

thought it would behoove everyone to listen to his own words back when he did it on CBS.

I—Me; an individual, a committee of one.
Pledge—Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance—My love and my devotion.
To the Flag—Our standard, “Old Glory”; a symbol of courage. And wherever she waves, there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts “Freedom is everybody’s job.”

of the United—That means we have all come together.

States—Individual communities that have united into 48 great states; 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided by imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common cause, and that’s love of country—

Of America.
And to the Republic—A Republic: A sovereign state in which power is invested into the representatives chosen by the people to govern; and the government is the people, and it’s from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands.
One Nation—Meaning “so blessed by God.” [Under God]

Indivisible—Incapable of being divided.
With liberty—Which is freedom; the right of power for one to live his [or her] own life without fears, threats, or any sort of retaliation.

And Justice—The principle and qualities of dealing fairly with others.

For All—That means, boys and girls, it’s as much your country as it is mine.

Afterward, Mr. Laswell asked his students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance together, with a newfound appreciation and reinvigoration for the words: “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Mr. Skelton concluded his speech by saying:

Since I was a small boy, two States have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: “Under God.” Wouldn’t it be a pity if someone said, “That is a prayer”—and that be eliminated from our schools, too?

Just as those students that day, Mr. Red Skelton included, recommitted to the meaning of the words of the Pledge of Allegiance, I call upon the U.S. Senate to recommit to the meaning of these words.

There are times today that the words of the pledge are tossed around without too much care. Other times, they are altered to remove what today is deemed offensive or antiquated, but Americans should not misuse or abuse the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge is meant to remind Americans of our guiding principles and inspire adherence to those ideas which make our country great: equality under the law and recognized rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 715, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 715) expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BRAUN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.
The resolution (S. Res. 715) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.
(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

Mr. BRAUN. I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I just want to say how much I appreciate the resolution of the Senator from Indiana. It reminds me of discussions I know all of us have had about the teaching of American history and civics in our schools and, frankly, a collective concern that our children are being raised and educated without learning both about our founding principles and how unique we are as a nation. I think, as modest a step as this may seem, it is an important one, and I congratulate our friend from Indiana for taking it.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATIONS

Madam President, in a letter to our Democratic colleagues earlier this week, my friend, the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, pointed out the vastly different treatment of Supreme Court nominees by the respective political parties.

He wrote: “Compare the treatment of Robert Bork, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Brett Kavanaugh to that of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan, and it’s clear that there already is one set of rules for a Republican president and another set of rules for a Democrat president.”

This double standard is not just fiction or our imagination at play. Two years ago, we saw the outrageous smear campaign that our Democratic colleagues waged against Justice Brett Kavanaugh and his family. I have noted that it is not just enough to defeat a nomination; they actually were out to destroy his reputation.

While I hope it is something no nominee will have to endure again, I worry that history will repeat itself. The President has yet to even announce his nominee for the Supreme Court for the vacancy created by the death of Justice Ginsburg, but our Democratic colleagues are already reflexively taking potshots at potential nominees.

One of those potential nominees is Judge Amy Coney Barrett, who is a well-respected Federal judge with an impressive background as a legal scholar. While serving on the Seventh Circuit, Judge Barrett has shown that she will faithfully and impartially apply the law to cases and controversies before her, but in the eyes of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, her stellar resume has one glaring flaw—her strong Catholic faith.

During Judge Barrett’s confirmation hearing for her current position on the circuit court, the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary asked Judge Barrett if she could separate her religious beliefs from her legal duties, saying: “The dogma lives loudly within you, and that’s a concern.”

During my time in the Senate, I don’t recall any similar application of a religious test to a nominee or such intrusive questions about how their faith might impact their abilities to carry out the duty of a Justice. But, apparently, some on the other side of the aisle believe that a Christian woman is unable to separate her religious beliefs from her role on the bench. Yet, again, there is a different standard for nominees of a Republican President. But the Constitution provides that “no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.” In other words, it is unconstitutional to impose a religious test on a nominee or on any person who holds public office.

Unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues’ efforts to destroy conservative nominees are getting more and more outrageous—false accusations, religious tests, and threats to upend institutions, like packing the Court. It is terrifying to imagine what might come next.

In 2016, the American people elected President Trump knowing the type of nominees he would send us because he advertised and released a list of potential nominees to the Supreme Court were he elected.

At the same time, the American people also reelected a Senate majority committed to supporting the President’s nominees to the Federal bench. On both counts, we delivered, first, with the confirmation of Justice Gorsuch and, then, with the confirmation of Justice Kavanaugh.

We are once again prepared to deliver on our promise to the American people and to consider another highly qualified jurist to the Supreme Court. We will not rush this process. My colleagues and I on the Judiciary Committee will do our job and thoroughly examine the nominee, just as we would any other nominee to the Court.

Then, every single Member of the Senate will have the chance to debate and vote for or against that nominee right here on the Senate floor. This confirmation will be as thorough as it always has been, but my hope is that this time it will also be civil, and that

the threats and religious tests end today.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Madam President, on another matter, I have the great honor of representing nearly 29 million Texans, roughly 40 percent of whom are Hispanic. I consider myself fortunate to have experienced the tremendous influence of the Hispanic community on our country and on our culture. Much of that culture, of course, dates back to a time long before the Lone Star flag or the American flag flew over Texas.

The first sovereign flag planted on Texas soil was Spanish, and that sprawling Spanish colony extended all the way to modern-day Chile. When Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, it won all of Texas as well, and when Texas fought for its independence, soldiers of Mexican and European descent stood together on the Texas side in support of an independent republic.

It is unfair to say that Hispanic culture has influenced Texas because, in reality, Hispanic culture is as much a part of our State's foundation as the ground that our cities are built on.

Today, Texas is home to more than 11.5 million Hispanic Americans, some who have lived there for generations and others who have contributed to the recent rapid growth of the population of the Lone Star State. Since 2010, the Hispanic population has grown by more than 2 million people in my State, and the positive impact of Latinos across our State continues to grow.

Every year, during this month in particular, I am proud to join millions of my fellow Texans in celebrating the heritage that is uniquely woven into the fabric of our State and our Nation. During Hispanic Heritage Month, which officially commenced last week, we honor and celebrate Hispanic and Latino Americans and the traditions and contributions these men and women and those who came before them have made to our country.

For the past 12 years, I have joined our colleague Senator MENENDEZ from New Jersey and a number of other bipartisan cosponsors in introducing a resolution to formally recognize September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. It is a time we take to honor Latinos who, for generations, have served in our military, held elected office, grown small businesses, and fought in big and small ways to make our country better.

Today, Texas is proud to have incredible Hispanic-American leaders who are shaping our States' and our Nation's futures and inspiring the next generation. At the highest levels of public service in my State, we have incredible leaders like Ruth Hughs, our secretary of State, and Justice Eva Guzman, the first Hispanic woman to serve on the Texas Supreme Court.

Our communities are learning from inspiring women like Sister Norma Pimentel, who is executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande

Valley and led the creation of the respite center in McAllen to help care for migrants coming across our border.

They are seeing the incredible work of organizations like Buckner International, led by Dr. Albert Reyes, which has set up hope centers around the world that help families become self-sufficient.

Entrepreneurs are looking to business leaders like my friend Ramiro Cavazos, who is president and CEO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. For more than 40 years, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber has been an incredible resource for Hispanic business owners across the State, and their advocacy has been invaluable, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis. Earlier this summer, I was able to virtually connect with U.S. Hispanic Chamber members across Texas to discuss the relief provided by Congress in four major pieces of legislation, as well as to learn more about the challenges that they were facing and what more we might be able to do.

I have also been able to speak with Hispanic healthcare leaders, who are instrumental in Texas's fight against this virus.

Over the summer, we saw a dramatic increase in positive cases and fatalities in the Rio Grande Valley, which is predominantly Hispanic. Last month I visited the valley for conversations with local officials and healthcare leaders about the impact of the Federal CARES Act funding that we passed in four separate pieces of legislation, as well as the hurdles they continue to have and are fighting to overcome.

During our discussion, I heard from Hispanic leaders in the healthcare industry, like Manny Vela, who is the CEO of Valley Baptist Health System, and Cris Rivera, who is CEO of the Rio Grande Regional Hospital.

Strong leadership at the local level has never been more important, and I am grateful for those who are continuing to help our communities through this crisis.

For nearly a century, our State has also benefited from the work of the League of United Latin American Citizens, otherwise known as LULAC, which is led by Domingo Garcia, and for years has benefited from the leadership of Laredo native Roger Rocha. LULAC fights to improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans, particularly when it comes to education, and it is an avid supporter of Hispanic-serving institutions.

Last week the Senate passed a resolution Senator MENENDEZ and I introduced to honor these institutions, which are helping Hispanic students achieve their dreams through a quality education. Despite the fact that these colleges and universities only represent 17 percent of nonprofits colleges and universities, they enroll two-thirds of all Latino students, totaling more than 2.5 million students nationwide.

Texas is home to 100 Hispanic-serving institutions, more or less, and these

colleagues and universities are helping to prepare the next generation of leaders for our future. This month is the perfect opportunity to celebrate their incredible work and acknowledge the important role these institutions play in my State and in our country, and I am glad this resolution passed with unanimous support.

I hope we can also pass legislation I introduced to honor the contributions of Hispanic Americans for generations to come.

When Americans of all ages visit Washington, they are able to learn the stories of great Americans through the Smithsonian museums, which welcomed more than 22 million visitors last year. These museums house priceless pieces of American history, from the Star-Spangled Banner, which inspired the national anthem, to the hat that President Lincoln wore on the night he was assassinated.

Unfortunately, these museums don't represent the diversity of the American story, but that is slowly changing. In recent decades, the Smithsonian Institution family has grown to include the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

But it is time for another addition. More than a decade ago, in 2008, President Bush signed into law the National Museum of the American Latino Commission Act to study how to establish a new museum. The results of that study found that the Latino representation within the Smithsonian Institution is far from what it should be and challenged us to provide their story and to make sure it is represented there.

I am thinking of the U.S. Latino community as a whole, which numbers some 60 million people, but I am also thinking of individual men and women—people like Juan Seguin, who, in some ways, was a predecessor of mine. He came from Mexican descent and helped lead the Texas Revolution. Then he was a Texas senator before Texas even joined the Union. So in many ways, he was one of the forefathers of my State, and his contributions, like so many others, are an important part of our multifaceted American story.

We need to ensure that every American has the opportunity to learn about people like Juan Seguin and the countless other Latinos who have played pivotal roles in our history. Last year, Senator MENENDEZ and I reintroduced a bill with a bipartisan group of Senators which would authorize the Smithsonian Institution to create a museum honoring American Latinos here in Washington. This has been a work in progress since 2003, and this legislation will finally put that into motion.

The bill passed the House unanimously this summer, and between the House and Senate, we have more than 340 bipartisan cosponsors.

The time has come to turn the dream of this museum into reality. There is