

least 26 people have been exonerated through DNA testing funded by the legislation. In North Carolina, for example, a man was released after spending 37 years in prison for a double murder he did not commit. In Virginia, a man was released after spending 27 years in prison for violent rapes he did not commit. And in New Orleans, a man was released after spending 20 years in a State mental health hospital for an abduction and rape he did not commit. We must continue funding this critical post-conviction DNA testing since we know our system does not always get it right. It is an outrage when an innocent person is wrongly punished, and this injustice is compounded when the true perpetrator remains on the streets, able to commit more crimes. We are all less safe when the system gets it wrong.

As we begin this year's Crime Victims' Rights Week, I look forward to working with Senators on both sides of the aisle to update and reauthorize both the Victims of Crime Act and the Justice for All Reauthorization Act. Survivors and their families deserve nothing less.

OBSERVING WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate April 17 as World Hemophilia Day where we recognize the serious challenges of the 20,000 Americans who suffer each day from hemophilia and where we raise awareness to fight for a cure.

Hemophilia is a rare genetic disorder that prevents an individual's ability to form a proper blood clot. Patients with hemophilia need immediate access to care and lifesaving therapies. There is currently an enormous discrepancy in the level of care available to patients with hemophilia. While some are diagnosed very young and have medical care throughout their life, most do not or do not have the access to diagnosis and treatment they need. As a physician, I have treated patients with hemophilia, and I know how debilitating the health problems endured by those living with hemophilia can be. If left untreated, a bleeding episode can lead to terrible pain, chronic joint and muscle damage, serious injury, or even death.

I am hopeful that through attention, diligence, and raised awareness we might prevent more complications, unnecessary procedures, and disabilities so often caused by these diseases. As we increase our understanding and awareness of hemophilia, we also increase our ability to find treatments and eventually, a cure for this disease. I'm proud to stand today in support of all Americans with hemophilia on World Hemophilia Day.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me today in recognizing, celebrating, and highlighting the significance of the 70th anniversary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service, VAVS, this year. This program is one of the largest centralized volunteer groups in the Federal Government with approximately 75,000 volunteers providing more than 9.7 million hours of service for our Nation's veterans during their hospital stay.

It has been 70 years since this program started in 1946. Since then, the volunteers have donated more than 782.2 million hours of service to support our veterans. More than 7,400 national and community organizations support the volunteers, including support by a national advisory committee, comprising 55 major veteran, civic, and service organizations who work together to improve volunteerism in VA.

Keeping up with the VA's fast-paced efforts to expand access to care for veteran patients into the community, this program, too, has strived to continue their efforts to assist our veterans. The volunteers serve in many different ways, including supplementing staff in hospital wards, community living centers, outpatient clinics, community-based volunteer programs, respite care programs, end-of-life care programs, creative arts, adaptive sports, vet centers, veterans homes, national cemeteries, and veterans benefits offices.

Just in 2015, the volunteers contributed a total of 10.8 million hours of service. The current monetary value of those hours from all of the volunteers is more than \$250 million. Additionally, the volunteers and their organizations contributed more than \$105 million in gifts and donations in 2015, for a combined total value of \$355.5 million in volunteer service and giving.

While the tangible value of these volunteer activities is impressive, it is impossible to calculate all of the compassionate care and efforts that the volunteers provide for our veterans. These volunteers are a priceless asset for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I ask that the Senate join me in celebrating the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service on 70 years of outstanding service to our Nation's veterans and wishing them the best in continuing to serve.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF U.S. NAVAL SHORE ESTABLISHMENTS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the contributions of the National Association of Superintendents of U.S. Naval Shore Establishments, NAS NSE, on the occasion of its 100th national convention. Since its founding near the time of World War I,

NAS NSE has worked to promote the welfare of its members and increase the efficiency of work at Navy yards and naval stations.

The members of NAS NSE encompass diverse trades, including shop superintendents and senior managers from engineering, project management, financial, business office, facilities, base operations, and resource management. Despite their varied backgrounds, these professionals possess a common ability to lead, educate, and manage, as well as a true dedication to the protection of our country. In particular, the NAS NSE chapter at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is committed to ensuring the Navy's submarines are maintained, repaired, and modernized to the highest degree in order to fulfill the Navy's mission of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas.

As threats facing our Nation increase and become more complex, the Navy's ability to project power and uniquely provide worldwide presence plays an increasingly critical role in protecting our national security. As such, it is critical that our naval fleet is properly maintained so it can be positioned around the world where and when we need it. NAS NSE members play a vital role in ensuring that our ships are ready to deploy on schedule and in good condition.

Over the past 100 conventions, NAS NSE has worked on many important issues, including many shipyard safety and leadership issues. This year, their efforts continue to focus on empowering shipyard workers to be leaders, helping new employees to efficiently achieve proficiency in necessary skills, and developing innovation in the shipyard. Through these and many other initiatives aimed at increasing the safety and abilities of its members, NAS NSE has improved both the lives of shipyard workers and the efficiency of our shipyards.

I commend the organization for its commitment to passing on a strong and healthy program of naval maintenance, so that future generations can benefit from a Navy ready to defend our freedoms. It is an honor for me to pay tribute to the National Association of Superintendents of U.S. Naval Shore Establishments as they celebrate 100 years of meeting to work on behalf of our shipyard workers and our naval shipyards.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I join my esteemed colleague, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, in recognizing the 100th Convention of the National Association of Superintendents of the U.S. Naval Shore Establishments, NAS NSE. This association works diligently to implement a strong and healthy program of naval maintenance and modernization at our naval shipyards, so future generations can benefit from a Navy that is always ready to defend our freedom.

I specifically wish to recognize the work of the NAS NSE chapter at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery,