

respond to Russian interference. I would like to thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for bringing us together.

This evening, many of my colleagues have spoken about how Russian aggression affects Americans and our allies across the world. Some have discussed the need for sanctions to defer Russia and the fact that the administration has not yet imposed sanctions, the same sanctions that were passed by the Senate 98 to 2 and 419 to 3 in the House of Representatives. Those were the additional sanctions that were directly related to the interference in the elections and what we saw take place over the last year. They sit dormant.

Others have talked about the importance of Special Counsel Mueller's investigation and the fact that it must move forward without interference from the White House. Nearly a dozen Senators have come to the floor to highlight the need to stand up to Russia. I am here to talk about the critical need to safeguard the most fundamental part of our democracy—the U.S. elections.

Today, I heard the Prime Minister of Sweden address our Nation. When standing next to the President, he was asked a question about this, and he put it simply. He said that in their country, they believe that the people, the citizens of their country, should be the ones who make the decisions about their elections, that they are the ones who should be able to vote, that they are the ones who should be able to have their own opinions not be influenced by foreign countries acting as if they are people in their country.

It is the Presiding Officer who made the statement that I have quoted so many times—that in the last election, it was one candidate and one party, and in the next election, it could be the other candidate and the other party. We do not come here in a partisan way. We come here because the clock is ticking.

Today marks an important day in the 2018 election cycle. Texas is holding the first State primary, and others begin in the coming weeks, including in Illinois. Illinois was one of 21 States that the Russians attempted to hack into—Illinois, where they actually hacked into their voter data, which is the personal information about their voters. Those elections are coming. We are glad that we have a decentralized system so that they have different systems. It is easier to hack into one centralized system. It also means that they have many things to choose from, and we have 40 States that haven't updated their equipment in over 10 years. We have 10 States that don't even have backup paper ballots, and we sit here doing nothing when the solution is right in front of us.

Over the course of the last year, I have come to the floor a number of times to urge this body to take immediate action to beef up our election cybersecurity. There is no longer any doubt that our elections have been and

will continue to be a target for foreign adversaries. Intelligence reports make it clear that Russia used covert cyber attacks, espionage, and harmful propaganda to attack our political system.

I mentioned the attempts on 21 State election systems. Do you know when the real election—the general election—is? It is 245 days away, with primaries beginning today. We have not imposed the sanctions—the administration hasn't—despite this body's taking firm action that we wanted to see these sanctions imposed.

We have had six security heads from this administration—not from the Obama administration; they already spoke out on this. The head of the CIA, the Director of National Intelligence, and the head of the FBI have all testified before U.S. Senate committees that, in fact, this is happening now. It was Director Coats, who was once a Senator here, who said that, in fact, he believes the Russians are getting bolder. These are not the words of Obama's security people. These are the words of Trump's security people.

Last week, NSA Director Rogers said this about Russia: "They haven't paid a price at least that is sufficient to get them to change their behavior."

Earlier this year, CIA Director Pompeo said that he has seen no signs that Russia has decreased its activity and that Russia is currently working to disrupt the upcoming 2018 elections.

It is the policy of the United States of America to defend against and respond to threats to our Nation. This is a cyber attack. It is not with bullets, and it is not with tanks. It is not with aircraft, but it is an attack. It is, simply, using the computer system. In every briefing that I have gone to, this is always listed as one of the major ways in which foreign adversaries are going to attack our Nation—they are going to use the internet. Here we have it happening right here on our very democracy, itself.

In order to protect our election system, we need to do three key things.

First, we must give State and local officials the tools and resources they need to prevent hacks and safeguard election infrastructure from foreign interference. They need those resources now, not after the election, not after the primaries. Today, more than 40 States, as I mentioned, rely on electronic voting systems that are at least 10 years old. Do you think the Russians don't know that? Do you think I am giving away some state secret here? Of course they know that.

Ten years ago, on February 6, 2008, it was Super Tuesday for the 2008 Presidential election. A lot has changed in the last 10 years but not our voting equipment. It has remained the same. That is why I am leading bipartisan legislation with Senator LANKFORD. This is a bipartisan effort. We also appreciate our cosponsors Senators HARRIS, GRAHAM, COLLINS, and HEINRICH. We call this bill the Secure Elections Act. It would provide \$386 million in

grant funding for States to secure their elections systems. It is paid for. We found a pay-for.

We have a similar bill that is led by Congressman MEADOWS in the House—the head of the Freedom Caucus—because they understand that freedom is not cheap, that to guarantee freedom, you must have a secure democracy, and \$386 million is just 3 percent of the cost of one aircraft carrier.

I think most Americans would agree that, as we see more and more sophisticated types of warfare happening, to not even pay attention to helping the States fund this election equipment that has been woefully underfunded is a huge mistake.

The second thing that we need to do—by the way we can do this now. We can do this in the omnibus bill. The second thing we need to do is improve information sharing so that local election officials know when they are attacked and how to respond. It took the Federal Government nearly a year to notify these 21 States that were targeted by Russian-backed hackers. That cannot happen again.

Finally, we need a reliable backup system. I am talking about paper backup ballots—the old-fashioned way. There are 10 States that don't have them.

The integrity of our election system is the cornerstone of our democracy. Americans have fought and died for our democracy since our country was founded, and we must guarantee that democracy continues.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DANA MARSHALL-BERNSTEIN

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I honor the life and memory of Dana Marshall-Bernstein and express my deepest condolences to her parents, family, and friends.

Dana was diagnosed as a young child with Crohn's disease, which she succumbed to at age 28, but Dana did not allow her disease to define her and instead will be remembered for her infallible spirit, perseverance, strength, and courage. Through her large collection of hats and artistic spirit, Dana brought joy to so many. She was a light in the lives around her, as a "spiritual warrior," giving hope and

support through her work with the southwest chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation.

Dana lived life to the fullest—skiing, playing piano, creating art, and singing every chance she got. Dana's intelligence, brilliance, amazing sense of humor and wit, loving compassionate heart, and all-around remarkable soul will always be in the hearts and minds of her loving family and in those who had the fortune of knowing her.●

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANFORD, MAINE

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the city of Sanford, ME, on their 250th anniversary. As a southern Maine community, Sanford's residents have access to the countryside and a downtown area, while also being close to Maine's coastal communities. Sanford prides itself on being a business friendly community, and the economic growth council has promoted a plan for the future of business which includes greater development and revitalization of the city.

On February 27, Sanford began their year of celebration with a kick-off event in Central Park where residents had the opportunity to ice skate, drink hot chocolate, enjoy music performed by the high school chorus, and end the night with a fireworks show. The city has a year to celebrate this milestone and will do so through events focusing on community engagement and promotion of local business.

In 1661, William Phillips purchased land from two Native American leaders which would be called Phillipstown. The land was first inhabited in 1739, and in 1768, the residents of Phillipstown received town status. The Governor of Massachusetts chose the name for the new town, as Maine was a province of Massachusetts at the time. The name "Sanford" was chosen in honor of Peleg Sanford, the stepson of William Phillips, who served as Governor of Rhode Island. In Sanford, work in sawmills saw growth in the early 19th century, followed by development in agriculture and textiles. The establishment of Goodall Mills in the late 1860s attracted skilled workers from Canada and Europe. Looking forward to present day, Sanford achieved city status in January of 2013, making it the newest city in the State of Maine. Today Sanford is home to 21,000 residents that span residential areas and woodlands, including access to three different trail ways. In addition to enjoying the nature surrounding Sanford, the parks and recreation department also hosts a variety of events that meet the interests of all generations, including line-dancing, pickleball games, activities at the YMCA, and an annual Winterfest.

For its 250th anniversary, Sanford is celebrating this milestone with the design of a new anniversary logo, the creation of a commemorative coin, and a communitywide promotion to support

businesses in the city. With a history dating back to as early as 1661, the residents of Sanford have worked to develop and improve their community over time. This year the city will see the opening of a new combined high school and technical center designed to prepare students with the skills needed for the 21st century in area industries; the launch of a 50 MW solar array at the Seacoast Regional Airport which will be the largest solar project in Maine and the largest solar array on any airport in the United States; and the construction of SanfordNet Fiber, a 45-mile dark fiber extension to Maine's 3 Ring Binder high-speed internet system.

I would like to congratulate and celebrate with the citizens of Sanford on its 250th anniversary. I wish the city continued success and look forward to seeing the celebration of this milestone throughout the year.●

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS FRYE

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a prominent Civil War historian, whose work spans the globe as a lecturer, guide, and preservationist. Dennis Frye is the chief historian at Harpers Ferry National Park in my home State of West Virginia.

Born out of the fiery turmoil of the Civil War, the Mountain State was founded by courageous patriots who were willing to risk their lives and fortunes in a united pursuit of justice and freedom for all. As West Virginians, we take great pride in our history, and it is so important to instill this commitment to our values in the next generation. That is Dennis's legacy.

As a preservationist, Dennis is a cofounder and first president of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation and is also a cofounder and former president of the Civil War Trust. His lifetime achievements in the Civil War history community have earned him numerous awards and recognitions, including the Shelby Foote Award by the Civil War Trust and the Nevins-Freeman Award by the Civil War Roundtable of Chicago—the first and oldest Civil War roundtable.

Dennis has authored nearly 100 articles and 10 books and also helped produce the Emmy Award-winning television features about the Battle of Antietam, abolitionist John Brown, and Maryland during the Civil War. He has been published in countless prestigious Civil War magazines, including Civil War Times Illustrated, America's Civil War, Blue & Gray Magazine, North and South Magazine, and Hallowed Ground and has been featured as a guest contributor to the Washington Post. His book, "Harpers Ferry Under Fire," received the national book of the year award from the Association of Partners for Public Lands. "September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril" was awarded the 2012 Laney Book Prize for distinguished scholarship and writ-

ing on the military and political history of the Civil War.

Dennis is a highly sought after tour guide, having worked with the Smithsonian, National Geographic, and numerous colleges and universities. He has a remarkable gift for storytelling and has certainly made history a favorite subject for countless students.

West Virginia is great because our people are great—Mountaineers who will always be free. In fact, when visitors come to West Virginia, I jump at the chance to tell them about our wonderful State. We have more veterans per capita than most any State in the Nation. We have fought in more wars, shed more blood, and lost more lives for the cause of freedom than most any State. We have always done the heavy lifting and never complained. We have mined the coal and forged the steel that built the guns, ships, and factories that have protected and continue to protect our country. I am so deeply proud of what our citizens have accomplished and what they will continue to accomplish in the days and years ahead.

Dennis has been a vital part of keeping the legacy of our State alive and inspiring the next generation to research, learn, and appreciate what makes West Virginia so special.

While he is retiring and everyone is sure to miss his strong leadership, Dennis's unwavering dedication passion for his work will leave a lasting legacy with the countless lives he has touched. I am sincerely grateful for his remarkable work and for showcasing our beautiful State to the rest of the Nation. I am deeply honored to wish good health and much happiness to Dennis and his family in the days and years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO EVERETT LEE

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the legacy of a trail-blazing musician and conductor from beautiful Wheeling, WV: Everett Lee.

Everett has not only been witness to changes in the classical music industry in the last century, but he has been an integral part of the change as well. His story began while working at a hotel in Cleveland, OH, where he met the Cleveland Orchestra music director, Artur Rodzinski. The director, having already heard of Everett's remarkable talent, invited him to attend concerts on Saturdays. Rodzinski was a mentor to Everett and inspired him to continue his violin training and eventually enroll at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Everett enlisted in the military of June 1943, serving as an aviation cadet at the Tuskegee Army Air Field. Following an injury in the military, Everett made his way to New York to serve in the orchestra for Broadway's "Carmen Jones," a reimagining of Bizet's opera with an all African-American cast. One evening, the conductor was unable to attend a performance, and