

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-

eille 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. Kaine (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. Cornyn, 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

other career fields that are vital in keeping the United States competitive in the global economy;

Whereas CTE helps the United States meet the very real and immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement, and global competitiveness;

Whereas the United States has 30,000,000 jobs with an average income of \$55,000 per year that do not require a bachelor's degree yet increasingly require some level of post-secondary education;

Whereas over 11,800,000 students are enrolled in CTE across the country at secondary and postsecondary institutions, with CTE programs in thousands of CTE centers, comprehensive high schools, career academies, and CTE high schools, and nearly 1,000 2-year colleges;

Whereas CTE matches employability skills with workforce demand and provides relevant academic and technical coursework leading to industry-recognized credentials for secondary, postsecondary, and adult learners;

Whereas CTE affords students the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, and credentials needed to secure careers in growing, high-demand fields;

Whereas secondary CTE is associated with a lower probability of dropping out of high school and a higher likelihood of graduating on-time;

Whereas CTE students were significantly more likely than non-CTE students to report having developed problem-solving, project completion, research, math, college application, work-related, communication, time management, and critical thinking skills during high school;

Whereas, according to an American Federation of Teachers poll, 94 percent of parents approve of expanding access to CTE and other programs that prepare students for jobs;

Whereas students at schools with highly integrated rigorous academic and CTE programs are significantly more likely to meet college and career readiness benchmarks than students at schools with less integrated programs;

Whereas, in 2018, Congress affirmed the importance of CTE by passing the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Public Law 115-224), which supports program improvement in secondary and postsecondary CTE programs in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and outlying areas;

Whereas 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of State CTE leadership by Advance CTE (formerly known as the "National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium" or "NASDCTEC"); and

Whereas February 23, 2020, marks the 103d anniversary of the signing of the Act of February 23, 1917 (commonly known as the "Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act of 1917") (39 Stat. 929, chapter 114), which was the first major Federal investment in secondary CTE and laid the foundation for the bipartisan, bicameral support for CTE that continues as of February 2020: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 2020 as "Career and Technical Education Month" to celebrate career and technical education across the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month;

(3) recognizes the importance of career and technical education in preparing a well-educated and skilled workforce in the United States; and

(4) encourages educators, guidance and career development professionals, administrators, and parents to promote career and technical education as a respected option for students.

SENATE RESOLUTION 516—CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WICKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BURR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COONS, Ms. ERNST, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. REED, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. JONES, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KING, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 516

Whereas, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness";

Whereas Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of the United States as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas, in 2020, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States;

Whereas, in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have fought courageously for the rights and freedom of African Americans and others;

Whereas African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe, Jr., James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown, Blanche Bruce, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Holt Collier, Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, Larry Doby, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Aretha Franklin, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Jon Hendricks, Olivia Hooker, Lena Horne, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, B.B. King, Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, Rosa

Parks, Walter Payton, Bill Pickett, Homer Plessy, Bass Reeves, Hiram Revels, Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, the Greensboro Four, the Tuskegee Airmen, Prince Rogers Nelson, Recy Taylor, Fred Shuttlesworth, Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, Muhammad Ali, Elijah Cummings, Ella Fitzgerald, Mamie Till, Edith Savage-Jennings, Toni Morrison, Gwen Ifill, and Diahann Carroll, along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States;

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition those individuals deserved, and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed;

Whereas African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of business, government, and the military;

Whereas the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the "Father of Black History", to enhance knowledge of Black history through *The Journal of Negro History*, published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland;

Whereas Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black people in the United States;

Whereas Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, "We have a wonderful history behind us. . . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, 'You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.'";

Whereas, since its founding, the United States has imperfectly progressed toward noble goals;

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach those ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure, before committing to try again;

Whereas, on November 4, 2008, the people of the United States elected Barack Obama, an African-American man, as President of the United States; and

Whereas, on February 22, 2012, people across the United States celebrated the groundbreaking of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened to the public on September 24, 2016, on the National Mall in Washington, District of Columbia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that all people of the United States are the recipients of the wealth of history provided by Black culture;

(2) recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead;

(3) acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an important opportunity