

Whereas many minority women, including African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, and Native American women and women from indigenous populations, have a greater prevalence of risk factors or are at a higher risk of death from heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases, but are less likely to know of the risk;

Whereas women constitute about 20 percent of enrolled patients in cardiovascular disease clinical trials;

Whereas, due to the differences in cardiovascular disease between men and women, more research and data on the effects of cardiovascular disease treatments for women is vital;

Whereas veterans have higher rates of cardiovascular disease than nonveterans;

Whereas female veterans are less likely than male veterans to be included in studies on the effects of cardiovascular disease on veterans;

Whereas female veterans are less likely than male veterans to receive adequate treatment for cardiovascular disease;

Whereas extensive clinical and statistical studies have identified major and contributing factors that increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, including—

- (1) high blood pressure;
- (2) high blood cholesterol;
- (3) using tobacco products;
- (4) exposure to tobacco smoke;
- (5) physical inactivity;
- (6) obesity; and
- (7) diabetes mellitus;

Whereas an individual can greatly reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease through lifestyle modification coupled with medical treatment when necessary;

Whereas greater awareness and early detection of risk factors for cardiovascular disease can improve and save the lives of many individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, under section 101(1) of title 36, United States Code, the President is requested to issue an annual proclamation designating February as American Heart Month;

Whereas the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, and many other organizations celebrate National Wear Red Day during February by “going red” to increase awareness about cardiovascular disease as the leading killer of women; and

Whereas, every year since 1964, the President has issued a proclamation designating the month of February as American Heart Month; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates—
(A) February 2020 as “American Heart Month”; and

(B) February 7, 2020, as “National Wear Red Day”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day;

(3) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to—

(A) promoting awareness about the causes, risks, and prevention of cardiovascular disease;

(B) supporting research on cardiovascular disease; and

(C) expanding access to medical treatment for cardiovascular disease;

(4) commends the efforts of States, territories, and possessions of the United States, localities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities, and the people of the United States who support American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day; and

(5) encourages every individual in the United States to learn about his or her risk for cardiovascular disease.

SENATE RESOLUTION 514—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT DONALD STRATTON BE REMEMBERED FOR A LIFETIME OF HEROISM AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 514

Whereas, on February 15, 2020, Donald Stratton, a veteran of World War II and one of the last remaining survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family in Colorado Springs, Colorado;

Whereas, on December 7, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor lasted for approximately 5 hours, during which 2,403 members of the United States Armed Forces were killed or mortally wounded, 1,247 members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded, and 57 civilians lost their lives;

Whereas, during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Seaman First Class Donald Stratton was one of 6 sailors trapped in the control tower main mast after a massive explosion on the U.S.S. Arizona;

Whereas Boatswain’s Mate Second Class Joseph Leon George saved the lives of Seaman First Class Donald Stratton, Seaman First Class Harold Kuhn, Seaman First Class Russell Lott, Gunner’s Mate Third Class Earl Riner, Boatswain’s Mate Second Class Alvin Dvorak, and Fire Controlman Third Class Lauren Bruner;

Whereas, despite suffering severe burns on more than 70 percent of his body and being medically discharged, Donald Stratton later reenlisted in the United States Navy to continue serving during World War II;

Whereas, after serving in the United States Armed Forces, Donald Stratton committed his life to pursuing the posthumous recognition of Joseph George with the award of a Bronze Star; and

Whereas Donald Stratton exemplified the heroism and selfless service of the members of the United States Armed Forces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Donald Stratton for his life-long commitment to service to the United States and the example he set for future generations; and

(2) remembers the men and women of the Greatest Generation of the United States, including the few remaining survivors of that generation.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I come to the floor with somber news for Colorado and our country. It is about a gentleman I have talked about many times on this floor and across Colorado—Donald Stratton, a veteran of World War II, who was on the USS *Arizona* on December 7, 1941. Our country has suffered a great loss this past week with Mr. Stratton’s passing.

A gallant man, Donald Stratton served his country, his family, and our great State with honor, pride, and courage. He was the type of person who only comes around once in a generation and was someone whom I was lucky to have gotten to know and certainly proud to have worked with. It is with great emotion that I come to the floor to share his story once again. I am sure it will not be the last time,

but it is certainly the most personal time that I have ever shared this story.

Donald Stratton was born in a tiny town in Nebraska—Red Cloud—in 1922. Its population today is of 900 or so people. I didn’t have a chance to look up how big it was when he was born in 1922. I imagine it may have been a little bit bigger. It has certainly faced the fate that many rural communities in America have. It has seen times of growth and times of loss. Certainly, the people of Red Cloud know they have lost a great hero as well.

Donald Stratton wrote in his memoirs on December 6, 1941, as a young Nebraskan sailor, that he felt like the luckiest boy from Red Cloud because he was in an incredibly beautiful part of the world. In fact, he wrote in his memoir that he was in the Navy, seeing the world, and was stationed in one of the most beautiful parts of the world. He was 19, and his entire life stretched before him. That next morning, December 7, 1941, would change forever Donald Stratton and his country.

In his book, he talked about that day, December 7, 1941. A little after 5 a.m., he had awoken, on his cot, about an hour and a half before sunrise.

He writes:

I stretched, rubbed the sleep from my eyes, and folded up my cot. I stored it in the incinerator room, then went below to shower. After, I dressed for the day in the typical casual clothes that sailors wore on Sundays—a clean pair of pressed, white shorts and a white T-shirt, along with my sailor’s hat.

A few minutes later, a 5:30 reveille sounded over the intercom, and the ship stirred to life, he talked about. Below decks, men tumbled out of their hammocks and headed to the showers. A few hours later, at 7:55 that morning, after a Sunday morning breakfast, he heard airplanes and bombs in the distance as the attacks on Pearl Harbor began. By 8:06—11 minutes later—two-thirds of his body would be engulfed in flames.

He was at his station, directing anti-aircraft guns, and trying his best to fight off the surprise attack by the Japanese. At that moment, a 1,700-pound armor-piercing bomb was dropped from 10,000 feet above the USS *Arizona*. That bomb came crashing down through four steel decks, where it reached the ammunition magazine, causing a series of explosions and shooting a fireball 500 to 600 feet in the air, engulfing Donald Stratton and his shipmates in even more flames.

That Sunday morning of December 7, aboard the USS *Arizona*, were 1,512 officers, sailors, and marines. The attack that day—that 1,700-pound bomb and so many others—killed 1,177. Only 335 brave people survived that morning. Donald Stratton was one of those 335 sailors. His story of survival happened because of a sailor who was stationed next to the USS *Arizona* on a ship called the *Vestal*. He was a sailor by the name of Joe George.

On that morning, as they were trying to fight back, they had been trapped in their tower. Donald Stratton and five of his other shipmates were burning—trapped on that tower—as the ship was going down. Joe George, a sailor aboard the *Vestal*, saw them and saw what was happening. He tried many times to throw a rope over to the USS *Arizona* to provide help. Finally, he succeeded. Out of the smoke and out of the flames, a lifeline from Joe George to that tower was seen, and they were able to affix it to the tower. Miraculously, Donald Stratton and these other sailors were able to shimmy across the rope, over the burning water, to safety on the *Vestal*. Despite their terrible wounds, they made it to the *Vestal*.

This story led to an incredible fight again by Donald Stratton. After he spent a year recovering from the burns that were over almost all of his body, he told his parents that he couldn't just abandon the fight, that he couldn't abandon his country, that he had to go back to duty. With that, he went back into service for his country. But the fight Donald Stratton gave for this country and for his fellow sailors didn't stop there. After he served in the Navy, after he left it, he knew he had to spend the rest of his life fighting for the man who saved his life and his fellow shipmates.

It wasn't like people left the ship at the end of the day on December 7 to go back to the office and fill out reports and say: Well, it was a busy day at the office. These things happen.

America was at war. Thousands of lives had been lost. In the fire, in the smoke, and in the fight, what Joe George had done for Donald Stratton and those other brave sailors was lost for that time. Donald Stratton went back into service. He went back into the fight. He spent the rest of his life trying to find the man who saved his life. He spent a decade-plus looking for Joe George, finding out who he was. After he found out who he was, he spent 16 years fighting the Navy so that Joe George would be recognized for his heroic actions.

Donald Stratton went to the Arizona Legislature, and he went to the Colorado Legislature. They passed resolutions asking that Joe George be recognized for his acts of bravery and his courage.

He then came to this Congress. Lauren Bruner, Donald Stratton, and the other members who survived the USS *Arizona*—the remaining few of the USS *Arizona*—came to the Senate and said: As fewer and fewer of us are able to celebrate and to commemorate December 7 each and every year, would you please celebrate one more life—Joe George's? On December 7, 2017, the Navy recognized Joe George with the Bronze Star and the "V" for valor device.

I have a picture of Donald Stratton as he said goodbye one more time to his fellow shipmates on December 7,

2017. He thanked Joe George for saving his life and probably never fully understood why his mission didn't end that day while so many others' missions did, but thank God he was able to continue the fight for this country.

While Donald Stratton was on the brink of death, he knew he had to get back into the fight, and he did. He went back into the Pacific theater.

He wrote in his book:

Though I may have left Pearl Harbor on a stretcher, I had returned on a destroyer. I had recovered my strength, as had my country. I was ready to meet what was coming, and I had a boatload of reinforcements with me.

Donald Stratton came back, fighting for our country and fighting for the man who saved his life.

He wrote in his memoir that, in life, the only question that matters is "Have I lived a good life?" He wrote that he wonders if he will be remembered when he is gone. He wonders who will remember him and why.

Please know that we will remember you eternally and your family for what you have done for this country.

I introduce a resolution to recognize and remember Donald Stratton's life because there are only a few remaining brave men and women who survived that day, who survived that war, who fought for us so many years ago. I hope all of my colleagues will support it so that this American hero and his incredible life can be remembered by our Nation forever.

The first time I met Donald Stratton, he told me his story. He told me what he had done. He told me how he and his wife had met and how he had gone back into the fight after receiving such severe burns that his wife used to take a bristle brush to them to help his skin feel better.

I asked how he did it and said: Mr. Stratton, I am pretty sure I never could have done what you did.

In his kind of "ah, shucks" demeanor from Red Cloud, NE, he said: "Well, Cory, everyone has to be somewhere."

It was not the response I thought I was going to get, but everybody does have to be somewhere. Thank God Donald Stratton was on that boat on December 7, 1941. Thank God Joe George was on that boat on December 7, 1941. Thank God that rope was thrown over to the tower to save his life. Thank God Donald Stratton returned to the fight to stand up for this country, to continue his fight for Joe George, and to have an incredible family who continues to share in his legacy today.

Thank God for all of them. Thank God for all of the men and women who were there that day and what they have been able to do to fight for this country, to stand for this country, to pay back the blessings of this country as we must fight each and every day to pay back the blessings they so generously bestowed upon this Nation when they stood up, because they were there.

We know that Donald Stratton has joined his fellow shipmates. That rev-

elle at the Pearly Gates must be quite spectacular. He passed away at his home in Colorado Springs on February 15, at the age of 97, next to his beloved wife. He joins Lauren Bruner, another survivor of that morning on the USS *Arizona*, who came to my office to fight with him for Joe George—Bruner, a shipmate who passed away on September 10 of last year and who was interred in the USS *Arizona* this past December 7 on the 78th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack. I pray that they all rest in peace as they join their family in arms.

This Saturday, the community of Colorado Springs and our State will hold a memorial service for Donald Stratton when he will be laid in his final resting place next to his daughters in Nebraska. As we say goodbye to this hero, let us all do it with thanks to Donald Stratton and to the two remaining survivors of the USS *Arizona* today, Lou Conter and Ken Potts.

To every brave man and woman who serves our country, we are eternally grateful.

I am going to miss him.

SENATE RESOLUTION 515—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

Mr. KAINES (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 515

Whereas a competitive global economy requires workers who are prepared for skilled professions;

Whereas, in the next several years, an estimated 3,000,000 new workers will be needed in infrastructure positions in the United States, including in positions for designing, building, and operating transportation, housing, utilities, and telecommunications facilities;

Whereas career and technical education (referred to in this preamble as "CTE") ensures that competitive and skilled workers are ready, willing, and capable of holding jobs in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, nursing, allied health, construction, information technology, energy sustainability, and many