

accommodations, jury service, access to credit, and Federal funding.

When the White House broke more than a decade of tradition by failing to recognize June as LGBTQ Pride Month, I joined my colleagues in picking up the mantle by introducing the first-ever Senate resolution recognizing June as LGBTQ Pride Month. The resolution notes major milestones in the fight for equal treatment of LGBTQ Americans and resolves to continue efforts to achieve full equality for LGBTQ individuals.

As we build a new future of equality for all, despite the current headwinds, it is important that we learn from our Nation's past and use it as a source of strength and a teachable moment for those unaware of the history the LGBTQ community and what our Nation has been through. It is my firm hope that we are not seeing a redux of a McCarthy-like rise in political-driven discrimination.

For this reason, I was taken back a bit at the confirmation hearings of Rex Tillerson and Nikki Haley, who are now serving as America's top diplomats, that neither of them would say the phrase "LGBTQ." Following that peculiarity, it has been widely reported that the Trump administration has scrubbed LGBTQ content from various Federal Government websites—in some cases changing the agency's official nondiscrimination policy.

Juxtaposed with the Obama administration that lit up the White House in rainbow lights during Pride month and backed up those concrete actions of support, this attempt to erase LGBTQ individuals from government was disturbing. I was alarmed because I knew that it had been tried before during the McCarthy era. It had a damaging effect on U.S. foreign policy back then, and it cannot be repeated.

In what came to be known as the Lavender Scare, according to the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, employees were forced out on the ostensible grounds that their real or perceived sexual orientation rendered them vulnerable to blackmail, prone to getting caught in "honey traps," and a general security risk. Many more individuals were prevented from joining the State Department due to a screening process that was put in place to prevent those who "seemed like they might be gay or lesbian" from being hired.

David Johnson's "The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government," University of Chicago Press, 2006, the definitive academic study of the issue, found that at least 1,000 people were dismissed from the U.S. Department of State alone for alleged homosexuality during the 1950s and well into the 1960s before the "scare" ran its course.

The Senate bears a special measure of responsibility for the Lavender Scare, as the State Department's actions were in part in response to con-

gressional investigations into "sex perversion of federal employees," reports on the employments of "moral perverts by Government Agencies," and hearings or pressure placed on the Department through the appropriations process.

Last year, in my role as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I urged then-Secretary of State John Kerry to shine a spotlight on this dark period in American diplomatic history by issuing the first-ever public apology for the Department of State's targeting due to perceived sexual orientation.

This month, I introduced new legislation called the Lavender Offense Victim Exoneration Act of 2017, or the LOVE Act. Similar to what was enacted for the men and women of our military, who also were forced to hide their real self to the world, the LOVE Act would make amends and help right the wrongs that were leveled against our U.S. diplomats during this un-American and unacceptable episode in our history. The Lavender Scare is a painful but little-known chapter in American history, and even though times have thankfully changed in so many ways for the LGBT community, we must have the courage of our conviction to recognize wrong, apologize, and move forward with common sense and compassion whenever it is required.

A few have asked me, Why now? Why do we need to relive past transgressions when there are "more important things to do"? The answer is clear: The current administration may work to avoid using the words lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, but Congress should take firm action to show LGBTQ Americans that their valuable contributions to our country—today or 60-plus years ago—are very real and they are recognized. We cannot and should not turn our backs on the individuals who sacrificed so much for the benefit of the American people. We cannot and will not turn back the clock on the hard-fought civil rights of the LGBTQ community.

The theme of the 2017 Baltimore Pride celebration is "Pride Unleashed," a commitment to "work boldly and to live freely." I can think of no better mantra for LGBTQ Marylanders and allies as we fight side by side to protect civil rights and celebrate the strength of our diversity.

I implore you and all of our colleagues to join the fight for LGBTQ equality. The administration also should take firm action to show LGBTQ Americans that their valuable contributions to our country are recognized and appreciated. It is the responsibility of each and every citizen to root out systemic intolerance. Inclusion and diversity are some of our Nation's greatest strengths; yet these values are now in peril. We cannot and will not turn back the clock on hard-fought civil rights for the LGBTQ community.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BALLARD LOCKS IN WASHINGTON STATE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today, with my colleague Senator CANTWELL, I wish to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the construction and operation of the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, more commonly known in Washington State as the Ballard Locks. The Ballard Locks are not just symbolic of our region's rich maritime history, but a century later, they remain vital to the economy, public safety, environment, and more in Puget Sound.

As early as the 1850s, settlers in Puget Sound recognized the benefits of connecting the region's freshwater lakes to the saltwater of Puget Sound. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. Navy expressed interest. Ultimately, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Army Corps, initiated planning for the locks in the late 1890s and work began in earnest under Hiram M. Chittenden, the Seattle district engineer for the Army Corps from April 1906 to September 1908. Construction began in 1911 after the locks received approval from Congress, and the Ballard Locks were formally opened for vessel traffic on July 4, 1917.

The Ballard Locks enable commercial and recreational vessels to travel to the docks, shipyards, warehouses, maintenance and repair facilities, and marinas in the region's freshwater lakes while also reducing maintenance costs and prolonging vessel life in the freshwater environment. The importance of the locks is underscored by their annual usage. Each year, the Ballard Locks support 45,000 vessel transits and 14,000 lockage counts, which makes them the busiest lock in the United States in overall vessel traffic. If you only count commercial vessels from fishing fleets to oceangoing freight shippers and more, the Ballard Locks are the 12th busiest in the Nation.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I join my colleague Senator MURRAY in commemorating the Ballard Locks' 100th anniversary. As our constituents in Washington State know, these locks are an integral part of our regional economy. The safe and efficient operation of the Ballard Locks supports \$1.2 billion in total lock-related economic activity, more than 3,000 full-time jobs, and more than 1 million tons of freight. With over 1.3 million visitors a year to see the locks and the fish ladder and visit the Carl S. English Jr. Botanical Gardens, the Ballard Locks are one of the region's top tourist attractions generating another \$40 million in economic activity per year.

The Ballard Locks provide critical public safety and environmental functions, maintaining the water level of Lake Washington and Lake Union and preventing salt water intrusion from Puget Sound into these freshwater lakes. The locks support two floating highway bridges—Interstate-90 and

State Route-520—the water and sewer systems that serve Mercer Island residents, and approximately 75 miles of developed commercial, municipal, and residential shoreline. It also allows for emergency response by the Seattle Fire Department, Seattle Harbor Patrol, King County Sheriff, and U.S. Coast Guard. The facilities spillway and fish ladder serve as a link for salmon and steelhead migrating from the ocean upstream to freshwater spawning grounds, which is important to fulfilling Federal Tribal treaty responsibilities.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, like other infrastructure across Washington State and the Nation, the Ballard Locks are showing their age. Senator CANTWELL and I commend the Army Corps for its work to restore and modernize the locks, and we are doing our part in Congress to support these efforts. Year after year, we work to help Presidential administrations understand the critical importance of the Army Corps' work, and we make sure budgets actually reflect that need. We stand ready to continue to work with our partners in Puget Sound to complete the necessary repairs and upgrades of the Ballard Locks, as our regional economy and the more than 200 businesses that rely upon the locks cannot afford an extended, unplanned closure.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, together Senator MURRAY and I will continue to advocate for this critical infrastructure, working to ensure our colleagues and the administration understand the importance of the waterways and navigation systems in the Pacific Northwest. Investing in our water infrastructure supports jobs, economic security, and healthy communities. Senator MURRAY and I are proud to fight for the investments the Army Corps needs to operate, maintain, and restore the Ballard Locks.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MARVIN QUALLEY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the distinct honor of recognizing Marvin Qualley, a dedicated basketball official from Roosevelt County. This past week, Marvin was selected by the Montana High School Association for induction into the 2017 Montana Officials' Association Hall of Fame.

Marvin's recognition as a hall of fame official is clearly well earned. He has been a bedrock official in the northeast Montana basketball circuit for many years. From Plentywood to Poplar, the communities of northeast Montana have benefited from Marvin's officiating. The 36-year duration of Marvin's contributions to youth sports is simply amazing. The quality of his hall of fame career is evident in his frequent selection to officiate postseason competitions. He was behind the whis-

tle for 15 State basketball tournaments and 60 total tournaments. In addition to his accomplishments as a referee, Marvin has spent many years behind the wheel of a school bus helping students in the Froid and Medicine Lake communities safely reach their destination.

Both behind the wheel and behind the whistle, Marvin's commitment to safety and fair play has helped a generation of Montana students. Officiating youth sports is often a thankless task. Looking back on Marvin's distinguished career, it is appropriate to sum it up with a sincere "Good job, ref!" •

##### TRIBUTE TO MARY JO CODEY

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the legacy of a great New Jerseyan upon her retirement from a 40-year teaching career. As Mary Jo Codey wraps up her final school year at Gregory Elementary, a public school in West Orange, NJ, we congratulate her on a long and fruitful career inspiring and educating our children while putting them on the path to success. Even as the first lady of New Jersey under the administration of her husband, Richard Codey, Mary Jo refused to leave the children she loved so much, saying, "When asked if I would resign my teaching responsibilities during my tenure as the First Lady, my response was consistently 'no.' Teaching was and is my passion!" Her dedication and service to her students and to her State will not soon be forgotten.

While teaching may have been Mary Jo's first passion, her drive to make life better for children and families extends well beyond the classroom. I have been honored over the years to work closely with Mary Jo on an issue near and dear to her heart. Ten to 20 percent of women across America are suffering from postpartum depression, and after the birth of her first son in 1984, Mary Jo was one of them. Then, after the birth of her second son, her depression returned, but this time she was able to recognize it and seek treatment for it. Instead of hiding her illness or being ashamed of it, Mary Jo's personal struggle became the motivation for her to raise awareness for postpartum depression and work tirelessly to improve diagnostic and treatment options on the State and Federal level.

Thanks to her leadership, New Jersey became the first State to provide resources to ensure that uninsured mothers can receive postpartum depression screening and treatment. I am proud to say that Mary Jo and I worked together to pass the Melanie Blocker Stokes Mom's Opportunity To Access Health, Education, Research, and Support for Postpartum Depression Act, or MOTHERS Act, as part of the Affordable Care Act in 2010. This legislation encourages better education, support services, and research for postpartum depression, and we owe its passage

largely to advocates like Mary Jo Codey. Now, we still have a long way to go to ensure that postpartum depression and other aspects of maternal mental health are given the awareness and resources that they deserve. However, even as she closes the book on her teaching career, I know that Mary Jo's work is far from over, and she will not rest until we reach our goal. Whether it is her advocacy on behalf of postpartum depression or breast cancer, of which she is a survivor, her commitment to improving the lives of children, mothers, and families is unwavering.

With that, I look forward to continuing to work with Mary Jo in the coming years, thank her for her incredible service to New Jersey and all of us, and congratulate her on her retirement. •

##### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

##### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:42 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1215. An act to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

H.R. 1500. An act to redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as "Robert Emmet Park", and for other purposes.

##### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1215. An act to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1500. An act to redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as "Robert Emmet Park", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.