

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.