

I am proud to commemorate this anniversary as the Senator for Maryland. Marylanders have a rich history of battling discrimination, going back to the darkest days of slavery. The brilliant Frederick Douglass was the voice of the voiceless in the struggle against slavery. The courageous Harriet Tubman delivered 300 slaves to freedom on her Underground Railroad. And the great Thurgood Marshall went from arguing *Brown v. Board of Education* to serving as a Supreme Court Justice. All were Marylanders.

Not just Marylanders but civil rights leaders and activists from all over this country fought hard for the right to vote. Over 600 people marched from Selma to Montgomery. They were stopped and beaten but not defeated. These brave men and women continued to march, continued to fight until they got the right to vote. They had to challenge the establishment and to say “now” when others told them to “wait”.

Their fight and their struggle culminated in the passage of the Voting Rights Act. This legislation guaranteed one of our most important civil rights and reflected one of our most fundamental values: that all men and women have the right to vote.

The struggle to truly fulfill this fundamental value—this fundamental right—is far from over. There are too many neighborhoods in this country, particularly in minority communities, that are the target of voter intimidation, barriers to access, and ever-changing requirements.

The Supreme Court’s decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* only made this problem worse by stripping the Federal Government of its ability to protect voters from this kind of disenfranchisement—whether it was the old-fashioned kind or the new-fashioned kind.

The fight for equal access to the ballot continues today, and like those who came before us, we cannot take “no” for an answer. We must ensure that any and all undue barriers to participation in our democracy are broken down. We must restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act that were struck down by the Supreme Court so that the promise of the right to vote is extended to all men and women.

So while we look back proudly on the passage of the Voting Rights Act, we must recognize that the need for its protections is as great today as it was 50 years ago. The words of Justice Thurgood Marshall still ring true:

“I wish I could say that racism and prejudice were only distant memories. We must dissent from the indifference. We must dissent from the apathy. We must dissent from the fear, the hatred and the mistrust. . . . We must dissent because America can do better, because America has no choice but to do better.”

Today marks an important milestone in our history. As we come together to celebrate this anniversary, we must

come together to defend the rights that this legislation was enacted to protect because if discrimination of any kind exists anywhere in America, we can and we must do better.

REMEMBERING RICHARD SCHWEIKER

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President. I rise today to remember Richard Schweiker, who passed away on July 31, 2015. Congressman, Senator, and Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Dick Schweiker honorably served his country in public office for more than two decades. Prior to his years of government service, he served his country in the Navy during World War II.

As a Congressman from Pennsylvania’s 13th District, he was the coauthor of a House Armed Services Committee proposal to end the military draft and make service voluntary and sponsored legislation to allow the government to give extra money to military service personnel if they showed they could reduce expenses. He also supported the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 along with legislation that created the Medicare and Medicaid Programs.

As a Senator, he served on the Labor and Human Resources Committee, eventually becoming its ranking member. This committee is now known as the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on which I serve. Senator Schweiker was a strong supporter of public health initiatives, including the National Diabetes Mellitus Research and Education Act that authorized the National Commission on Diabetes to put together a plan to fight this disease. Dick Schweiker also worked to achieve compromise. In a 2000 Associated Press interview, he commented on that approach:

I was a World War II veteran. Our primary objective was to get things done and solve problems. The partisanship and heated rhetoric that have taken over the political landscape wasn’t always in vogue.

Dick Schweiker decided not to run for reelection in 1980 and worked to help elect Ronald Reagan that November. After the election, President Reagan appointed Schweiker as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. While in that position, he set up the Medicare prospective payment system in an effort to reduce costs rather than leaving them open-ended. He also continued to support funding for medical research and protected funding for the Head Start early childhood education program. He stepped down as Secretary in 1983. At that time, Senator Ted Kennedy said the following:

Dick Schweiker has been a good friend and colleague for many years. As secretary of HHS, he has too often been a lonely voice of compassion and humanity.

After leaving public service, Dick Schweiker spent 11 years as president of the American Council of Life Insur-

ance before retiring. Today, we remember and thank Dick Schweiker for his service to Pennsylvania and the Nation. We send our thoughts and prayers to his family.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on August 14, 1945, World War II came to an end. The official ceremony aboard the battleship USS Missouri 2 weeks later was brief, barely 18 minutes long. The low-key nature of the event stood in stark contrast to the unprecedented horror and violence of the preceding years, years in which the fate of civilization itself hung in the balance. I rise today to express our Nation’s gratitude to all veterans of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine for their service and sacrifice seven decades ago.

It is said that crisis builds character. For an entire generation of Americans, crisis did not build character; it revealed it. With the perfect hindsight history books provide, the Second World War can seem today to be a series of events that followed an inevitable course from Pearl Harbor to Normandy to Iwo Jima to the deck of the Battleship Missouri. Yet those who were there, those who made that history, know that the outcome was far from certain. All that stood between humanity and the abyss of tyranny was their courage, their faith, and their devotion to duty.

As the war began, the United States was not a rich or powerful country. We had only the 17th largest army in the world. Our industries were still struggling to overcome a decade of economic depression. With two great oceans as a buffer, many Americans thought the answer to aggression was isolationism.

Yet when the crisis came, Americans responded. More than 16 million American men put on the uniforms of our Armed Forces. More than 400,000 died wearing those uniforms. Thousands of American women also put on the uniform, serving—and dying—in field hospitals and in such dangerous work as ferrying aircraft from production plant to airfield. They rolled up their sleeves and turned the factories of a peacetime economy into the arsenal of democracy. Throughout the country, Americans of all ages worked and saved and rationed and sacrificed as never before. Families planted victory gardens—20 million of them, producing 40 percent of the Nation’s vegetables in backyards and on rooftops. Two out of every three citizens put money into war bonds.

The people of Maine were part of this great endeavor. Some 80,000 Mainers served in World War II, more than any previous war. More than 2,500 laid their lives upon the altar of freedom.

I have had the honor of meeting many of Maine’s heroes. Edward Dahlgren of Perham—just a few miles from my hometown of Caribou—fought his