

most effective civil rights legislation ever enacted by Congress.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed just 1 year after I graduated from high school. Growing up in El Paso, Texas, I vividly remember the days of Jim Crow, segregation, and the poll tax. Should the Supreme Court rule against the Justice Department and overturn this important legislation, minority communities will lose many of their voting protections.

Later this month, I intend to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to listen to the oral arguments for this case at the Supreme Court. Many of us were part of the 390–33 majority, along with 98 Senators, who voted to reauthorize the Voting Right Act in 2006. We agreed there is still a compelling need to protect and preserve the voting rights of all Americans. After all, it is this right that lies at the very heart of our democracy that must not be eroded.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, February marks National Heart Month, which reminds all Americans to take control of their cardiovascular health. Each year, 700,000 Americans suffer a heart attack, and approximately 600,000 die from causes related to heart disease. Nearly everyone knows a family member, a colleague, or a friend who has experienced the devastating effects of this disease firsthand.

While heart disease is currently the leading cause of death among men and women, we can all take steps to prevent this disease and promote overall heart health.

One example of community action is the great work of the Plymouth Rotary Club and Allina hospitals and clinics in Minnesota. They've teamed up together to start a new project called Heart Safe Plymouth, a plan that promotes education and training on the emergency treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

I encourage all Americans to follow their example of involvement and action. Let's use American Heart Month as an opportunity to learn more about heart disease and prevention so that we can all live longer and healthier lives.

IMPACTS OF SEQUESTER

(Mr. PETERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS of California. The impacts of sequester will be felt in every district and State. San Diego is home to major research universities and technology firms. Last year, firms working on everything from improving cancer diagnostics to protecting our computer security received more than \$130 million from the National Science

Foundation and \$850 million from the National Institutes of Health. In all, San Diego received more than 1,760 grants to support America's innovators.

I recently received a letter from Arisan Therapeutics, a small biomedical group in my district. This small team of dedicated researchers has been working on vaccines against the flu and dengue fever. If the sequester goes into effect, they will have to lay off their researchers and close. The sequester will not only hurt people, jobs, and families, but it will stop critical research in the biomedical sciences and stifle innovation in our labs and universities.

Congress must act now so America and San Diego do not fall behind our international competitors and so that we continue to be on the cutting edge of technology. We must keep investing in our future.

RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT NORTHERN COLORADO

(Mr. GARDNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARDNER. Madam Speaker, I rise on the occasion of Honor Flight Northern Colorado's ninth flight to Washington, D.C., bringing veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam to see their memorials. On behalf of a grateful delegation, State, and country, I welcome these heroes.

The 122 veterans on this flight included 37 from World War II, 80 from the Korea conflict, four from the Vietnam war, and one from the war in Iraq. Eight of these veterans wear the Purple Heart.

The Honor Flight program was founded in 2005. It provides veterans with the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., free of any cost to them or their families to see the memorials that were built in their honor. The program, originally intended to honor World War II veterans, has developed to include veterans from several major conflicts.

Today we honor those veterans as they make the journey to Washington to visit the memorials that serve as a symbol of a grateful Nation. Of course, no memorial, no statue can ever truly convey the sacrifices our veterans have made for our country. Much has been asked of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and Coast Guardsmen; and time and time again they have delivered.

The freedoms endowed upon us by our Creator, protected by our Constitution, and enjoyed by all Americans must never be taken for granted. Today, we honor those who have sacrificed to secure the blessings of liberty for generations of Americans. Please join me in thanking these patriots.

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Please join me in thanking Willard Bauer, Robert Bell, Edward Coleman, Floyd Ewing, Albert Fairweather, Marvin Fowler, Elwyn Frazier, Robert Fulton, William Garcia, Edward Glover, Herold Hettinger, Raymond Holiday, Buford Johnson, William Kammlade, Donald Lawless, Russell Maxwell, Dale Norwood, Philip Owen, Paul Painter, George Parker, Theodore Pratt, Kenneth Robb, Henry Redd, Harley Rouze, Harold Scatterday, Dean Severin, Leonie Shannon, Keith Simons, Jacob Stieb Jr., Howard Teague, Margaret Thompson, Charles Vogel, Thomas Weathers, Victor Weidmann, John Williams, Milo Whitcomb, Quentin Younglund, Bobby Andersen, Emmett Archuletta, Donald Armagost, Robert Ambrecht, Gary Beverlin, Stanley Black, Ronald Brasseur, Earl Buckendorf, Robert Buttner, Donald Campbell, Clarence Carnes, Jerald Clark, Robert Clayton, Keith Coates, Kenneth Comin, Victor Crenshaw, Dean Daggett, Lester Edgett, Arno Engele, Roy Erickson, William Erickson, Bernard Erthal, Donald Fenske, Donald Ficksencher, Russell Foster, Franklin Fronek, Porfelio Garbiso, Carl Goegelein, William Goble, Delbert Gorsline, George Gray, Kenneth Hoff, Robert Hull, Robert Jones Jr., George Knaub, Arthur Kober, John Leach, Roger London, Willard Loose, Joseph Lopez, Arthur Lukemire, Charles Mahoney, Eathon Marr, Vernon Marston, Robert Martin, George Maxey, Loren Maxey, Albert Melcher, Gordon Michel, Kenneth Miller, Raymond Miller, Stuart Miller, Ralph Nuss, James Othrow, Theodore Pearson, Robert Phillips, Franklin Pino, Julius Racette, Dean Rydholm, Delmar Scholfield, Carlos Scott, Stanley Shafer, Emil Shireman, Hubert Shumaker, Norris Slechta, Jack Snyder, John Stieb, Dale Stinton, Donald Svedman, James Theobald, Gem n Terrell, William Thill, Paul Van Driel, James Vincent, Paul Vohs, Leroy Waag, LaVerne Walls, Warren Ward, Duane West, David Young, Leonard Beutelspacher, John Gruver, Gaylord Mekeburg, Cloyd Rael, Marshall Spring, Charles Adams, and any participants whose names were not available at the time of this statement.