

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

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.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN J. SCATES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, every day, the American farmer works hard to keep the faith and survive unknowns—from changes in the marketplace or the unpredictability of the weather, to changes in public policy. We saw that in the 1980s with disruptions in our export markets, depressed prices, creeping debt, and high production costs. We see that same today. Just like then, Illinois farm families have a trusted person fighting to keep their operations strong and to help pave the way for a stronger future for farming—his name is Steve Scates.

I am here today to honor my friend Steve, who was recently named one of this year's Southern Illinois University Distinguished Alumni. He has more than earned this prestigious recognition.

A native of Shawneetown in southern Illinois, Steve has worked his entire life in agriculture, from production agriculture with his grandfather, who founded Pat Scates and Sons Farm, to developing public policy that supports our farmers. Ever since he earned his bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University in 1959 in animal sciences, Steve has been actively involved in a wide range of professional agricultural organizations, including in several leadership posts, like chair of the Illinois Soybean Association board of directors.

President Bill Clinton recognized Steve's experience and hard work supporting the Illinois farming community by appointing him the State Executive Director for the Illinois offices of the USDA Farm Service Agency, where he served for 8 years and played a critical role in the implementation of the 1996 farm bill programs.

He went on to serve as chairperson of the Illinois Council for Food and Agricultural Research. During his time there, he received more awards than can be counted, including the Farm Bureau Eagle Award, the USDA Secretary's Award, and the SIU College of Agricultural Sciences 2008 Outstanding Alumni Award.

With all the awards and recognition, Steve's career has really been about helping people. While he is part of one of the largest farming operations in Illinois, he has always worked to look out for the interests of the smallest of farming operations to ensure they received a fair shake.

Although today they say that Steve has retired from farming, I know that he is still actively involved and serves as a senior partner at Pat Scates and Sons Farms and on the board of directors for Scates Gardens, Inc. Steve is never far from his partner and wife, Kappy, and his heart is always with his fabulous family.

Illinois agriculture is lucky to have a champion like Steve and his family still going strong in the farming community. America and Illinois need leaders like Steve now more than ever.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 141, the confirmation of Susan Combs to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

I was necessarily absent but had I been present, would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 142, the motion to invoke cloture on Ryan T. Holte, to be a judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 143, the motion to invoke cloture on Rossie David Alston, Jr., to be U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 144, the motion to invoke cloture on Richard A. Hertling, to be a judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for vote No. 137 on the confirmation of David Schenker to be an Assistant Secretary of State. On vote No. 137, had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation.

I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 138 on the confirmation of Heath Tarbert to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and for vote No. 139 on the confirmation of Heath Tarbert to be Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. On vote No. 138 and vote No. 139, had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation to be Chairman and Commissioner.

I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 140 on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Susan Combs to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior. On vote No. 140, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, later today, I will be leaving with many other Senators on an official trip to Normandy, France, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the D-day invasion, also known as Operation Overlord. I

consider it a high honor to be part of a congressional delegation commemorating one of the most important days in the history of human civilization. It is especially important to make this trip at a time when relations with our traditional trans-Atlantic allies are under undue and unnecessary stress.

On June 6, 1944, the largest single amphibious assault in history crossed the English Channel and stormed the beaches of Normandy, code-named "Utah," "Omaha," "Gold," "Juno," and "Sword," names that will be forever associated with acts of uncommon valor and self-sacrifice in defense of human freedom and dignity. The Allied armada involved over 156,000 U.S., British, and Canadian troops traveling aboard almost 7,000 naval ships and landing vessels.

Even before the amphibious assault, in the darkened skies of that early morning, 13,100 American paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions made parachute drops near Carentan from over 2,000 Allied aircraft, followed by 3,937 troops flown in by day on 867 gliders as the opening maneuver of Operation Neptune, the assault operation for Overlord.

Three of the six Allied divisions involved in D-day were American, including the 29th Infantry Division. The 29th Infantry Division was activated on February 3, 1941, and based at Fort Meade, MD. It consisted of soldiers from Maryland and Virginia. In September 1942, the 29th deployed to England, where it made final preparations for the D-day invasion.

Operation Overlord called for Allied troops to storm ashore five landing areas along the 50-mile stretch of Normandy's shore. U.S. forces were responsible for taking Utah and Omaha. Securing Omaha was critical to the Allies' success and would be the site of the heaviest German resistance. The 29th and the 1st Infantry Division were responsible for taking Omaha. Nearly 10,000 men of the 29th formed the first assault wave on Omaha. At approximately 6:30 in the morning on June 6th, Allied forces encountered stormy seas, a low tide, reinforced obstacles, and a force of 50,000 German troops awaiting them on Normandy's 50-mile shoreline.

George "Billy" Forbes, Jr., of Bryantown, MD, was a radio operator in the 29th Infantry Division. Mr. Forbes described his feelings before the D-day invasion as "very anxious and very scared." He said that even though he did not know what to expect, he had a job to do, and he was going to do it to the best of his ability.

Lester Lease of Cumberland, MD, was only 16 years old when he lied about his age to join the Army. He was a sergeant in the 29th when he landed at Omaha Beach. Mr. Lease stressed the difficulty of the amphibious assault. The "Higgins boats" could not get close enough to shore for the soldiers to get off on the land, so they had to swim through deep water before they could wade or crawl ashore. Many of

them perished in the onslaught of withering German machine gun and artillery fire before they even made it to shore. Those who did make it to the beaches encountered thick shell smoke that obstructed their visibility, and they heard the cries for help from their fellow soldiers lying wounded nearby as German machine gun fire relentlessly rained down on them.

Charles “Harry” Heinlein, a 22-year-old Army private from Baltimore, MD, described the scene as total confusion, recalling, “It seemed like hours to get off the beach. At this point, the only orders being yelled to those still able to fight was, ‘Get off the beach! Get off the beach!’”

William Bladen of College Park, MD, was a 19-year-old paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. In the dark, early hours of that morning, Private First Class Bladen parachuted into Normandy with two 20-pound satchels of TNT attached to him and unable to see where he would land. Mr. Bladen said, “War is hell—in fact, it’s worse than hell.” But he had a mission and he did it.

Joe Heinlein of Parkville, MD, provided context to the American casualties suffered. He pointed out that before D-day, Bravo Company, 175th Regiment, of the 29th Infantry Division, had about 200 men; by June 19 about a dozen men remained. Mr. Bladen added, “I hope people remember that a lot of men gave their lives for others.”

Freedom is not free. The Normandy American Cemetery serves as the final resting place for 9,380 American military dead, most of whom lost their lives in the D-day landings. On the Walls of the Missing are inscribed another 1,557 names of soldiers whose remains were never recovered or identified. We must never forget those who, in Abraham Lincoln’s immortal words, “have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.” The Americans who died on the beaches and in the fields of Normandy made the ultimate sacrifice, but they did not die in vain. They helped to defeat fascism, totalitarianism, and the Nazi regime. They helped to liberate Europe and the concentration camps. In GEN Dwight Eisenhower’s D-day address, he declared to Allied troops, “The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you . . . The free men of the world are marching together to victory.”

We remember and we honor the intrepid heroes of the 29th Infantry Division and all the other members of the “Greatest generation” who marched together into battle and demonstrated remarkable acts of valor and sacrifice 75 years ago tomorrow.

As the poet Archibald MacLeish wrote, “There are those who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is the American Dream.” But it is a dream

that we Americans share with all people who cherish freedom and human dignity now, just as we did on June 6th, 1944.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I am proud to rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the day my home State of Wisconsin became the first State in the Nation to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote.

Although the outcome was a historic victory, women did not gain the right to vote without a struggle. The road to Wisconsin’s ratification of the 19th Amendment was paved with more than 70 years of advocacy and speeches, marches and rallies, legislation and lawsuits by strong Wisconsin suffragists. Many of the battles were lost before they were won.

When Wisconsin became a State in 1848, only White male landowners over 21 years of age could vote. In 1869, women won the right to run for local school boards in Wisconsin but ironically could not vote for themselves. In 1886, Wisconsin voters approved a statewide referendum allowing women to vote in school elections. When women tried to exercise their new rights for the first time in 1887, however, many women’s ballots were discarded because there was no way to verify that women voted only in school elections. Racine suffragist Olympia Brown sued to have her ballot accepted, but the State supreme court said the law was vague and needed to be rewritten. Fourteen years later, the Wisconsin Legislature approved the creation of separate ballots for women that only included school elections.

In 1911, Wisconsin suffragists persuaded the legislature to authorize a statewide referendum on voting rights for women, but it was soundly defeated by an electorate that didn’t include women. Two years later, the legislature again called for a referendum on women’s suffrage, but it was vetoed by the Governor. In 1915, another attempt at a referendum was rejected by lawmakers.

Women’s suffrage fared much better when the debate over voting rights shifted from individual States to the national stage. Congress passed the 19th Amendment on June 4, 1919. Less than a week later, on June 10th, the Wisconsin Legislature ratified the amendment, narrowly beating out its neighbor to the south. Illinois had actually ratified the amendment an hour before Wisconsin, but a paperwork error delayed the filing of the Illinois documents. By August 26, 1920, the necessary 36 States had ratified the 19th Amendment, and women were granted full voting rights.

As we celebrate the centennial of this historic moment, it is important to acknowledge that ratification of the 19th Amendment did not extend voting

rights to all women. Advocacy for suffrage for Black women was often abandoned in an attempt to gain support for ratification in the South. African-American women faced disenfranchisement tactics that ranged from separate long lines and civics tests to poll taxes and even beatings. Many of these tactics continued until passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Wisconsin owes its unique position in history to the voices of powerful Wisconsin women who not only spoke truth to power but who also shattered the glass ceiling in their professional lives. Belle Case LaFollette, originally from Summit, was the first woman to graduate from law school in Wisconsin. Laura Ross Wolcott from Milwaukee was Wisconsin’s first woman physician. Olympia Brown of Racine was the first woman to be ordained a minister in the entire country. Nationally renowned suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt from Ripon was indispensable to passage of the amendment. As the first woman to represent Wisconsin in the U.S. House of Representatives and now the U.S. Senate, I am humbled to walk the path these strong women helped forge for their successors.

One hundred years ago, after decades of struggle by brave women and men, our Nation finally extended to women the most fundamental right in our democracy—the right to vote. As we celebrate this historic milestone in our Nation’s history, let us vow to continue to fight for full equality for women, including access to health care, in workplace salaries, and in representation the Halls of Congress.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DON FRASER

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge the passing of a true champion for good—former Congressman, Minneapolis mayor, and my friend and neighbor—Don Fraser, who died at the age of 95 on June 2, 2019. Those who knew him best described Don as thoughtful, decent, intelligent, tough, and absolutely wonderful.

Don Fraser was born in Minneapolis, MN, in 1924. He fought in World War II and later studied law at the University of Minnesota Law School. He joined the law firm of Larson, Loevinger, Lindquist, Freeman, and Fraser before he was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in 1954. In 1962, Don was elected to the House of Representatives, representing Minnesota’s Fifth District, where he served for 16 years. Don went on to serve as mayor of Minneapolis from 1980 to 1994, making him the longest serving mayor in Minneapolis history.

Don was married to Arvonne Skelton Fraser, who dedicated her life to improving the lives of women around the world. Together, they had six children: Thomas, Mary, John, Lois, Anne, and Jean.