate. To me, that is truly historic.

There is no question we still have a long way to go. Women now make a quarter of this Chamber. We are one out of four—a historic high. I think Catharine would agree with me that it should be at least 50 percent. That would be a good goal. I think we are maybe 54 percent of the voting population; that is good too.

On this 100th anniversary of women's right to vote, I am celebrating how far we have come and the women, like Catharine, who worked so very hard to get us here. Even more important, I think we all should recommit ourselves to the fight to move forward.

REMEMBERING THAD COCHRAN

Madam President, I would like to take one more minute to talk about a dear friend of mine who is no longer with us, who had a funeral yesterday and one today in Mississippi. I want to pay tribute to someone I was honored to call my friend, and I know that many other Members on both sides of the aisle feel exactly the same way.

Thad Cochran was the senior Senator from Mississippi, but he was so much more. He was a wonderful musician. I

have some very happy memories of joining him to play the boogie-woogie on the piano that was in his office. People couldn't believe that he actually not only had a piano, but he had a grand piano in his office. As someone who grew up in music, we immediately bonded over that, as two people who loved to play the piano.

He was a true gentleman. If he gave you his word, you knew for a fact that he would keep it. His honesty and integrity made him a joy to work with on the farm bill, as well as on so many other issues.

He was deeply devoted to public service, particularly fighting for his farmers, for cotton farmers and others in the delta, protecting the waters of the Mississippi Delta, and caring for Mississippi's children. As author of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, he helped provide healthy food for children and families from Biloxi to Battle Creek and everywhere in between.

Senator Cochran was a legislative legend in Mississippi, and he never stopped fighting for his beloved Magnolia State. He loved Mississippi, and I can tell you that Mississippi loved him right back. I had a chance to see this lifelong love affair up close when I visited Mississippi with Senator Cochran back in 2013. At the time, I was chair of the Agriculture Committee, and Senator Cochran was the ranking member. We were right in the middle of working on the farm bill, and I was invited to speak at the annual meeting of the Delta Council, which has been working to promote economic development in Northwest Mississippi since 1935.

I can tell you that you couldn't find a better Mississippi tour guide than Senator Cochran. I got to see the delta up close and listen to him talk about the waters, the conservation programs he was such a champion for, and the people who depend on them, in that soft drawl of his. Listening to him was like listening to poetry.

Senator Cochran certainly wasn't going to bring me all the way to Mississippi without stopping by a few holy sites of that American form of music called the blues. We visited the iconic Po' Monkey's Lounge in Merigold—one of the last rural juke joints in the State—and met its operator, a local farmer named Willie Seaberry. We also stopped by Clarksdale Crossroads, home of the Delta Blues Museum and the very spot where blues legend Robert Johnson said he sold his soul to the devil in exchange for songwriting success.

I will never forget the picnic by the Mississippi River that he and others hosted for me. If you have never been to a good old-fashioned Mississippi cookout, then I suggest you book a ticket right now. The only thing there was more of than food was southern hospitality. I might have been the token Yankee, but I was welcomed as one of their own.

At every stop along the way, Senator Cochran was just beaming with pride.

He couldn't have been more proud of his State, and they were always so proud of him.

At first glance, you might think we didn't have a lot in common. I am a northerner, and he was a southerner. We were from different political parties and different generations, but we both loved the blues and loved to play the piano. We were both passionate about agriculture and protecting the waters in our States, and we both deeply believed in bridging differences and working together to keep our country moving forward.

In his final speech on the Senate floor, Senator Cochran said this:

We have engaged in heated arguments. But even in full disagreement, I believe all our motivations begin at the same point: the sincere desire to serve our States and country.

Senator Cochran was always able to see the good in others, and I firmly believe that the Senate and our country would be a kinder, better place if more of us would follow his lead.

Senator Cochran was, above all, a statesman, and he was my friend. For that, I will always be grateful. I want to offer his family and friends and the entire State of Mississippi my deepest condolences.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today as part of our national celebration of the 100th anniversary of U.S. women's suffrage.

Now, 100 years ago today, on June 4, 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote. This hard-fought legislative victory would ensure women's full participation in our democracy.

On August 18 of 1920, women's suffrage became U.S. law. Now, some of the people watching may not know that Wyoming was actually more than 50 years ahead of the Nation when it came to women voting. That is a fact.

This year, people back home in Wyoming are celebrating both the 100th anniversary of the U.S. women's right to vote and the 150th anniversary of Wyoming women's right to vote. Wyoming truly is the Nation's trailblazer when it comes to women's equality.

Many people think of Wyoming as the Cowboy State, and that name honors our State's great western heritage, but Wyoming is also known as the Equality State—the first State in the Nation to grant women the right to vote, long before statehood, actually, because, on December 10, 1869, the Wyom-

ing territory passed the first law in the United States granting women the right to vote and to hold public office. The law meant full civil and judicial equality with men.

The following year, on September 6, 1870, Louisa Ann Swain, of Laramie, WY, became the first woman in the United States—in the history of the entire country—to vote in a general election.

Twenty years later, Wyoming reaffirmed its commitment to women's rights as we sought statehood. Wyoming, categorically, refused to enter the Union without the right for women to vote. When standing on principle became a major sticking point, Wyoming stuck to its guns on women's equality.

In fact, retaining women's right to vote was so essential that Charles Burritt, of Johnson County, a delegate to the Wyoming Constitutional Convention, famously declared: "If we cannot come into the union of states with a platform of right, why then we will stay out and willingly remain in a territorial form of government until all of us have passed away to the grave." That is how important this issue was to the people of my home State of Wyoming.

In Congress, Joseph Carey was here as a Wyoming delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. He presented the case for statehood in the House of Representatives. He emphasized the strong values of the people of Wyoming, values that included political parity between men and women. Members of Congress opposed to women's suffrage meanwhile argued strongly against Wyoming becoming a State. One Representative opposed to statehood even remarked—and I will quote him from the RECORD of the House of Representatives. He said: "Mr. Speaker, I do not hesitate to say that in my judgment the franchise has been too liberally extended." It is a Member of the House of Representatives arguing against allowing Wyoming to become a State.

Well, Wyoming, of course, won the debate narrowly. On March 26, 1890, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed the Wyoming statehood bill by a vote of 139 to 127. The measure passed the Senate a few months later, and then on July 10, 1890—that is the day we became a State—President Benjamin Harrison signed Wyoming's statehood into law, naming the 44th State the "Equality State"—not the "Cowboy State," not a "Western State" but the "Equality State." Let me just say that my State may have been the 44th State to enter the Union, but Wyoming will always be the first when it comes to women's rights.

Wyoming has declared 2019 as "The Year of Wyoming Women," and on December 10 of this year, Wyoming will celebrate Wyoming's Women's Suffrage Day. It is a time to pay tribute to Wyoming's many women trailblazers, such as Nellie Tayloe Ross, who was Wyoming's 14th Governor and the first

elected woman Governor in the United States.

Governor Nellie Tayloe Ross completed the term of her late husband, Governor William Ross, who had died suddenly in office. She showed great courage and resolve by then running for election—and she did this against the advice of close family and friends—and she won. On January 5, 1925, Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first U.S. woman to be sworn in as Governor, serving with distinction until 1927. She didn't stop there. Nellie Ross went on to become the first female Director of the United States Mint, serving five terms here in Washington from 1933 to 1953. She died in 1977 at the age of 101.

I want to recognize another Wyoming trailblazer today—educator Estelle Reel. Estelle Reel was the first woman elected to Wyoming's statewide office as the superintendent of public instruction. Only 1 year later, in 1895, she became the first woman confirmed by the U.S. Senate to a Federal position, the Superintendent of Indian Schools.

There are a few more Wyoming women firsts whom I would like to mention.

On March 7, 1870, Esther Hobart Morris was the first woman to serve on a jury. That jury was in Laramie, WY. She was also the first female justice of the peace, appointed on February 17, 1870.

In 1870, Wyoming's Mary Atkinson became our country's first female court bailiff.

Wyoming was also home to the first all-woman city government, elected in 1920 in Jackson, WY, and they are shown here in this photograph as Wyoming's trailblazing women. The Jackson Press dubbed them "the petticoat government."

Clearly, the people of Wyoming and all Americans owe an incredible debt of gratitude to the Nation's extraordinary women leaders, past and present, so this year, we celebrate those first laws that gave women the right to vote and ensured their full participation in our democracy.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. JONES. Madam President, before I get into my initial remarks, let me commend my colleague, the Senator from Wyoming. I didn't know about all of the Wyoming women having been first in women's issues. I congratulate that State, and I hope that, given the record number of women we have in this body and in the Congress of the United States, we will continue that march toward progress that Wyoming started over 150 years ago.

H.R. 2157

Madam President, today I rise to speak about a disaster so many of our American citizens have experienced over the last few months. I am not talking about the historic flooding that has taken place in the Midwest. I am not talking about the devastating