

“habits of the heart”—neighbor helping neighbor. I wanted to help turn the ME generation into the WE generation.

That is why in 1989 I, along with Senators Kennedy and Nunn, introduced the National and Community Service Act—a bill to establish the Corporation for National and Community Service to oversee and coordinate our national volunteer efforts. This important legislation also created a demonstration program that has since evolved into what we know today as AmeriCorps.

I believe that AmeriCorps is the embodiment of the spirit of volunteerism and service to our country. When creating this program, I did not just want to create another government program. I did not want this to be another bureaucratic agency. What I wanted to do was capture the fervor, passion, and dynamic qualities of a social movement that would bring people to arms wielding change. I think we were successful in doing just that.

I am so proud of what AmeriCorps has accomplished and become. I never dreamt that I would be standing here 20 years later knowing that the AmeriCorps program would be the force that it is today. The data doesn't lie—it is quite impressive. Over the past 20 years, more than 820,000 AmeriCorps members have served our communities and country, providing more than 1 billion hours of service.

My home State of Maryland is lucky. We have 1,600 AmeriCorps members, and 5,400 Senior Corps members. Their stories are poignant, whether it is a Teach for America Corps member helping a child with long division after school, or a National Civilian Community Corps member helping restore order to communities after a devastating storm or an AmeriCorps member helping veteran families readjust to civilian life. Every day, national service changes lives. They all meet compelling human needs by helping out in our neighborhoods and communities across the country.

I used to be a social worker for Baltimore, but now I am a social worker for America, and I believe civic responsibility is worth investing in. I want to continue to make sure that we make this kind of investment in AmeriCorps because the next generation is carrying the torch for national service. We must remember that it is not only young people signing up to serve their country. It is seniors serving as a foster grandparent to children who have been abused or neglected. It is veterans trading in their uniforms to work with Habitat for Humanity, building homes for their fellow service members. It is seasoned professionals heading into the corps, trading in corporate cubicles for classrooms and putting their real-world education to use. The next generation knows the importance of national service. Their dedication to its mission is inspiring.

Five years ago, I was at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore recovering from ankle surgery. An aide was helping me

get back in bed and asked me if I knew Senator Kennedy. She said, “They tell me you had something to do with National Service. I was in AmeriCorps.” She was working in modest means—she had heard you could work parttime, earn a bachelor's degree from college, and that there wasn't an age limit. At the local health department, she started to do some outreach. Her supervisor told her, “You have a real talent.” This woman said, “People like me are never told they have a talent, but I found I had a talent by working for AmeriCorps.” Through an AmeriCorps stipend, she completed her degree in social work and helped her grandson get into college. She is just one of the many who have been touched by AmeriCorps, who have changed the lives of others through service.

These stories and the work that AmeriCorps volunteers do give me profound hope, because while one person can make a difference, together we can make a change. I am so pleased to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the AmeriCorps program and look forward to the next 20 years.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to recognize the bicentennial of our national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, and of Defenders Day. I thank Senator CARDIN, my partner in the Senate, for submitting a resolution to commemorate this occasion. Defenders Day, which inspired our national anthem, is momentous in the history of our Nation, the State of Maryland, and the City of Baltimore.

Two hundred years ago, the brave City of Baltimore led the way in the War of 1812 defending our Nation and holding the American line. Our troops stopped the British advance and claimed a much-needed victory for Baltimore and for the Nation.

Some call the War of 1812 the forgotten war. I believe it was the war that forged our Nation. As the United States entered the war, it was a loose collection of States. As we emerged from it, we were on the path to becoming a true Nation.

It was also during this war at the Battle of Baltimore that we gained an enduring icon of national patriotism in our National anthem, inspired by the naval battle at Fort McHenry. Fort McHenry is now a revered National monument and a historic shrine.

The Battle of Baltimore was a rousing victory in the dark days following the British attack on our Capitol. The British had just burned Washington, setting our Capitol and White House ablaze, and hurting America's morale.

Less than a month later, the British sent a fleet of ships toward Baltimore sailing up the Bay to break America at the war's frontline in what is known today as Patterson Park, but first they had to get past Fort McHenry.

The British bombed the Fort for twenty-five consecutive hours. Nearby,

a young lawyer named Francis Scott Key watched from a ship where he was being held. When the smoke cleared on the morning of September 14, 1814, he saw the fifteen stars and fifteen stripes of the American flag streaming over the Fort. He was so thrilled that despite the bombs bursting in the air, “our flag was still there.” He went on to write the lines of the song that later became our National anthem, the Star Spangled Banner.

That day the line was held in Baltimore in our young country's war against the world's most powerful Nation. Fort McHenry has made history, and Fort McHenry has seen history. I am proud to represent Fort McHenry and Baltimore, and I encourage the passage of this resolution commemorating Fort McHenry, Defenders Day, and the Star Spangled Banner.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of the War of 1812's Battle of Baltimore. The State of Maryland is proud of its contributions to this “Second War for Independence,” which reinforced United States sovereignty and gave birth to our national anthem. While Star-Spangled 200 events are already underway in my home State, I wish to spend a few minutes to discuss the War of 1812 and the story of Francis Scott Key's poem “Defense of Fort M'Henry.”

A generation after the United States declared its independence from Great Britain, the mercantilist ties between the two countries were not fully severed. The British impressed American merchant seamen, enforced illegal and unfair trade regulations, colluded with certain Native American tribes to attack frontier settlements, and attempted to block westward expansion. The United States declared war to reassert autonomy over its own affairs, establish free trade, protect sailors' rights, and ensure that our Nation could prosper from sea to shining sea.

President James Madison eloquently outlined these justifications more than 200 years ago when he called on “all the good people of the United States, as they love their country, as they value the precious heritage derived from the virtue and valor of their fathers [to] exert themselves in preserving order, in promoting concord, in maintaining the authority and efficacy of the laws, and in supporting and invigorating all the measures which may be adopted by the constituted authorities for obtaining a speedy, a just, and an honorable peace.”

The contributions of the U.S. Navy were instrumental in repelling the British during the War of 1812. The U.S. Navy barely had a dozen warships compared to the hundreds of ships comprising the British fleet. British ships were undermanned, however, while well-trained and talented officers and seamen took command of American ships. These men were largely from coastal States, like Maryland, and

were accustomed to seafaring. Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry took on the British Navy on Lake Erie in 1813 with a scrappy fleet of light ships. Even though his force was seemingly decimated by the British, Master Commandant Perry resorted to paddling a rowboat with a banner that read "Don't Give up the Ship." He then boarded the USS Niagara, double-loaded the carronades, and sailed directly into the British line, ultimately claiming victory.

The following summer, in 1814, the British Navy sailed up the Chesapeake Bay to attack our Nation's capital and seize the valuable port city of Baltimore. The British dealt heavy blows to Washington, DC, setting both the U.S. Capitol and the Executive Mansion—which we now know as the White House—ablaze. British forces then moved toward Baltimore. Citizens of Baltimore, including free Blacks, quickly mobilized to protect their city. Barricades stretching more than one mile long were constructed to protect the harbor, hulls were sunk to impede navigation, and a chain of masts was erected across the harbor entrance. When the British fleet approached Baltimore at North Point, Marylanders fought the British Army and helped repulse the British Navy from Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore. It is important to note that American forces during the Battle of North Point were volunteer militia, heavily outnumbered by the highly trained British infantry, but they managed to delay the British forces long enough for 10,000 American reinforcements to arrive, preventing a land attack against Baltimore. Following 25 hours of intense British naval bombardment at Fort McHenry by more than 1,600 cannonballs, the American defenders refused to yield, and the British were forced to end the Chesapeake Campaign and withdraw.

During the British bombardment, American lawyer Francis Scott Key, who was being held on board an American flag-of-truce vessel in Baltimore Harbor, took notice of the American flag still flying atop Fort McHenry. Key realized then that the Americans had survived the battle and had stopped the enemy advance. He was so moved by the sight of the American flag flying following the horrific bombardment, he composed a poem called "The Defense of Fort M'Henry," which was published in the Baltimore Patriot & Advertiser newspaper later that year. This poem, and later the song, inspired love of country among the American people and not only helped usher in the "era of good feelings" immediately after the war, but became a timeless reminder of American resolve. "The Star Spangled Banner" officially became our national anthem in 1931. The flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired this anthem is now a national treasure on display at the Smithsonian Institution, a very short distance from where we are today.

The War of 1812 confirmed the legitimacy of the Revolution and served as a critical test for the U.S. Constitution and newly established democratic government. Our young Nation battled against the largest, most powerful military on the Earth at that time and emerged with an enhanced standing among the countries of the world, both militarily and diplomatically. The U.S. economy was freed of its dependence on British goods, which unleashed domestic manufacturing and spawned the industrial revolution. The U.S. Navy proved its worth and the U.S. Congress rewarded the Navy with funding for a permanent, more expansive fleet. A new generation of Americans too young to remember Lord Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown, which effectively ended the Revolutionary War, and an older generation proud of defending American independence twice in their lifetimes, were inspired by Francis Scott Key's words, which embody our universal feelings of patriotism and courage.

I am proud that Maryland will lead the Star-Spangled 200 celebration, a 3-year celebration that began with Baltimore's "Sailabration" in June 2012. The Navy's Blue Angels treated more than 1.5 million spectators to dazzling air shows; the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra premiered the "Overture for 2012," composed by Philip Glass; and forty-six tall ships and naval warships from around the world anchored in the Inner Harbor, open for public tours. Through the course of 2014, Maryland will host numerous events along the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail to commemorate the Chesapeake Campaign, and at the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine to celebrate the bicentennial of the Battle of Baltimore. This weekend, the Star-Spangled Spectacular celebration will conclude with a fireworks display over Fort McHenry that Francis Scott Key would be proud of. These ceremonies are an opportunity to showcase to the world that Maryland is an exceptional place with a rich, colorful, and important history.

I am also proud that the U.S. Senate unanimously adopted a resolution I sponsored in the 112th Congress—S. Res. 388—to mark the beginning of the bicentennial of the War, to celebrate the heroism of the American people during the conflict, and to recognize the various organizations involved in the bicentennial celebration, including the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Park Service, and the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.

The Senate may soon consider another resolution I have sponsored, along with my colleagues, the senior Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the junior Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), to commemorate the bicentennial of the Battle of Baltimore and the creation of the Star-Spangled Banner, which officially became our national anthem in 1931. As we recognize all of these ongoing ef-

forts during this commemorative period, I encourage all Americans to remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives to defend our Nation's freedom and democracy in its infancy, and to join in the bicentennial celebration of our victory in the War of 1812.

RECOGNIZING PAM HAZE

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I honor the distinguished career of Pamela K. Haze, who retired from the U.S. Department of the Interior this past August after 34 years of Federal service.

Ms. Haze served as the Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition for the past 5 years. Her most recent position was the culmination of many years of experience working in various capacities within the Department's budget office. Her career prior to that time was spent in other bureaus of the Department, where Pam worked as a biologist and hydrologist, and served in other management roles with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

As the primary liaison between the Department and the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations, Pam has been an indispensable and trusted adviser. I have had the good fortune as chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to both work and travel with Pam, most notably on a trip to Alaska that included our subcommittee's ranking member, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, and former Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. I have witnessed firsthand Pam's dedication to the Department's mission. She has worked tirelessly with me and my staff during the annual appropriations process and we have steadily relied on Pam's vast store of knowledge and keen insights to help resolve challenges that have arisen over the years.

The appropriations process simply would not be the same without her and the dedication, wisdom, and the good humor she brought to her work. I join with many in wishing her all the best as she begins a well-deserved retirement.

BETHEL MURDOCH CHURCH BICENTENNIAL

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I wish to recognize the Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church as it celebrates its 200th anniversary. The Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church was founded in Warren County, OH, by a small group of faithful and passionate Christians.

In 1814, the Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church began when 12 pioneer settlers to Warren County first met in a maple grove to worship. The location of their first meeting spot is the site of the Murdoch Cemetery, where many of the early members are buried. The congregation's current home is a 140-year-