suffered more than 226,000 casualties, with nearly 73,000 killed or missing. They paid the ultimate price to save the world from tyranny, and their average age was 26 years old.

Etched in the pavement of the U.S. Armed Forces Memorial Garden in Normandy, France, are the words: ''From the heart of our land flows the blood of our youth, given to you in the name of freedom.'' Let us never forget the sacrifice of the greatest treasure this Nation has and what these men and women did for a free world and free people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, one of the things I have noticed over the years that I have given these climate speeches is that corporate engagement on climate change has been one-sided, let's just say. It is clear who my adversaries have been—Big Oil, the coal lobby, the Koch brothers, and some very powerful corporate trade associations—the American Petroleum Institute, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the most powerful of all, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, so-called. In my view, it is more properly called the U.S. Chamber of Carbon. These adversaries have managed a big-money campaign, first, to sow doubt about or outright deny climate change and, second, to block action in Congress and Federal agencies to limit carbon pollution.

The International Monetary Fund just estimated fossil fuel subsidies in the United States at $650 billion for 2015. Yes, that is ''billion'' with a ''b.'' When you are defending that kind of subsidy, you spare no expense, which explains the millions of dollars spent by the fossil fuel industry and its trade group cronies in opposing climate bills, in supporting phony climate denial front groups, and in funding election attacks against candidates who might try to limit carbon pollution.

While the fossil fuel industry has been running roughshod around Washington, the rest of corporate America has sat on its hands. Even companies with gauzy website offerings on climate and strong sustainability policies within the company have done virtually nothing to support climate action in Congress. I could name names, but that would make it a very long speech because, basically, everybody in corporate America has been absent here.

There are, at long last, signs that corporate America is waking up to the climate fight it has been losing in Washington. When and if corporate America finally engages in the serious support of climate action, Congress will, once again, spring to life. After a 10-year drought, we could again see bipartisan legislation to reduce carbon pollution.

Why this new spurt of corporate engagement on climate change?

Look at the avalanche of warnings about the financial risks climate change poses to the global economy. In just the last few months, here are some of the warnings: 34 central banks, including Canada's, France's, and England's; a group of major reinsurers; the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco; the investment giant BlackRock; EPA economists and scientists; the Urban Land Institute; the investment advisory firm Mercer; the European Central Bank; and the investment advisory firm Sarasin & Partners. All have separately warned about climate change's tanking the economy.

There are agricultural as well as financial warnings. In April, the big food companies—Danone, Mars, Nestle, and Unilever—announced that they would begin advocating for Federal action on climate change. They see the risk climate change poses to the world's agricultural and water supplies.

Their preferred solution? A price on carbon:

> Establish an ambitious carbon pricing system that sends a clear signal to the marketplace to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions aligned with the Paris Agreement goal to keep global temperature increase well below 2-degrees centigrade. An appropriate carbon pricing structure should be transparent in how prices are set, equitable in how revenue is appropriated to mitigate costs on the most vulnerable communities, and built to ensure our global competitiveness.

I fully agree.

Following on those food companies' heels, Microsoft announced that it, too, would begin advocating in Congress for Federal climate action. It joined the Climate Leadership Council—a group of economists, policymakers, businesses, and environmental groups—formed in 2017, to advance a price on carbon. Like the food companies, Microsoft sees a Federal price on carbon as the best policy to tackle climate change.

Then, in May, 13 more companies announced the CEO Climate Dialogue to advocate for climate action. Once again, these companies declared that they supported a price on carbon:

> An economy-wide price on carbon is the best way to use the power of the market to achieve carbon reduction goals, in a simple, coherent and efficient manner. We desire to do this at the least cost to the economy and households. Markets will also spur innovation, and create and preserve quality jobs in a growing low-carbon economy.

Note that last sentence: ''Markets will also spur innovation, and create and preserve quality jobs in a growing low-carbon economy.''

One of the weird things about all of the remorseless opposition to climate action out of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers is that there is a heck of a lot of commerce and a heck of a lot of manufacturing in climate change solutions. So why are they so against them? It is an anomaly but not the only anomaly in climate denial.

Republican colleagues who wax poetic about the free market seem not to notice this massive $650 billion subsidy for carbon pollution. That is a big thing not to notice if you are serious about the free market. The last gasp of climate obstruction here in Congress is to talk about innovation as the magic climate solution. Here is the rub: Without a clear market signal in the form of a price on carbon, there will be little incentive to innovate. How do you innovate away a $650 billion annual subsidy? How does the market work to reduce carbon pollution when carbon pollution is free? Innovations like carbon capture and storage aren't cheap. There is not much of a business case for these innovations—it is hard to see the revenue proposition—unless we put a price on carbon. Then innovation happens.

Am I wrong about market theory?

Let's go to Milton Friedman, the Nobel Prize-winning patron saint of market theory. He was unambiguous about pricing pollution.

He was asked: Was there a case for the government to do something about pollution?

He responded:

> Yes, there's a case for the government to do something. There's always a case for the government to do something about it . . . when what two people do affects a third party [ . . . ] But the question is, What's the best way to do it? And the best way to do it is not to have bureaucrats in Washington write rules and regulations. . . . The way to do it is to impose a tax on the cost of the pollutants . . . and make an incentive for . . . manufacturers and for consumers to keep down the amount of pollution.

So, yes, putting a price on pollution to give an incentive to innovation is core free market principle.

I happen to share that faith in the power of the market to drive innovation when the market is working. But it is not going to happen when the market is distorted by a $650 billion subsidy.

That is why I filed a carbon pricing bill to help correct that fossil fuel subsidy and balance the market, so those principles can go to work.

At the end of May, 75 companies came to Capitol Hill to advocate for carbon pricing. Together, those companies operate in all 50 States, have annual revenues over $2.5 trillion, and have a market value of nearly $2.5 trillion.

These companies met with dozens of lawmakers, both Democrats and Republicans, to make the case for a price on carbon—that it is the commonsense policy to dramatically reduce carbon pollution, drive the transition to a low carbon economy, and grow jobs and the economy. There is enormous economic and scientific support for that argument. There is little opposition to that argument or at least little opposition that can't be traced back to the mischief of the fossil fuel industry and its front groups. I hope my colleagues listened.

I also hope that other companies join in and help the American business community make climate action a

Washington, DC, priority. It can't just be talk. The fossil fuel industry isn't going to just walk away from a $650 billion annual subsidy. To offset the millions spent by the fossil fuel bandits defending their license to pollute for free is going to require some real effort on the part of corporate America.

It is also going to take corporate America getting control over the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers. The watchdog group InfluenceMap has analyzed business associations around the world. They found that the Chamber and NAM—the National Association of Manufacturers—are the worst—the worst—the most obstructive when it comes to climate action. Here they are, rock bottom: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers—tail end of the worst.

Why? Why are the Chamber and NAM the worst? If the majority of large companies in America support climate action, why do these two trade associations remain so opposed? Why are they the worst?

I strongly recommend that if you are a corporate member of one of these two organizations—if you are a corporate member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, if you are a corporate member of the National Association of Manufacturers—that you demand an audit—that you demand an audit of these trade associations' funding because here is what I expect you will find: You will find that while they had you out on the front porch as a prop for the neighbors to see, they were in the back room, secretly pocketing big money from fossil fuel interests to stop climate legislation. My belief is that the fossil fuel industry has given both the Chamber and NAM so much money that those two organizations have chumped—chumped—their member organizations by ignoring their views on climate in order to keep the money pouring in secretly from the fossil fuel industry.

The members are in a position to find out. Ask. Demand an audit. Find out if you have been chumped by the organizations you support.

This trade association obstruction by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers has to change, but it will not until these trade associations' member companies demand a stop to the obstruction and demand real support for carbon pricing.

Let me close with a word of warning. The alarms are ringing loudly. As one scientist recently said: ''The ocean is screaming.'' Financial crises loom. Our failure over the last three decades to address the climate crisis is a black mark against both our democracy and our system of free market capitalism. Creepy-crawly political subservience to fossil fuel interests has degraded American democracy, and free market capitalism is conspicuously failing to meet the climate challenge. That can change, but it has to change fast.

More than three decades ago, Representative Claudine Schneider and Senator John Chafee, both Republicans from Rhode Island, introduced comprehensive legislation to address climate change—from Republicans, three decades ago. Since then, the fossil fuel industry's campaign to obstruct climate progress has succeeded, but at a terrible price. Every day that we fail to address our climate crisis is a day that we mortgage our children's and our grandchildren's futures.

Through these long decades, the good guys in corporate America have been conspicuously absent. This recent activity makes me optimistic—optimistic that the business community seems to be finally stepping up and optimistic that bipartisanship can be restored.

Eyes are beginning to flutter open around here. Now it is time not just to wake up but to get to work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Ms. COLLINS. As the senior Republican woman in the Senate today, I am pleased to begin a series of speeches, along with my good friend from California, the senior Democratic woman Senator, Mrs. DIANNE FEINSTEIN, to commemorate a significant milestone in our Nation's history. One hundred years ago today, the Senate finally passed the 19th Amendment, which affirmed the right of women to vote in elections.

All of us recall that in 1775, as the Second Continental Congress was forging a new Nation conceived in liberty, Abigail Adams admonished her husband John to ''remember the ladies.'' Despite Abigail Adam's advice, it took nearly a century and a half for women to achieve their rightful place as full U.S. citizens.

On June 4, 1919, the U.S. Senate passed the 19th Amendment to our Constitution. The courage and determination exhibited by generations of women and men were rewarded in just two sentences:

> The rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

That is it. Those are the words of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote.

It is an honor today to join my 24 women Senate colleagues in cosponsoring a resolution commemorating this centennial. The yellow roses that we are wearing are a historic and enduring symbol of the victory that we celebrate today.

It has often been said, as Emerson put it, that ''there is properly no history; only biography.'' The story of women's suffrage is an anthology of remarkable biographies.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott led the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848. This marked the first time that American women formally demanded the vote. The convention produced the landmark Declaration of Sentiments. Using the Declaration of Independence as a template, it states: ''We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men and women are created equal.''

The early women's rights movement was closely linked to the abolition of slavery. Lucretia Mott made her position clear. She said:

> ''I have no idea of submitting tamely to injustice inflicted either on me or on the slave. I will oppose it with all the moral powers with which I am endowed.''

Among the most vigorous advocates of women's suffrage were those who knew too well the lash of oppression, the escaped slaves Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman.

Another very important incident in the march of history occurred in 1872. Susan B. Anthony and 14 other women in Rochester, New York, illegally voted in that year's Presidential election. They were promptly arrested. Susan B. Anthony was put on trial, convicted, and ordered to pay a fine of $100 or face imprisonment. Imagine—for voting.

She bravely refused, saying that she would never submit to this ''high-handed outrage upon my citizen's rights.'' The authorities wisely chose not to pursue collecting the fine.

Suffrage leaders realized that nothing short of a constitutional amendment would do—one modelled after the 15th Amendment, which granted the vote to all men regardless of race.

With new leaders—such as Carrie Chapman Catt and, later, Alice Paul—stepping forward, a strategy was developed to use every peaceful instrument to change the hearts and minds of political leaders and the public. In addition to marches, rallies, and petitions, they enlisted the power of the pulpit and the press in their just cause.

It took more than four decades for this strategy to succeed, and strong Maine women played key roles. Katherine Reed Balentine, the daughter of the legendary Speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas Brackett Reed, led the Maine Woman Suffrage Association. Author and activist Florence Brooks Whitehouse became a nationally known suffrage organizer and offered these words to opponents of this cause: ''This you must know; the world is mine, as yours.''

I am proud to report that when the 19th Amendment came to the Senate floor on that historic day, exactly 100 years ago, both of Maine's Senators, Republicans Bert Fernald and Frederick Hale, were among the 56 voting in favor. Following Senate passage, all

that remained was for 36 of the 48 States to vote for ratification.

Maine became the 19th State to ratify the 19th Amendment, but it wasn't easy. An earlier popular referendum on women's suffrage in Maine got clobbered at the polls by a margin of nearly 2 to 1. Of course, women were not allowed to vote on their own future, which obviously skewed the results.

Recognizing the inherent unfairness of the situation, Maine's Republican Governor, Carl Milliken, called an emergency session of the State legislature and ushered the measure through by a vote of 72 to 68.

By the summer of 1920, only one more State was needed to reach the magic number of 36. The Nation's eyes were on the State of Tennessee, where the amendment was before the legislature. The outlook was discouraging. After two rollcall votes, suffrage opponents, who wore red roses on their lapels, were in a dead heat with the yellow rose supporters. If the measure failed to pass in Tennessee, the 19th Amendment would not be ratified.

At the last possible moment, the youngest Tennessee lawmaker, Harry Burn, despite the red rose that he wore—which indicated you were in opposition—cast his vote in favor of ratification.

After evading an angry mob by climbing out of a third floor window in the Maine Capitol Building and hiding in the attic, Representative Burn explained that he changed his mind after he received a letter from his mother, telling him: ''Don't forget to be a good boy'' and to do the right thing.

I am sure the Presiding Officer is very familiar with this story.

One of my inspirations in public service, Maine Senator Margaret Chase Smith, once addressed the question of what is a woman's proper place. Her famous short answer was this: ''Everywhere.''

The rest of her answer describes the importance of the struggle and the success that we celebrate today. She said: ''If there is any proper place for women today, it is that of alert and responsible citizens in the fullest sense of the word.''

It is a great pleasure to join my colleagues—particularly the senior Democratic woman Senator, DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California—in saluting those great, courageous, and persistent women who, over many long decades and through much difficulty, guided our Nation to that proper place by giving women the long, overdue right to be full citizens in this country—the right to vote.

Madam President, it is now my great pleasure to yield to my friend and distinguished colleague, Senator FEINSTEIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I want to thank my distinguished colleague from the great State of Maine. Thank you so much, Susan. Thank you for your work here, for your care, for your concern, and for your vigilance on all issues that affect women. Thank you so much.

Madam President, I am very proud to join SUSAN COLLINS and all of my colleagues on the floor today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Congress's passing the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Before the 19th Amendment, women were actually denied the same basic civil rights as men. We were not allowed to attend a college. We could not become doctors, lawyers, or politicians. Married women had no right to property, and even though women were required to follow the law, they had no say in electing their lawmakers.

Simply put, women were second-class citizens. So it is against this backdrop that the women's suffrage movement took shape decades ago to fight to achieve equality for us, and the fight began at the polls.

In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson faced a tough reelection campaign. At the time, 12 States allowed women to vote. The newly formed Women's Party campaigned forcefully in most States against Wilson because of his strong opposition to women's suffrage. As a result, women voted against Wilson by notable margins, causing the first known gender gap in a Presidential election.

Although Woodrow Wilson ultimately won a second term, the Women's Party made clear that they were a force to be reckoned with. I could not be more proud of the suffragists who fought for decades to secure our right to vote and laid the groundwork for a woman's right to hold office. It is because of fearless, hardworking women like Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and Dorothy Day that I stand here today on the floor of the Senate representing the largest State in the Union, California.

In the first elections held after the 19th Amendment was ratified, women won public office in 23 States. Today, women are represented in all levels of government—Federal, State, and local.

In 1992, the first year I was elected to the Senate, a historic number of women won elected office. Twenty-four new women were elected to the U.S. House of Representatives that year, and four women—Senators MURRAY, Boxer, Mosley-Braun, and I—were elected to the Senate. Last year, nearly a century after Congress passed the 19th Amendment, women set another record with 102 women serving in Congress and 3 more holding seats on the U.S. Supreme Court. So women are still shattering the glass ceilings.

In 2014, Janet Yellen became the first woman to lead the Federal Reserve. In 2016, Hillary Clinton became the first woman to be nominated by a major political party for President of the United States. And just this year, after being elected the first female Speaker of the House in 2007, NANCY PELOSI became the first woman to be reelected Speaker of the House.

Last Congress, I became the first woman to serve as the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. This is especially significant for me because I was inspired by Anita Hill's testimony before the all-male Senate Judiciary Committee to run for this office.

Even though there are more women in leadership positions across industries, there is still work to be done. According to the American Association of University Women, in 2017 women earned between 77 cents and 53 cents for every dollar earned by men.

SUSAN COLLINS, we still have a long way to go, it seems to me.

In addition, women continue to face discrimination and harassment at school and in the office, as well as high rates of sexual violence.

Before I close, I would like to address an issue that has unfortunately been in the news quite a bit lately; that is, the latest attacks on women's health and reproductive rights. We should not forget what Justice Ginsburg told the Senate Judiciary Committee during her confirmation hearings in 1992. I was there, and here is what she said:

> The decision whether or not to bear a child is central to a woman's life, to her well-being and dignity. It is a decision she must make for herself. When Government controls that decision for her, she is being treated as less than a fully adult human responsible for her own choices.

In the past month, six States have passed blatantly unconstitutional laws that effectively ban abortion, even in cases of rape and incest. These new restrictions are especially concerning in light of the new conservative majority on the Supreme Court, which has long signaled its opposition to women's reproductive rights. Just last month, in a case challenging abortion restrictions in Indiana, Justice Thomas authored an opinion comparing contraceptives to eugenics and demonstrated a clear hostility to Griswold and Roe. Between the Indiana case, the various unconstitutional State laws, and other reproductive rights cases on the Court's docket, many legal observers believe Roe today remains in jeopardy.

As a U.S. Senator, I will continue fighting for equal rights for women, and I will honor the legacy of women who blazed the trail. I am honored to recognize those women and the progress we have made as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of Congress passing the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I thank the Senator from California for her remarks and yield time now to the Senator from Illinois, Ms. DUCKWORTH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I come to the floor today to honor some of the Founders of our Nation who all too often don't get their due—

Founders whose gender or skin tone may not be represented on Mount Rushmore but whose brilliance, whose resilience, helped ensure that the democracy we have today is strong and true.

This democracy wasn't just built by George Washington or Thomas Jefferson. It wasn't perfected in the 18th century when the ink dried on the four original pages of the Constitution.

It was shaped by women like Abigail Adams, whom I named my first daughter after. It was strengthened by suffragists like Sojourner Truth, who worked tirelessly to better the country that had kept her in chains, who used her emancipation to call for freedom and a voice for all women—Black, White, you name it. It was formed by Illinoisans like Ida B. Wells, who demanded that women of color have a place at the forefront of the suffrage movement. It was forged by women like Mary Livermore, who channeled her frustration over women's inequality into action, spearheading Chicago's first-ever suffrage convention 150 years ago and marking Illinois as a leader in the fight for women's rights.

Our democracy was sharpened by a group of Illinoisans who traveled to Washington, DC, in 1913, joining thousands of other women in their march down Pennsylvania Avenue—protesters who were vilified, berated, jostled, tripped, and even jailed but who withstood it all to call for a constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote.

This Union was made more perfect when the 19th Amendment finally passed Congress 100 years ago today.

These women raised their voices on the picket lines so that we could make ours heard at the polls. They risked safety and security, withstood hypocrisy and overcame misogyny, refusing to stay silent so that their daughters and their daughters' daughters would inherit the democracy they deserved. For that, we are forever in their debt.

Of course, every American's right to vote wasn't truly secured that day in 1919, nor was it secured later that week, when Illinois became one of the first States to ratify the amendment, or in 1965, when Lyndon B. Johnson picked up a pen and signed the Voting Rights Act into law.

It still is not secure today—not when voter suppression tactics still block so many people of color from the ballot, when voter roll purges are still common and some in power are still fighting to install modern-day poll taxes.

So we can't get complacent. What began at Seneca Falls continues with us today, as it now falls to our generation to keep alive the work of yesterday's suffragists, to keep pushing for bills like the Voting Rights Advancement Act to ensure that bigoted State laws don't disenfranchise any American. It falls on us to keep fighting for that more perfect Union, to keep making our voices heard—whether that is here on the Senate floor or anywhere else—so that finally, some day soon, every American can make theirs heard at the ballot box.

I yield the floor.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, 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.

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

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

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I recognize the Senator from Alaska, Ms. MURKOWSKI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I rise today to join my colleagues as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the date Congress sent to the States this question: the ratification of a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote.

Our ancestors have long sought the promise of a better life for themselves and their children. Many of our forebearers came to this country seeking religious liberty, economic security, or personal freedom.

Since 1788, they were drawn to the promise of these words: ''We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.''

Today, most in this body and across the country would agree that a woman's full participation in the life of her community and Nation are crucial if the promise laid out in our Constitution's preamble is ever to be fully realized.

But in 1788 and for many years thereafter, women could not own property, could not open a bank account on their own, or even control the money that they earned through their own work. They could not control their destiny or, indeed, their own bodies. Justice, tranquility, the general welfare, and the blessings of liberty were, for women, what men said they were.

That all began to change on June 4, 1919, the date when finally, after so many years of struggle and failure, the required number of Senators voted aye for House Joint Resolution 1, ''proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women.'' It was very simple yet intensely powerful, a resolution with just one article that read:

> The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

That remarkable moment, we know, did not come easily. For decades, women across America sought the promise of our Nation for themselves and their daughters. They were subjected to insults and ridicule and, sometimes, even imprisonment and violence.

In 1906, an editorial in the New York Times defined the word ''suffragette'' as a ''demanding screecher'' and ''a woman who ought to have more sense.'' Walking in parades in support of the right to vote, women had insults and worse hurled at them. Suffragists were physically attacked.

Beginning in June of 1917, it got much worse. Here in Washington, DC, police began arresting women who were picketing the White House in support of suffrage for ''obstructing sidewalk traffic.'' Throughout the summer and into the fall, women who refused to pay the fine were sent to the Women's Workhouse in Lorton, VA, or the district jail, where conditions were deplorable. Rats ran free in the prison. The food was infested with maggots. Alice Paul, a leader of the National Woman's Party, and about 71 other women began a hunger strike while in jail and for months suffered force-feeding of raw eggs in milk through nasal gastric tubes. In November, 33 of the imprisoned suffragists were beaten by guards by order of the prison superintendent. One woman's hands were handcuffed high above her head on the prison door for an entire night. Some were left unconscious.

Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe, Ida B. Wells, Mary Church Terrell, Alice Paul, and others are widely known as suffragist leaders. There were millions of others across the country doing what they could in their own families, in their own communities and States, to advance women's rights. They marched, protested, sewed flags and banners, and spoke up at home and in their hometowns.

In the following 100 years since the Senate sent the women's right to vote to the States for ratification, the right to vote gave women the power to change their lives and to impact our Nation in so many positive and profound ways. As a result, our Nation has made incredible strides.

Today, in 2019, it may be difficult for some to imagine an America without women leaders in every conceivable endeavor. Amazing women have contributed to our Nation in countless ways, both large and small. We have moved from the horse and buggy era to putting a man on the moon, but man would not have gotten there and back without women mathematicians and engineers.

While few colleges admitted women a century ago, by 1980 more women than men earned bachelor's degrees. Since 1919, women are able to enter any profession for which they are qualified, keep their own wages, start and run corporations, lead scientific and medical advances, and fly into space. Women have the right to be heard in

the Halls of Congress and in their children's schools. We are allowed to determine the guilt or innocence of an accused and volunteer as poll workers. We can inherit property, run the Iditarod, and become mayors and Governors. And we can not only run for office, but we can vote for ourselves.

Women can do anything we put our minds to, but if it had not been for the right to vote—the basic, legal right to be recognized—would we be where we are today? Would we have women like Sandra Day O'Connor, Condoleezza Rice, Christiane Amanpour, or Sally Ride? Would we have the benefit of the voices of countless American women who share their views with Congress because they know that their opinions—backed up by their votes—matter on issues as varied as childcare, climate change, and national security? Would the young women of today have the faith that they really can do anything they set their minds to? Maybe not.

I rise today to call on all Americans to commemorate this day, to remember all those who made it possible, and to honor them by recognizing that the right to vote, to be heard, and to be valued is a precious right. It has not always been implemented fairly, and it must be guarded and defended.

As we look to honor the past, we must also acknowledge that, like our ancestors, we have more progress to make. Gaining the right to vote was the first step toward full equality. Despite the passage of the Civil Rights Act, which makes discrimination on the basis of sex illegal, and despite the Equal Pay Act and the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, our Constitution gives us the right to vote but does not protect us from discrimination.

So in the spirit of women who fought for the rights of women who would come after them, I hope the Senate will pass S.J. Res. 6 to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. That will be something we will bring up at another point in time. But today, I am able to stand with my friends and my colleagues here in the Senate as we recognize and honor those who paved the way and have allowed for this right to vote, that right and value to be heard.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Alaska for her eloquent comments.

I now yield to Senator MURRAY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, 150 years ago, in Washington State, a suffragette named Mary Olney Brown went to vote, and like so many others at the time, her vote was rejected. Why? Because she was a woman. She said: ''The idea of a woman voting was regarded as an absurdity.''

Fifty years later, thanks to the tireless efforts of women like Mary Olney Brown, that longstanding injustice finally began to change when this Chamber passed the 19th Amendment to guarantee women's right to vote.

Today, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of that important milestone in the march for equality, it is inspiring to see how far women have come over the last century. When we passed the 19th Amendment, there was only one woman in Congress—Jeannette Rankin. Before I ran for the Senate in 1992, there were two women Senators. I was very proud to join the Senate in 1993 and to join with Senator Barbara Mikulski, who is here today, and we became six women in the Senate. Today, there are 25 women serving in the Senate and 102 in the House of Representatives. Today, women are Governors, Fortune 500 CEOs, Nobel Prize-winning researchers, and candidates for President.

It is clear we have come a long way, but we still have more work to do. Women may have more representation, but we still make up less than a quarter of Congress. Women of color are still particularly underrepresented. And we still have some ceilings left to crack. Women are still paid less than men for the same work, and the same gap is even wider for women of color. Women still bear most of the burden of being a working parent, especially when so many lack access to affordable childcare and paid family leave. Nearly 50 years after Roe v. Wade was decided, women are still fighting to defend their right to make their own decisions about their own bodies.

These injustices even extend to voting rights. Even after the 19th Amendment was ratified, many women of color were still denied the right to vote by discriminatory barriers designed to keep them from the ballot box. Today, there are still far too many States that have put into effect voter-suppression efforts that disproportionately hurt communities of color, like harsh voter ID laws, limits on early voting, polling machines, voting locations, and ''exact match'' requirements that make it easy to purge someone from the voter rolls due to a typo.

After all the years women spent fighting for their right to vote, it is unacceptable that these kinds of efforts would strip that right away from anyone, which is why we need to pass legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act to its full power to protect the rights of voters across our country.

While there is still a lot of work ahead to make good on the promise of the 19th Amendment and make sure that everyone in our country who is entitled to vote is actually able to vote and that every woman is able to exercise all of her rights under our Constitution, I am confident we can get there, and I want to say why.

After 2016, I watched as women across the country stood up, spoke out, and fought back. I saw as much energy as I have seen in my lifetime as women joined together against countless different efforts to roll back the clock on their rights. I saw millions of women turn out to march for their rights, and then I saw millions of women turn out to exercise those rights last November. And what happened? They broke records and barriers across the country, and afterwards, several States started breaking down some of the barriers that were put up to block people from voting. I believe that momentum is going to continue to build, especially as women continue to reach out to other women to build a bigger and more inclusive coalition.

So today, as we celebrate the Senate vote to pass the 19th Amendment, I want to not only remember how hard women fought to get that right to vote but to promise that we are going to keep fighting just as hard to protect it for everyone in this country, and then we are going to keep using it to fight hard for the change we want to see in our communities.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for her good remarks today.

I am very pleased to yield time to the Senator from Tennessee, Mrs. BLACKBURN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Maine for her leadership in today's activity as we commemorate the Senate's action in passing the 19th Amendment and sending that to the States for ratification.

It is amazing to think that it was 100 years ago today—today—that women in this country still did not have the right to vote. When we think about Nashville, TN, today, we are thinking about country music, bachelorette parties, pro-sports; in the summer of 1920, Nashville, TN, was the focus of individuals on both sides of the debate over women's suffrage because that summer was the final push to get the 19th Amendment ratified so that women would forever have the right to vote. Suffragists from all across the country looked to Tennessee in that last-ditch effort to pass an amendment before the 1920 Presidential elections.

As it all came together and as everybody was coming into Nashville—you had the red roses on one side and the yellow roses on the other side—the battle was heating up. The Tennessee House of Representatives had been called back into a special session so that they could debate this issue: Would women receive the right to vote? Would Tennessee agree to vote for ratification of the 19th Amendment?

The pro and anti suffragists flooded that city. Those who opposed enfranchisement, wearing those red roses, went to extreme lengths to prevent a vote. At one point, legislators actually fled the State to prevent a quorum.

They left the State so they would not have to say where they stood on the issue of women having the right to vote. But let me tell you, against those Tennessee women, against suffragists from across the country, all wearing their yellow roses, those legislators never stood a chance.

You have all heard of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, but let me introduce you to a few more of those fierce female fighters from the summer of 1920. There was Anne Dallas Dudley from Nashville, who was really quite an organizer; Abby Crawford Milton; Sue Shelton White from West Tennessee; and, as has been mentioned, Ida B. Wells, who was from Memphis. They are all Tennesseans who fought tirelessly on behalf of suffrage and brought the State's house of representatives to that fateful vote on August 18, 1920.

The Senator from Maine talked a moment earlier about a young legislator, the youngest member of the House of Representatives in the State of Tennessee. His name was Harry T. Burn. Harry was from Niota, TN. He was a freshman house of representatives member. He switched his vote from nay to yea, broke a tie, and made history. As the Senator from Maine said, he did it because of a letter written to him by his mother, who reminded him that he should be a good boy and help Ms. Catt—Carrie Chapman Catt—put the ''rat'' in ''ratification.'' He did, and so it was official: Tennessee had become the 36th and final State needed for ratification of the 19th Amendment.

That journey from Seneca Falls, NY, to Nashville, TN, was hard-fought. Sometimes we don't think about how long it took. It was a 72-year journey—72 years—from the Seneca Falls Convention to that final vote in Nashville, TN.

Think about this: The women who started this push for women's suffrage were not alive to see it become the law of the land and become a constitutionally guaranteed right. And the women who voted in that 1920 Presidential election, many—most of them were not even alive when the fight began. But the women who started the fight did it because they knew that women receiving the right to vote was a worthy fight. Today, we owe them so much gratitude for the work they did 100 years ago today in pushing this through the U.S. Senate.

My colleague, Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND of New York, has joined me in working to pass the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemorative Coin Act. We are doing that here in the Senate, and in the House, two of our colleagues—Representative ELISE STEFANIK from New York and BRENDA LAWRENCE—have introduced a companion bill.

The legislation authorizes the Treasury to mint silver coins honoring the work of women suffrage activists. The coins will be issued in 2020, which also marks the centennial anniversary of the passage, the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Proceeds from sales of the coin will support the important work of the Smithsonian Institution's American Women's History Initiative.

It is my hope that because of this, more young women will look to history for guidance and feel very proud of what they learn about the women suffragists, that the little girl who is following her mom into the voting booth will begin to understand and appreciate why so many women are standing in line at the polls to cast their vote, and that women who want to change things in their community or their State or their country will stop waiting for someone else to take the lead and will realize they are empowered to do this because of actions that were taken over 100 years ago.

In 1916, famed suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt stood before the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and she declared:

> The time has come to shout aloud in every city, village, and hamlet, and in tones so clear and jubilant that they will reverberate from every mountain peak and echo from shore to shore: The Woman's Hour has struck.

Indeed, the woman's hour did strike and shout, these ladies did.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Tennessee for giving us such a great history lesson, and I appreciate her remarks.

Next on our list of speakers is Senator ERNST followed by Senator SHAHEEN.

I yield to Senator ERNST of Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I thank Senator COLLINS and Senator FEINSTEIN for arranging this afternoon's visit on the floor of the U.S. Senate. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to come to the floor today to recognize the courageous and determined women behind the women's suffrage movement.

These trailblazing women, and countless more like them, paved the way for women in my home State of Iowa and across the Nation to have the right to vote. They forged a path for women like me and all of my absolutely remarkable female colleagues joining me on the Senate floor today.

On this 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, it is easy to think of these courageous women as institutions and visions of strength and perseverance, and that is absolutely what those women are.

They were also once young girls and young women seeking to understand the answer to simple questions like: Why can't my mother vote in an election? Why can't I pursue my dreams?

All too often, the response back then to these questions was simply to tell women that politics and government were too complicated or important for our gender to have a role in it. ''Best leave it to the men to figure out these tough matters.'' That is what they would say.

I think the 127 women in Congress this year would have something very different to say about that. To be honest, I don't know if the suffragettes completely understood the tremendous impact their efforts would have now a century later.

They secured more than just the right to vote. The passage of the 19th Amendment has led to immeasurable progress in the right for women's equality on all fronts. I see their spirit in the girls and women, young and old, I meet each and every day in my job as a U.S. Senator.

I was recently at a women's networking event where Gen. Jennifer Walter, the first female Iowa Air Guard general in the Iowa National Guard, talked about her career options when she graduated high school over four decades ago. They were very limited, to say the least. She could be a typist or work in a clerking job in the Air Force or she could be a nurse. Those were the options that were open to her, but General Walter is not one to be boxed in.

She decided to forge her own path forward. That led her to the Air National Guard, first in Kansas and then in my home State of Iowa. There were still plenty of obstacles, but she was unwavering. Walter was going to prove she belonged and could reach her full potential.

Even in my own life, I have benefited from the hard work and the commitment of these women trailblazers. That is especially clear when I look back on my 23 years of service in the Army Reserve and the Iowa Army National Guard.

When I joined the service after college, there were no opportunities for women in combat. By 2003, I was a company commander leading supply convoys in combat zones in Iraq. Like me, hundreds of women were serving the cause of freedom, and some were even paying the ultimate price for our Nation. Yet women could not even formally serve in combat fields or occupations until 2013.

Now I look at my daughter, Libby, as she prepares to enter her second year at West Point, and she also considers entering combat arms. She has so many opportunities ahead of her because of the strong women that came before her.

It is truly an honor to be in the company of so many remarkable women on the Senate floor today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote, and it is all the more fitting that we do so during a time when there are more women serving in the U.S. Senate than any other time in history.

We come from every imaginable background and from every corner of our great and beautiful country. I will continue to challenge every one of our

young women today who are contemplating serving our country in government or in the armed services to say yes and to jump into that arena. We are a better nation because of the contributions of women in all walks of life and in all fields of service and in both Chambers of Congress.

Again, I offer my great thanks to Senator SUSAN COLLINS and Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California for the opportunity to speak today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, before I yield to my friend and neighbor from New Hampshire, I recognize, in the back of the Chamber, a truly extraordinary woman, an outstanding former U.S. Senator who served in this Chamber from 1987 to 2017, some 30 years, Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland. She has served on the Commission that has worked very hard to make sure we commemorate this centennial of women's suffrage, and she has been a mentor and friend to all of us who had the pleasure of serving with her.

I welcome Senator Mikulski back to the U.S. Senate, which was her home for so many years and where she still has so many friends and admirers, of whom I count myself one.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair counts himself one as well.

Ms. COLLINS. The Chair is a very wise man.

Now I yield to Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I thank my neighbor and friend, Senator COLLINS, and Senator FEINSTEIN—the two of them for organizing this afternoon's conversation on the floor in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment.

I also begin by recognizing Senator Mikulski, who was such a trailblazer for so many women. I remember being a young woman involved in politics in the late eighties in New Hampshire right after she was elected to the Senate, and she came up and spoke to us. At the time, I was not sure there was ever an opportunity for a woman in New Hampshire to go anywhere, and listening to her made me realize there were opportunities for women everywhere, and we need to take advantage of them, so I thank Senator Mikulski.

Today we celebrate not only the passage of the 19th Amendment but the countless women who fought for decades before 1919 so that women would one day realize the full rights protected under the Constitution.

As so many of my colleagues have said, we remember women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, who organized the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls in 1848; Susan B. Anthony, who took up the fight following the first convention, and Harriet Tubman, Ida Wells, and Sojourner Truth, who worked tirelessly for women's rights all while battling the forces of slavery and racism. These women and so many others faced extraordinary obstacles as they protested, marched, lobbied, and, at times, sacrificed their own freedom so women could one day secure the right to vote.

The leaders of the women's suffrage movement understood the fundamental truth; that the rights protected under the Constitution are merely privileges if they are not enjoyed by everyone in our society.

As Susan B. Anthony put it in 1873, ''It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; not yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union. And we formed it, not to give the blessings of liberty, but to secure them; not to the half of ourselves . . . . but to the whole people—women as well as men.''

The suffrage movement was, of course, an effort to achieve political equality for women, but it was also an effort to secure a more perfect Union by giving life to the ideals laid out in our founding documents. This pursuit for equality continues today, and it is in the spirit of our trailblazers that women carry on the fight for full equality under the law.

It is in that spirit that we are here this afternoon on the floor of the Senate to talk about the importance of carrying on the tradition of our Founding Mothers. These figures are an important part of our history, and because of the generations of women they inspired, their legacy lives on today. We must remember their stories and honor their sacrifices. Those sacrifices have helped shape the identity of our Nation, and it is why we celebrate these women in the same regard as we have our Founding Fathers. It is why the issue, for me, of keeping a promise to redesign the $20 bill with the likeness of Harriet Tubman is so important.

The United States was not shaped exclusively by men, and our living history, which our currency is a part of, should reflect that because the symbols that we have for our country matter.

Leaders of the women's suffrage movement rose from communities across this country, but today I would like to recognize one of the pioneers of that movement from my own State of New Hampshire, Armenia S. White.

Armenia spent most of her life in Concord, NH, which is our capital. She was active in the community, including supporting the abolitionist and temperance movements, but the cause for which she was most passionate was securing the vote for women.

Armenia was the first signer of the call for an equal suffrage convention in New Hampshire, which was held in Concord in 1868. She was also the first president of the New Hampshire Woman Suffrage Association, a position that she held for nearly 50 years. When the time came for New Hampshire to send a delegate to the American Woman Suffrage Association, organized in Cleveland, Armenia was selected and served in that position for decades.

Armenia's efforts in New Hampshire were largely responsible for the decisions by the State legislature in 1871 and 1878 to make women eligible to serve on school committees. I think it is interesting that we were eligible to serve on school committees before we were eligible to serve in the legislature. But, nevertheless, not only did she help women become eligible to serve on school committees, but she secured women a vote in local school district elections.

Sadly, Armenia never lived to see women secure the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment, but her efforts to improve equality in New Hampshire and throughout the Nation left an enduring impact on the movement. It is an impact that, as the first woman elected to be Governor of New Hampshire and then elected to be Senator there, I have benefited from. I feel a deep sense of gratitude to Armenia and to so many women who came before me for forging a path so that women could one day serve in public office and so that one day we could vote.

Alice Paul, the leader of the women's suffrage movement, once described women's suffrage saying:

> I always feel the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end.

As we recognize and celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment, we must remember that there is still so much work to do, and even the smallest stones contribute to this great mosaic.

I thank the Presiding Officer and thank again my colleagues, Senator COLLINS and Senator FEINSTEIN, for leading this effort.

We still have a lot of work to do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from New Hampshire, and it is now my pleasure to yield time to the Senator from Nebraska, Mrs. FISCHER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I, too, would like to thank the senior Senator from Maine and the senior Senator from California for organizing the colloquy we are having on the floor today in recognition of a very historic moment.

To have Senator COLLINS be a leader here in the U.S. Senate has been just a wonderful experience for me and to share with her the last 7 years that I have been here. She is truly a leader, and she is a mentor to both men and women here in the Senate. I always tell people, if you want to see a true legislator, you need to watch SUSAN COLLINS.

Mr. President, I rise today with great honor and pride to join my colleagues in recognizing the 100th anniversary of

the Senate passage of the 19th Amendment, which did pave the way for women's constitutional right to vote in this country. Today we celebrate this historic milestone, and we honor the suffragists, women of courage who were pioneers and leaders.

These women who fought for their God-given right to vote in the greatest democracy the world has ever seen must be remembered. Nearly 100 years ago, with picket signs in hand, Alice Paul led hundreds of brave suffragists to the White House to advocate for the essential role of women's right to vote in this Republic.

Today, almost a century later, women make up half of the electorate. According to the Pew Research Center, more women voted than men in the 2018 elections.

As I stand today in this Chamber alongside the women of the Senate, I am so grateful for the strength of the women who came before us. On this historic day, I would like to reflect on some of Nebraska's strong and very influential women who have made a difference. Susette LaFlesche Tibbles served as a translator for Chief Standing Bear during his famous speech when he fought for Native Americans to keep their land. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather is renowned for her work chronicling life on the Great Plains. And biographer, historian, and teacher Mari Sandoz invested in the next generation of creative writers.

I also think of women in politics from my home State of Nebraska who inspired me to serve my community, my State, and my country. I think of Kay Orr, Nebraska's first female Governor and the first female Republican Governor in the United States. I think of Virginia Smith, my congressional Representative and the first woman from Nebraska to hold a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Let's not forget the stories of the suffragists and all of the women throughout our Nation's history whose courage and brilliance changed the world. It is because of them that we stand today in the hallowed Chamber of the U.S. Senate, with a record number of women serving in Congress and record numbers of women exercising their constitutional right to vote. We will never forget the path that brought us here today and the pioneers who fought for the rights of millions of women to participate in the core function of our Republic.

I encourage my Senate colleagues to swiftly pass the resolution before us today, and I hope in doing so that it serves as encouragement and inspiration for future generations of women who will continue to write America's story.

Thank you again to Senators COLLINS and FEINSTEIN and to all of my colleagues for sharing their stories, their past, and their future vision for this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Nebraska for her very kind comments and her eloquent remarks, and I am now pleased to yield time to the Senator from Wisconsin, Ms. BALDWIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator COLLINS.

I rise today proudly wearing a yellow rose in solidarity with 24 other women who serve in the U.S. Senate to recognize what is a very historic milestone in our Nation's history. Almost 100 years ago, after decades and decades of struggle by brave women and men, our Nation finally extended to women the most fundamental right of our democracy—the right to vote. The struggle for women's suffrage was fought in every corner of our country, and communities all over the Nation are planning to recognize their contributions over the next year.

Today marks precisely 100 years to the day that the Senate passed the 19th Amendment. I am proud to state that a week later, on June 10, 1919, Wisconsin became the first State in our Union to ratify the 19th Amendment. I am always proud to say that my home State was the very first to ratify women's right to vote, narrowly beating our neighbor to the south, the State of Illinois, because of a paperwork error. You know, we are still first. I am especially happy that I will forever have bragging rights over my friend from Illinois, the co-chair of the Senate caucus, Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH, because Illinois wasn't quite quick enough and Wisconsin did it first.

I am also proud today to wear a purple ribbon. This ribbon is in recognition of the women of color who fought and marched alongside their White colleagues in the suffrage movement but whose contributions went largely unsung and many of whom were still denied the right to vote after the 19th Amendment was ratified.

As we observe and celebrate this historic moment, we must be careful not to mistake progress for victory. With just 131 women currently serving in Congress, we are well short of equal representation in government. Government works best when legislatures reflect the people they work for—when they look like America. That is why it is important to increase the number of women who serve in public office. Women are half the population. We should be half of our Nation's government, too.

When I first entered public service, I had the opportunity to sit on the Madison City Council. I remember well a meeting when I had one of those light bulb moments of the difference that women make when we serve.

The city council that day was debating whether to extend service and add an additional bus route that went directly to the Madison Area Technical College's new campus. I remember listening to my male colleagues and their participation in the debate. There was a lot of focus on funding and logistics and finger pointing at which body in government should bear this responsibility. At first, they didn't seem to think that the city council should take action to add another bus route.

Then I began hearing the voices of my female colleagues. They began speaking of and describing their experience traveling to campus. They spoke about evening classes and having to walk a long distance down a poorly lit road to get to the nearest bus stop. They spoke about the dangers of walking home alone at night. Most women can identify with the fear of walking or commuting home late at night. It seemed that the men in the debate hadn't thought about it in the same way before that moment. The whole debate changed as soon as women's voices were heard, and the city council ultimately voted to fund a new route that went right to the campus door.

Women bring their life experiences to the job. It helps inform our debate, our votes, and the policies that we deliver. My experience with the women of the U.S. Senate, past and present, is that they ran for office and came to Washington to solve problems. I feel like we are guided by the idea that our job is to work together and to get things done. That is what we do, both Democrats and Republicans, as we work together to deliver solutions.

I worked with my colleague Senator SUSAN COLLINS to pass legislation to better support the more than 40 million family caregivers in this country who contribute millions of dollars each year in uncompensated care for their loved ones. I worked with my colleague Senator JONI ERNST to pass legislation to provide our Nation's farmers and agricultural workers with the mental health resources they need to deal with the extreme economic stress that our farmers have faced in recent years. I worked with my colleague Senator LISA MURKOWSKI to pass legislation that will bring more obstetricians to rural areas and expand access to maternity care to women so they no longer have to drive hours to get the healthcare they need or to deliver their babies.

I appreciate these partnerships and the many others that I have been able to experience, and I look forward to continuing to work together on a bipartisan basis to deliver results for the American people. With more women in public office, you will see more solutions to the challenges and problems we face. Women get stuff done.

In 2017, I was proud to lead bipartisan legislation to establish the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and ensure that we give this important anniversary the recognition and celebration it deserves. I am thrilled to say that the Commission is now hard at work in developing, supporting, and

lifting up commemorative efforts across this country. It is working with private organizations and government at every level to encourage and help facilitate their events.

I give a particularly heartfelt thank-you to my friend and former Senator Barbara Mikulski, who helped to get the Commission started and is now actually serving as a Commissioner.

I look forward to seeing the great work of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission as we get closer to the formal anniversary celebration of when the 19th Amendment finally became part of our Nation's charter.

I am grateful today for the brave women who came before us and fought for the right of all American women to have a say in their own government. Thanks to their struggle, their persistence, and their determination to bring women the right to vote, I stand here today as one of 25 women who serves in the U.S. Senate and represents the great State of Wisconsin.

We have more work to do, but in 2018, more women ran for office and won than ever before in our Nation's history. As a result, we have a new Congress that is starting to look just a little bit more like the people it aims to represent. Let's keep building on that progress, and let's keep working together on solutions to the challenges we face today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am now pleased to yield to the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator COLLINS for arranging for us to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of women's suffrage here in the Senate.

I thank my colleague Senator FEINSTEIN for working together so that we all have a chance to reflect on the progress we made and the commitment to make sure we continue to move forward.

It was June 4, 1919—100 years ago today—that the Senate passed the women's suffrage constitutional amendment, but the campaign started with the birth of our Nation. On March 31, 1776, Abigail Adams wrote a letter to her husband, who was serving in the Continental Congress.

She wrote:

> I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such an unlimited power in the hands of the husbands. . . . If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.

I am sorry that our Founding Fathers did not listen to Abigail Adams.

Over 144 years later, the 19th Amendment was adopted to our Constitution, providing for women's suffrage. It passed first in the House of Representatives on May 21, 1919, and then in the Senate on June 4, 1919.

The right to vote was the first step. Over the last 100 years, we have seen tremendous progress. Legally, financially, and socially, more women have entered the workforce than ever before. Women are filling key leadership posts in increasing numbers, but we still have an unfinished agenda for equality for women.

I think most people in this country would be surprised to learn that there is nothing in the Constitution of the United States that guarantees equal rights for women. As the late Justice Scalia said, there is nothing in the Constitution that requires discrimination against women, but there is nothing that protects women against discrimination.

Senator MURKOWSKI and I introduced S. Res. 6, which extends the date for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. In 1972, we passed the Equal Rights Amendment here for ratification for the States and extended it one time, and 10 years later, 35 States had ratified the Equal Rights Amendment—3 short of the required 38. Nevada and Illinois have since ratified the amendment, so it is one State short. However, we need to pass the resolution to extend the time limit.

As Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has said—and this is interesting—every constitution written since the end of World War II includes a provision that men and women are citizens of equal stature. Ours does not. It is well past time that we passed the Equal Rights Amendment.

The 27th Amendment to the Constitution took over 200 years to ratify. It deals with congressional pay increases.

We can pass and should pass in this Congress a fitting tribute to the celebration of women's suffrage—the Equal Rights Amendment for women.

We need to do more for equal pay for equal work. I acknowledge the extraordinary leadership that we had in Maryland and this Nation in Senator Barbara Mikulski. She was a true champion in so many ways—as a social worker, as a city councilperson, as a Member of the House of Representatives, and as a U.S. Senator—in advancing rights for women, particularly in the workplace. I remember, with pride, seeing her stand next to President Obama as he signed his very first bill, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which enforced rights for women in the workplace. As Senator Mikulski would point out, we still have work to do. We still have not passed equal pay for equal work in this country, and this Congress should deal with that.

We have a wealth gap. There is no question that women do not have the same wealth as men. In working with Senator RUBIO on the committee on which I serve as ranking member, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, we must look at whether the tools of the Small Business Administration's are providing help to women to develop their own businesses. Wealth is usually accumulated through business growth, and we need to do more to help women.

In the State of Maryland, I am proud that 39 percent of our small businesses are owned by women, but women do not have equal access to the tools with which to access capital. We can do better with the 7(a) Program and with the Community Advantage Pilot Program, particularly in making it permanent. So there are still steps we can take to help advance equal rights and equal opportunity for women.

There is women's healthcare. The constitutional right of women to make their own choices about their own health and well-being is again being challenged by some of our States and here on Capitol Hill. Whether it is abortion, preventive screening, or contraception, access to reproductive healthcare provides women with greater economic opportunity. Treating women as less than equal was wrong at the start of our Nation, and it is wrong today.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, let us do several things. First, I urge all of our colleagues to support the resolution that is pending, S. Res. 212, in regard to celebrating the women's suffrage and, second, that we work for full equality for women in our Constitution, in the workplace, in entrepreneurship, and in healthcare.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to yield to the Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, Senator CAPITO from West Virginia, who, in the spirit of today, has allowed me to take her place, and she will go next.

I rise to join my colleagues to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment. I thank Senator COLLINS and Senator FEINSTEIN for taking the lead in bringing us together today.

Just think. One hundred years ago today, the Senate voted to guarantee and protect a woman's constitutional right to vote, marking an important milestone in our democracy. My home State of Minnesota was the 15th State to ratify the 19th Amendment, and women like Dr. Mary Jackman Colburn, Sarah Burger Stearns, Clara Ueland, and Sarah Tarleton Colvin fought to make it happen.

By the way, on a historical note, when President Wilson refused at first to support a constitutional amendment to grant women equal voting rights, suffragists like Sarah Colvin of Minnesota chained themselves to the fence of the White House and burned an effigy of the President. After weeks of similar protest fires and intense pressure to support equal rights, he announced his support of a constitutional amendment.

We also must remember, in addition to people like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Susan B. Anthony, the African-American suffragists who were in the league—Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, and Margaret Murray Washington.

The women's suffrage movement encountered strong opposition. It doesn't feel like that would have happened now, but it did back then, and those who opposed equality came up with creative reasons to keep women from voting.

The National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage was a real organization and published a pamphlet full of propaganda. The pamphlet read that if women were granted the right to vote, some States would be under ''petticoat rule.'' The pamphlet also provided a list of household cleaning tips for women, such as not needing a ballot to clean out your sink spout and that there is no method known by which a mud-stained reputation may be cleaned after bitter political campaigns. Posters were scattered across cities that depicted men at home taking care of babies and cooking and cleaning because they had been abandoned by their voting wives.

One hundred years later, I think we can safely say that none of the dire warnings described in the propaganda came to pass and that the United States of America did not perish under the ''petticoat rule.'' What did happen is, in 1920, in the first Federal election in which women could vote, the total popular vote increased dramatically from 18.5 million to 26.8 million by 1920.

When I arrived in the Senate, there were only 16 women, led by the dean of the women Senators, who is here with us today, Senator Barbara Mikulski. As noted by my colleagues, we now have 25 women Senators. That is an alltime high because, when you look at the history of the Senate, there have been nearly 2,000 male Senators and only 56 women. I was on the Trevor Noah show a few months ago, and he said that if a nightclub had that kind of ratio, they would shut it down. Yet, in fact, we are at an alltime high with 25 women Senators and with more to come.

Someone once said that women should speak softly and carry a big statistic. Well, I don't agree with the ''speak softly'' part, but there is some merit to the big statistic. Maybe because it was harder for them to get where they are, I have found women Senators to be accountable, to say what they are going to do, and to get it done. There was actually a study from Harvard—the University of Minnesota of the East—that showed that it was, in fact, true.

My colleagues have mentioned the challenges ahead. We have to make sure that more people can vote and that we don't suppress votes. We need to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. We need to make sure that we have equal pay. There are many, many challenges ahead.

We celebrate today because we all stand on the shoulders of those before us. In our case, we stand on the very broad shoulders of our friend Barbara Mikulski, who once said—and I still remember this—when we took up a woman's issue on the floor, to put on your suits, square your shoulders, put on your lipstick, and get ready for a revolution. I don't know what revolution she was talking about, but hers was the voice of those before us. We all stand on their shoulders, and we are happy to take up their torch.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from West Virginia, Mrs. CAPITO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I thank all of my colleagues, particularly my colleague from Maine, Senator COLLINS, for her leadership on this issue and many others.

It is great to be here with our former colleague Senator Mikulski, who taught me how to be tough on the Appropriations Committee—if I could only be that tough.

I join my colleagues today to commemorate and celebrate the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment. We all know the history—at least we should—and we have talked a lot about it today. We have heard the names in documentaries and have read about them in history books—Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, and so many others. These suffragists, these leaders paved the way for women to exercise their right to vote, changing history and the fabric of our Nation in the process. I think it goes without saying that this was no small or easy feat. In fact, it was a pretty tough fight, and it wasn't won overnight. It took a total of 9 years for the amendment to reach the Senate floor.

In 1887, the vote for suffrage was actually defeated—hard for us to imagine. I think experiencing legislative defeat is something we all have experience with in this body. But that was not the end. It certainly took too much time, and things started to really heat up around 1916. That year, the people of Montana made the monumental move of electing Jeannette Rankin to the House of Representatives. Interestingly enough, with a woman finally serving in Congress, it didn't seem so crazy that a woman should be able to have a say when it comes to who serves.

Eventually, the Senate passed the resolution proposing the 19th Amendment. The date was June 4, 1919, exactly 100 years ago. I am proud to say that both of West Virginia's Senators at the time, Senator Howard Sutherland and Senator Davis Elkins, voted in favor of the resolution—I would expect nothing more from tough mountaineer men—and that language was adopted and ratified to the Constitution on August 18, 1920, marking the moment that women were given the opportunity to have their voices heard at the ballot box.

Finally, our country was acknowledging that women had a voice and that their voice was needed to be a part of this democracy. Don't get me wrong—women were not instantly made political equals of men overnight, at least not in practice. Even today, despite making up more than half of the population, women do not make up half of the Congress, and that is something we are working hard on every day. Over the years, thanks to the pioneering efforts of the suffragists and others who came before them, we have made progress, yes, and we have celebrated many victories, from the very small to the very significant.

Just think, when I first came to Congress in 2001—I saw my colleague from Tennessee, but I don't believe she was here then—we had to work to just get a woman's restroom put in off the floor of the House of Representatives. Today, I am one of 127 women who have the honor of serving our districts and our States and our country in Congress. That is the most women to ever serve in the Congress. And across the Nation, there are countless future leaders. That is why I think this day is so important.

I am very proud of the history my home State of West Virginia has already made when it comes to having women participate in our democracy.

In 1951, Elizabeth Kee of Bluefield took the place of her husband, the Honorable Congressman John Kee, to be the first woman to represent West Virginia in the U.S. Congress.

I am also proud to say we have CAROL MILLER—another woman—on the other side representing our State.

Elizabeth Kee had been her husband's longtime secretary—which, by the way, is not allowed today—and actually stood up against party leaders who said she should retain her position as secretary for the incoming appointee. She didn't listen to that, thank goodness.

When the 26th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified in 1971, changing the voting age from 21 to 18, this was done at the dogged insistence of my predecessor, Senator Jennings Randolph. But a proud West Virginian, Ella Mae Thompson Haddix, was the first person in the United States of America—a young woman from West Virginia—to register to vote as an 18-year-old.

I am very honored to be the first woman to represent my State, and many of us are that in our States. With that honor, I feel a special obligation to help the next generation of young leaders. I started a program called West Virginia Girls Rise Up, and with that program, I travel and talk to fifth grade girls, encouraging them to set goals for themselves and then work to achieve them. We talk about what it

means to be a leader in whatever career or field they love or are passionate about. My hope is that eventually these girls will grow into engaged citizens and leaders—not only women who vote but women who aren't afraid to run for office or run a boardroom or pursue a STEM career or anything else they might desire.

The 19th Amendment—hard fought—brought women more than just the right to vote; in many ways, it gave us women more courage to run, to advocate, and to lead.

I thank my colleagues for taking time today to celebrate the 19th Amendment, to celebrate civic-minded women, courageous women, and to celebrate that our country is stronger now and will be stronger in the future because women are voting and leading.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, earlier, I recognized Senator Barbara Mikulski, an outstanding leader and former colleague and member of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission. I also want to acknowledge that there are other members of the Commission who are here with us today. We welcome them as they observe this debate, and we thank them for their hard work to make sure this significant occasion is recognized.

It is now my great pleasure to yield time to the Senator from Washington, Senator CANTWELL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Maine for helping us coordinate this very important moment today, and I, too, want to recognize the presence of our former colleague, who is playing such a great role in helping us commemorate next year as such a very important time for us to recognize the important role of women's voices in American politics.

I join my colleagues today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Senate's passing of the 19th Amendment and to honor all the women who struggled hard and long to make sure our democracy included our voices, the voices of all women, all those women who saw the promise of the United States and fought for their place in it. Those women helped craft a more perfect union. For nearly a century, these women fought to be heard, and their efforts fundamentally transformed our democracy and our country.

I am very proud to represent a State with a long tradition of women activists and leaders. Today, I want to recognize two influential suffragists from my State—Emma Smith DeVoe and May Hutton. Both women were pioneers in the struggle to get the right to vote. In an era when women were given few opportunities, these two women refused to be held back. They instead paved a way for women to fully engage in the political process.

Tacoma resident Emma Smith DeVoe built the Washington Equal Suffrage Association and led the successful campaign to enshrine women's suffrage in Washington's State Constitution a full 10 years ahead of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. She helped win the right to vote for women in Idaho in 1896 and led campaigns in other States, speaking and organizing rallies and sit-ins, and she helped found the National Council of Women Voters to continue the nationwide suffrage movement and educate newly enfranchised women about politics across the country. Her efforts got her the nickname ''the Mother of Woman's Suffrage.''

May Hutton, the other activist from our State, overcame a very difficult childhood. She and her husband became successful entrepreneurs and devoted much of their self-made wealth to activism.

When they moved to Spokane from Idaho in 1906, May actually lost her right to vote in the process. She quickly set out to work to change that injustice and win the franchise for women in every State in the territory.

She wrote:

Women should vote because they have the intelligence to vote. They should vote because it gives them responsibilities, and responsibilities better fit women for all conditions of life. Equality before the law gives women a fair chance with men in a question of wages for the same work.

There you go—a century ago, someone standing up for women to have the same wage in work, and that is the work we continue here today.

She continued:

In other words, the enfranchisement of women means a square deal for all.

May stood tall for more than just women's rights; she proposed extending the franchise to all adults, regardless of sex, race, or color.

Washington's territorial legislature gave women the right to vote in 1883, but it was struck down by the courts. Because of the continuous efforts of Ms. DeVoe, Ms. Hutton, and so many others, women finally gained the franchise in Washington in 1910—a full decade before this right was guaranteed nationally. Emma Smith DeVoe and May Hutton paved the way for so many women. Washington State is proud of their work, and we are proud of their accomplishments.

As we honor them today, we must also recognize that the struggle for equal rights is still not over. We have more to do. We know that our country is stronger, more representative, and more successful when we include women at every table and in every boardroom and at every ballot box and in every discussion in our families and in our communities, but we need to be reminded of the example of Emma and May so that other suffragists know that we remember their work and are grateful for it and that we are going to continue the fight to get equal access and equal representation in all issues in the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I simply want to thank my colleagues for their participation today in bringing to the attention of the American people that this truly is a historic occasion, a date on which we celebrate the Senate's passage of the 19th Amendment granting women a long-overdue right to vote. I want to thank all of my colleagues who participated in the speeches. The history they brought from their individual States was fascinating indeed.

It is my understanding that we will now move to pass commemorative coin legislation introduced by the Senator from Tennessee.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1235 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1235) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Barrasso amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 251) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To add Esther Hobart Morris to a list of suffrage activists)

On page 2, line 18, insert ''Esther Hobart Morris,'' before ''and''.

The bill (S. 1235), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1235

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the ''Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemorative Coin Act''.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York.