

children, Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie, and the entire Hagan family. Our prayers are with Kay, as we mourn this dedicated public servant.

REMEMBERING JOHN CONYERS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to remember John James Conyers, Jr., of Detroit, MI, the longest serving Black Congressman in history and a champion for civil rights and social justice. Sadly, Mr. Conyers passed away last week at the age of 90. Mr. Conyers was passionate about serving his country and his constituents, always fighting for those without a voice.

Mr. Conyers was born in Detroit, MI on May 16, 1929, to John and Lucille Conyers. After graduating from Northwestern High School, Mr. Conyers worked as a welder for Lincoln automotive while attending Wayne State University. He served in the Michigan National Guard before enlisting in the U.S. Army during the Korean war, where he served as a second lieutenant. After 4 years of service, he was honorably discharged and returned to Wayne State University to obtain his bachelor's degree in 1957 and his law degree in 1958.

In 1958, Mr. Conyers continued his life of service as a legal aide to Representative John Dingell, Jr., of Detroit. He then ran for Congress in 1964 and for the next 53 years, represented metro Detroit in a career full of many historic firsts for civil rights and the Black community.

Mr. Conyers was on the frontlines of the civil rights movement. He was a co-sponsor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and worked with Martin Luther King, Jr., in Selma, AL to advocate for equal rights. In 1967, during the civil unrest in Detroit, Mr. Conyers was in the streets, encouraging peace and an end to the rioting. After the tragic assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968, Mr. Conyers introduced legislation to forever remember Dr. King's legacy with a Federal holiday. He re-introduced his bill every session until it was signed into law in 1983. He also hired civil rights legend Rosa Parks to work in his Detroit office, where she stayed for over 20 years.

In Congress, Mr. Conyers was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. He also served on and was chairman of the House Oversight Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. By the end of his service, he was the longest serving African-American Congressman in history, as well as the dean of the House of Representatives.

As an activist, trailblazer, and leader, Mr. Conyers will be greatly missed across Michigan, as he touched the lives of many people throughout Michigan. Mr. Conyers is survived by his wife of 29 years, Monica, and his two sons, John and Carl.

Mr. President, I cannot express enough the impact Mr. John Conyers,

Jr., had on the city of Detroit and the State of Michigan. He was a pillar of our community and a model of humble leadership. His passion and tenacity will be missed. However, I am confident his legacy will continue to inspire others to serve and fight for justice and equality for all.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I honor the service and sacrifices of our veterans and their families every day. As we approach the 101st Veterans Day on Monday, I want to take a moment to pay special tribute to the men and women who have worn a uniform in defense of our great Nation, its people, and our values.

Progress usually is a good thing, but sometimes it comes with frightful consequences. The industrial revolution brought the development of weapons and tactics that enabled humankind to wage war and carnage upon itself at a level never before seen. By the end of World War I, there were approximately 40 million military and civilian casualties. H.G. Wells predicted it would be "the war to end war." Tragically, that was not the case.

The United States played an instrumental role in ending World War I, then known as the Great War. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, Germany signed an armistice with the Allies in a railroad car outside Compiegne, France. One hundred years ago, on November 11, 1919—exactly 1 year after the signing of the armistice with Germany—President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first "Armistice Day" to commemorate the day. On that occasion, he stated: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory."

Maryland played a critical role in ending that conflict with victory. Prominent military installations such as Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Grounds rapidly trained and deployed troops to Europe, and about 2,000 Maryland servicemembers made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom and ideals.

Congress passed legislation to establish Armistice Day as a legal holiday in 1938, "dedicated to the cause of world peace."

The advent of World War II brought new challenges to America. Just as before, countless brave men and women stepped forward to do their part in service of their country. And just as before, Marylanders stepped forward arm-in-arm with their fellow citizens. The mighty Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard in Baltimore produced hundreds of ships at dizzying speed to fight a war across a great ocean. Just a few miles from there, Glenn L. Martin Company's Aircraft produced A-22 Maryland bombers among other critically important aircraft in the battle for air superiority.

Marylanders heroically fought on battlefields across the European and Pacific theatres. In all, 6,454 Marylanders lost their lives in World War II. Their names are memorialized in the granite of the Maryland World War II Monument in Annapolis.

In 1954, after the Korean war, veterans service organizations urged Congress to amend the 1931 act by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to thank and honor all American veterans who have served in wartime and peacetime.

Successive conflicts and a rapidly modernizing world have brought their own unique national security challenges, but Americans' bravery and willingness to serve has never wavered. Our Nation's security has always depended on the men and women of our military, and for their service, we are eternally indebted.

Maryland continues to play a strategic role in our Nation's security infrastructure. The Old Line State is home to 11 military installations. Among the facilities are Joint Base Andrews, which is home to the President's two Boeing VC-25 airplanes, which have the call sign "Air Force One" while the Commander-in-Chief is on board, and the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, which has been training midshipmen since 1845.

We honor all those men and women who have endeavored to protect our country and preserve our democracy so that Americans may live free from tyranny. Maryland is fortunate to be home to about 371,000 military veterans. These servant-leaders live amongst us as schoolteachers, small business owners, homemakers, public servants and most every other profession and they continue to give back to our communities.

Let us all honor our veterans on this solemn day and every day by holding the values they fought so gallantly to defend and by providing them with the benefits they earned through blood, sweat, courage, and perseverance.

On this Veterans Day, I join all Americans in thanking our veterans for their service, their sacrifice, and for being role models for future generations of Americans who will pick up the mantle of defending our great country.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, on this Veterans Day 2019, I wish to pay tribute to all veterans and thank them for their service. The freedoms we enjoy in America today are because of them.

For more than 200 years, our veterans have fought across the globe defending our freedoms, while their families waited and worried at home. Thanks to them, the forces of tyranny and oppression have been turned back and defeated time and again.

As Americans across the Nation come together on Veterans Day, I will be participating in a program in Fargo,