

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been said that the United States is like a brilliant tapestry woven from a dazzling array of colors and patterns into a unique whole. If that is true, then the contributions of Hispanics are surely among the largest and most vibrant swaths in our rich national tapestry, and Hispanic Heritage Month is a good time to reflect on those contributions.

This celebration runs each year from mid-September to mid-October. The dates were chosen to coincide with the dates in which several Latin American nations—including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Chile—celebrate their own independence from colonial rule. This national celebration used to be just a week long, but in 1988, Congress wisely and unanimously voted to expand Hispanic Heritage Week to Hispanic Heritage Month. The legislation was sponsored by Congressman Esteban Torres and my friend and political mentor, Senator Paul Simon. It was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan, a proud, conservative Republican who understood that America's heritage as a nation of immigrants is one of our greatest sources of strength—economically, politically, culturally and morally.

The contributions and influence of Latinos on our Nation has grown dramatically in the three decades since the establishment of Hispanic Heritage Month. Today there are more than 60 million Latinos in the U.S. Illinois is proud to be home to one of the largest Latino populations in the country, including many people of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Guatemalan heritage. Latinos and Latinas are leaders in every walk of life, including business, the arts, sciences, education, sports, entertainment, and public service. A “wise Latina,” Justice Sonia Sotomayor, now serves on the U.S. Supreme Court. Ellen Ochoa, an engineer and the first Latina astronaut, is now director of NASA's Johnson Space Center. Latinas are literally helping America reach for the stars.

In my home State of Illinois, Dr. Juan Andrade, Jr., is the president of the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute, based in Chicago. He and his organization are doing critical work to educate and motivate Latinos to vote and to fill out the Census, ensuring that Latinos are seen and their voices heard. Alexis Esparza is president of Economic Strategies Development Cor-

poration. For nearly half a century, his organization, ESDC, has worked in the Pilsen community of Chicago to preserve historic buildings, build affordable new housing, and help create new commercial and industrial economic development opportunities. They are part of a long and proud tradition of Hispanic men and women whose work has made America's economy more prosperous and fairer for all of us.

Many Americans know the names Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. In 1966, these two brave labor leaders helped organize farm workers in Delano, CA, to form the United Farm Workers of America. Standing together, backed by their union, the farm workers were able to strike for higher wages, safer working conditions, and protections for women farm workers from sexual violence.

Fewer people recognize the name Guadalupe Marshall. She is also a hero for workers' rights. Let me tell you about her. On Memorial Day 1937, 10 unarmed union demonstrators from Republic Steele were shot down by police in Chicago. Lupe Marshall, who had immigrated to America from Mexico when she was 10 years old, was one of the people attending that strike. She was a mother of three and a volunteer social worker at the Jane Addams Hull House. The “Memorial Day Massacre” is how many history books label the carnage at Republic Steele. Three weeks after the killings, Lupe Marshall travelled to Washington, DC, to testify before the Senate about what she had witnessed.

She described placing herself on the front line when shots rang out and then turning to see many people lying face down on the ground. She ran, but she was clubbed in the head and arrested. Her courage helped to build support among the American people and in Congress for laws to help working people stand together for fair wages, safe working conditions, and civil rights.

During this Hispanic Heritage Month, we are especially aware of the enormous contributions that Hispanic Americans continue to make to America's economy. Sadly, we know that this COVID-19 pandemic is taking a disproportionate toll on Black and Brown Americans. Nationwide, Latinos are being hospitalized with COVID-19 at more than 4½ times the rate of White people. In Illinois and several other States, Latinos have the highest COVID-19 infection rates of any ethnic group. COVID-19 is also threatening the livelihoods of Latinos throughout the US. Almost 60 percent of Latino households have experienced job loss or wage reductions during this pandemic.

At the same time, our Nation is relying heavily on Latinos, both citizens and immigrants, to help steer us safely through this pandemic. Latinos are working on the frontlines of this pandemic as doctors, nurses, and home healthcare workers. They are also working around the clock, behind the scenes, to disinfect our workplaces, schools, stores, and health centers. Latino farm workers continue to work

in the fields and in packing plants, harvesting, and preparing the food that keeps us fed. Despite the virus and, now, the thick smoke of wildfires blanketing much of the west coast, they remain on the job.

Latinos are working as grocery clerks, teachers, postal employees, servicemembers, and other “essential worker jobs.” Many of these heroic essential workers are immigrants, and many are Dreamers. They continue to work and serve in their communities while their own status remains in limbo.

Latino-owned businesses are one of the fastest growing segments of America's economy. Nationwide, nearly 1-in-4 newly created businesses today are Latino-owned. More than 4 million Latino-owned businesses provide jobs for 2.7 million workers. Together, these businesses pump over \$700 billion into America's economy. In Illinois, 120,000 Latino-owned businesses generate \$15 billion and create jobs for 100,000 workers. These passionate entrepreneurs are the heart and pride of their communities. I see them in communities all across Illinois. Let me tell you about some of them.

In Chicagoland, Latino community and business leaders have created programs such as the Food for Hope Program and the Big Shoulders Fund to distribute free food to families who are hungry because of economic hardships related to the pandemic.

Pedro Perez owns his own maintenance company, PCY General Services. He and his daughter are part of a team that diligently disinfects Esperanza Health Centers on the Southwest Side of Chicago to make sure that the space is safe for families and for the medical professionals who work there. What is even more remarkable is that he does all of this without charge. Why? Pedro says, with a smile, because “it's his community.” Every day, in every community in Illinois and every corner of America, you can find stories like theirs.

The beauty and richness of the Latino community goes beyond food and traditions. At the heart of the Latino community is an exceptionally resilient spirit that has sustained them through history and is helping to sustain America today through the most severe health and economic crises most of us has ever experienced. I am honored to represent so many of these hard-working families in my State and look forward to see how they continue to inspire us to keep building a better America for everyone.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
MEMORIAL

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, we celebrate the 130th birthday of America's 34th President and Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary

Force in Europe during World War II, Dwight David Eisenhower.

Without Ike, it is not a stretch to imagine that the trajectory of American history might have been significantly altered. It was General Eisenhower who commanded a successful D-Day invasion, which became a pivotal turning point in the Second World War. It was President Eisenhower who waged peace, regulated atomic power, and protected the world against the growing spread of communism. Through it all, it was not selfish ambition or prestige that guided him, but rather his character and sense of duty.

He was born in Denison, TX, on October 14, 1890, as the third of seven sons. At the age of 2, Ike's family moved to Abilene, KS, a lively community with a famous frontier past where he developed his interest in exploring the outdoors. Throughout his lifetime of leadership, Ike never lost touch with his western origins. As Kansas' favorite son, Ike nurtured the values he learned as a young boy, some of which guided his decision-making as a leader. He placed the job and the mission—not himself—at the center. With this heartfelt ethic, he set the example for those around him.

From Abilene to West Point and from Normandy to Washington, Eisenhower embodied the humility, honesty, sincerity, optimism, and fortitude that he would call upon the country to emulate in his first inaugural address on January 20, 1953: "The productivity of our heads, our hands, and our hearts is the source of all the strength we can command, for both the enrichment of our lives and the winning of peace," he declared. "Whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America."

As Americans, we owe a great deal to the man who led the U.S. and Allied Forces in the liberation of Europe and expelled the evil of Hitler's Nazism. On the domestic front, we are transformed by the fruit of his legacy as President, including: the Interstate Highway System, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare—now known as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education—and the Federal Aviation Administration. Ike also brought Alaska and Hawaii into the Union; eradicated segregation in our Armed Forces; and deployed the Army's 101st Airborne to Central High School in Little Rock, AR, ensuring that the law of educational integration was followed by all States.

As chairman of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, I am proud to report that construction on the national memorial of President and General Eisenhower, located on Independence Avenue, SW, between 4th and 6th Streets, is complete, and the memorial is open to the public.

The commission hosted a dedication ceremony at the site the evening of September 17, 2020. Participants in the

ceremony included my fellow commissioners, including vice chairman Representative MIKE THOMPSON of California, Senator JOE MANCHIN of West Virginia, Senator GARY PETERS of Michigan, Senator DAN SULLIVAN of Alaska, Representative SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., OF GEORGIA, REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL K. SIMPSON of Idaho, Representative WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY of Texas, former Senator Robert J. "Bob" Dole of Kansas, Alfred Geduldig, Susan Banes Harris, and Catherine Ann Stevens.

Again, with General Eisenhower as they were on the eve of the D-Day invasion, soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division presented the colors. Speakers included me, Bret Bair, Senate Chaplain Barry Black, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, Architect Frank Gehry, Ms. Rachel Mast of Kansas who recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Astronaut Chris Cassidy from the International Space Station, Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Greta Van Susteren who introduced Senator Bob Dole, David Eisenhower, Susan Eisenhower, and Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt. Other Eisenhower family members present at the ceremony included Julie Nixon Eisenhower, their son Alex and his children, Mary Jean Eisenhower's son Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, and several members of the Gill family, relatives of Mamie Doud Eisenhower.

Enjoyed by all were musical performances by the "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, and Voices of Service performers Master Sgt. Caleb Green, Staff Sgt. Ron Henry (Ret.), Sgt. Maj. Christal Rheams, and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Hanna. Guests at the ceremony and others joining via livestream and CSPAN were thrilled to experience a flyover of F-16s piloted by soldiers of the 177th Fighter Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard. The flyover occurred precisely at the end of the National Anthem performed by Voices of Service. Additionally, 26 members of the West Point Alumni Glee Club delighted guests with superb renditions of several songs, including "Grand Old Flag," "World War II Medley," and "God Bless the USA."

September's dedication ceremony was a fitting tribute to one of our country's finest leaders. The memorial is now one of the 420 National Memorials and Parks under the stewardship of the National Park Service. I invite all to visit the new Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial.

I ask my fellow Senators and all citizens to join me in celebrating America's 34th President and Supreme Commander during World War II by wishing Ike a happy 130th birthday.

OPENING OF THE CHEYENNE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the opening of the Cheyenne National Cemetery and the hard work that has been put in to this project over the past few years.

This is a historic accomplishment for Wyoming. The Cheyenne National Cemetery is the first veterans cemetery in Wyoming that is run by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Before I became a Senator, Wyoming was campaigning for a national cemetery within the State. Once I was in the Senate, I had the opportunity to help advance this project with the help of veterans, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, and the patriotic people of Wyoming. They are all to be congratulated, and I know all are thankful this day is finally here.

The opening of this national cemetery will allow veterans in rural areas to be buried in their home State. Before it was constructed, veterans had to go to neighboring States in order to be laid to rest. Now, the Cheyenne National Cemetery will be used to serve approximately 22,000 veterans and their families. Wyoming has worked for a long time, in conjunction with the VA, to give our State veterans what they deserve: a place to rest in peace alongside their fellow servicemembers. Burial services have also been expanded to veterans' spouses and other eligible family members, for they too have sacrificed so much for their country.

National cemeteries are a way to honor our service men and women and serve as a constant reminder that freedom isn't free. It comes to us at great cost and tremendous personal sacrifice. Each name that has been enshrined has a story to tell about someone who left family and friends, safety and security behind to be part of a cause much greater than themselves. In the end, many of them gave up all of their tomorrows so that today's world might be a better place for us all to live.

I am extremely proud of the steps that the VA and the great State of Wyoming have taken in order to honor our veterans. We must never forget the sacrifices of these brave men and women.

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN'S VETERANS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to the proud Michigan residents who have served in our Nation's military and their families.

When our country was at risk of fracturing in a brutal Civil War, the people of Michigan volunteered. When fascism threatened freedom around the world, the people of Michigan fought back. And when faced with new dangers—from terrorism to pandemic diseases—the people of Michigan remain willing to put our lives on the line on behalf of the American people.

Whenever and wherever our Nation needs us, the people of Michigan always respond. In some families, this spirit of service stretches back generations.

The Armsteads are one such Michigan family. Peter Armstead was originally from England, but when his new Nation needed him, he answered the call. He fought during the Civil War