

match for the Soviet war machine. But Lithuanians were armed with stronger weapons—faith, courage, and a burning desire to reclaim their independence. Because of the sacrifices of so many patriots, known and unknown, we can proudly and without fear proclaim here today on the 30th anniversary of these historic events: *Laisva Lietuva*. Free Lithuania. Now and always.

So let us use this historic anniversary to recommit to our continued support for our Baltic allies through economic and security cooperation and to reaffirm America's commitment to NATO and the enduring transatlantic alliance. Doing so will help ensure the next 30 years of the longstanding U.S.-Baltic friendship are equally strong and fruitful.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ERIE HOUSE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, Florence Hayden Towne dedicated her book, "Neighbor: Stories of Neighborhood House Work in a Great City," to the Erie Neighborhood House. She wrote, it "brought new hope and courage and a new way of life these whom we call 'neighbors.'" Throughout its 150-year history, the Erie House has consistently improved the lives of low-income, immigrant families in Chicago. Though the people, challenges, and times may have changed, the Erie House's mission has remained firm. Immigrant families have always found Erie House to be a place that empowers them and helps create a more engaged community. Today, we celebrate the great work of Erie House and congratulate its staff and supporters on the 150th anniversary.

Erie Neighborhood House began as Holland Presbyterian Church on the corner of North Noble Street and West Erie Street in 1870. The congregation offered several programs, including kindergarten and Sunday school, to the new families arriving from Dutch, Scandinavian, and German countries to the West Chicago neighborhood. The congregation moved to 1347 West Erie Street and changed its name to Erie Chapel in 1886. In 1893, Erie Kindergarten became one of the 20 flagship programs in Chicago's Free Kindergarten Association initiative and expanded youth programs to include choirs for children and adults and industrial classes.

As the neighborhood immigrant population changed to include Catholic countries like Poland and Italy, Erie Chapel renamed itself the Erie Chapel Institute and continued to serve the community and advance the settlement house tradition. In 1936, the staff rechristened the 1347 building with a new name, the Erie Neighborhood House.

Erie Neighborhood House continued to meet the challenges of the time. In 1942, with the Second World War raging, Erie House began providing daycare services since many men were

deployed overseas and many women had entered the workforce. In February 1945, Reverend Douglas Cedarleaf marched with members of Erie House to protest the treatment of the Strongs, a Black family that had recently moved into a White community and faced violence from their neighbors.

In 1957, volunteer physicians at Northwestern Memorial and Erie Neighborhood House founded the Erie Family Health Center to provide a variety of primary care, case management, and dental services to low-income, underinsured, and uninsured Chicagoans. Now, every year, nearly 38,000 patients receive high-quality healthcare at the center, regardless of their ability to pay.

With the crisis in housing growing in the late 1960s, Erie House founded the Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation to create affordable housing opportunities for members of the community. Since its founding, Bickerdike has developed more than 2,000 affordable homes for families.

Today, the West Town and Little Village neighborhoods are primarily Latino, and Erie Neighborhood House is helping people with the tools they need to build a foundation for greater well-being. Erie House has hosted me several times and has been an important ally in working toward comprehensive immigration reform and supporting Dreamers, providing legal consultation and representing people in immigration and asylum cases.

The blueprint created 150 years ago has evolved, but that mission has remained constant. Today, Erie House helps 18,000 people all across the city of Chicago annually. Young people and adults attend mentoring programs and learn about career opportunities. Families experiencing violence can find counseling. Erie House remains an essential ally as we work toward a just, inclusive society where we accept our new neighbors and help them achieve their potential.

Congratulations to Erie Neighborhood House on 150 years of good work, giving people hope and courage.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### ABORTION

• Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, today I would like to speak in opposition to two dangerous pieces of legislation that were considered in the Senate, both of which would severely undermine women's constitutional right to safe and legal abortions. One bill, S. 3275, the so-called Pain-Capable Unborn Protection Act, would create a national 20-week abortion ban, while the other, S. 311, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, would attempt to scare providers who perform abortions out of business by subjecting them to penalties or even prison.

Let me be clear. These bills are not about protecting babies. These bills are

about telling women what they can and cannot do with their own bodies and making their own medical decisions for them. Today in the United States, we have some of the highest maternal mortality rates and infant mortality rates in the developed world. This crisis is only worsened by the racial and economic disparities many women face in our country, in addition to the reality that some 87 million Americans are either uninsured or underinsured. Instead of helping our Nation make progress toward eliminating these disparities, such as by guaranteeing affordable healthcare, including abortion, as a right, this legislation would bring us back to the dark ages when women in America did not have the right to control their own bodies. It is a simple reality that, if the Senate votes to deny women access to safe and legal abortion, many of them will suffer and perhaps even die. I urge my colleagues to oppose S. 3275 and S. 311. Thank you.●

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, in 1619, Africans were first brought to Virginia, against their will, to be enslaved. From that moment on, White Americans systematically and violently denied the rights of citizenship to Black Americans. The adoption of the 15th Amendment, ratified in February 1870, was a historic effort to correct course. It recognized the right of all male citizens, including Black men, to vote. This amendment was the first time that we promised to protect the right of African Americans to full and equal participation in our democracy.

In the 150 years since then, we have tried to expand on that promise many times, like when women of all races and ethnicities finally won the right to vote in 1920. Yet our promise remains elusively unfulfilled. Today, in honor of Black History Month, I would like to take a moment to discuss the trajectory of that broken promise, as well as its impact on our character as a nation.

We began to break our promise shortly after we made it. During the Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras, White men and women across the country developed a number of techniques—some obvious and brutal, some subtle and pernicious—to keep African Americans away from the polls and out of government.

The broader goal of these tactics was to hamper the Black population's ability to recover from slavery by blocking their access to education and the economic means of building wealth.

I believe that it is important to acknowledge that Maryland partook in these pernicious behaviors right alongside other States. Maryland residents and government officials engaged in ballot tampering, imposed literacy and property restrictions, stoked racist fears to galvanize the White vote, and intimidated Black voters using outright violence.

My intention here is not to condemn my home State. To the contrary, I am exceedingly proud of the struggles for justice that have bloomed in Maryland through abolitionists like Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass and civil rights leaders like Thurgood Marshall. I draw inspiration from the lineage of African-American public servants in Maryland who overcame enormous obstacles in order to amplify the voices of their brothers and sisters.

These public servants include Verda Welcome, the first Black woman ever elected to any State's senate, as well as Adrienne Jones, the current speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, who is the first African American and first woman to serve in that position.

They also include my friend and hero, Congressman Elijah Cummings, the son of sharecroppers who devoted his life to fighting for equality and fairness and lifting up our beloved community of Baltimore.

I am likewise grateful for all of the Marylanders whose names we might not know, but who nevertheless work every day to expand educational equity, reform our justice system, shrink the wealth gap, deliver healthcare, and otherwise make our society better. Thanks to brave and dedicated people like these in Maryland and across the country, we have made significant strides toward racial justice.

I began my remarks by discussing Maryland's bleaker moments in history for two reasons. First, to demonstrate that we must never take progress for granted—Maryland has not always been a tolerant, inclusive State, it did not become one by accident, and it will not continue to be one unless we work to make it so. Democracy and the rule of law do not just happen; we need to protect and nourish them every day.

Second, to illuminate how those injustices that still exist, of which there are many, are not new and are not incidental—they are not just disparate effects of forces beyond our control. They are deeply rooted in policies and systems intentionally designed to subjugate African Americans.

One of the strongest, most disheartening examples of this phenomenon is the ongoing assault on the right to vote. This is not ancient history. States all over the country continue to “modernize” strategies developed a century ago to suppress African-American voting power. Some of these strategies are blatant and recognizable, like mass purges of voter rolls; the gerrymandering of districts with “surgical precision,” according to one court; and intimidation of Black voters. Some of the strategies are disguised behind excuses or fear tactics, like obstructive voter ID laws and felony disenfranchisement.

Regardless, these tools of oppression are alive and operating as intended.

One in every 13 African Americans has lost his or her right to vote because of felony disenfranchisement. Seventy percent of the voters purged

from one State's roll in 2018 were African Americans. Studies reveal that implementing strict voter ID laws widens the Black-White turnout gap by more than 400 percent.

So long as we allow these sorts of practices to continue under the exaggeration of voter “fraud,” we are denying African Americans their full right to vote and breaking the promise we made 150 years ago. This is a problem on principle, of course, but also for practical reasons; when we exclude people from fully participating in our democracy, we prevent them from achieving the social, economic, and civic reforms they need to strengthen their families and communities.

So what are we going to do about that? I know what I will do; I will fight for laws that will guarantee every American a voice in our democracy. That is why I have introduced bills to restore the Federal right to vote to offenders and to penalize the voter intimidation and deception efforts so frequently aimed at people of color. These measures alone will not eliminate suppression of the Black vote, but they are steps in the right direction.

The racism that we vowed to root out a long time ago is still here. We may have reined it in, or it may have taken new forms that we do not recognize yet, but it is still here.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. remarked, “It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me.” It is true that we cannot legislate love, but we can and must legislate equality.

Until we guarantee the right to vote regardless of race, we fall short of the unique promise and potential of the United States of America. How can we be, at last, the Shining City on the Hill, while we continue to deny people their right to vote because of the color of their skin?

For the sake of our democracy and our common humanity, for the sake of those who have suffered and died, for the sake of those living and those yet to come, let us make good on our 150-year-old promise.

Let us build on the progress we have achieved, and let us stay vigilant about the threats that remain. Let us fulfill the right to vote.

#### IMPEACHMENT

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, the country is deeply divided on multiple issues right now. The impeachment trial is both a symptom of our times and another example of our division. At the beginning of our Nation, we did not have an impeachment inquiry of a President for almost 100 years with the partisan impeachment of Andrew Johnson. After more than 100 years, another impeachment inquiry was conducted when the House began a formal impeachment inquiry into President Nixon in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 410-4. Within a

period of weeks, President Nixon resigned before he was formally impeached. Then, just over two decades later, President Clinton was impeached by the House, on another mostly partisan vote leading to a partisan acquittal in the Senate.

This season of our history has been referred to as the Age of Investigations and the Age of Impeachment. We have had multiple special counsels since 1974 over multiple topics. This is more than just oversight; it has been a unique time in American history when the politics of the moment have driven rapid calls for investigation and impeachment. Over the past 3 years, the House of Representatives has voted four times to open an impeachment inquiry: once in 2017, once in 2018, and twice in 2019. Only the second vote in 2019 actually passed and began a formal inquiry.

The Mueller investigation that consumed most of 2018 and 2019 answered many questions about Russian attacks on our voting systems—although no votes were changed—but it was also a \$32 million investigation that took more than 2 years of America's attention. For the last 4 months the country has been consumed with impeachment hearings and investigations. The first rumors of issues with Ukraine arose August 28 when POLITICO published a story about U.S. foreign aid being slow-walked for Ukraine, and then on September 18 when the Washington Post published a story about a whistleblower report that claimed President Trump pressured an unnamed foreign head of state to do an investigation for his campaign.

Within days of the Washington Post story on September 24, Speaker PELOSI announced that the House would begin hearings to impeach the President, which led to the formal House vote to open the impeachment inquiry on October 31 and then a vote to impeach the President on December 18. But after the partisan vote to impeach the President, Speaker PELOSI held the Articles of Impeachment for a month before turning them over to the Senate, which began the formal trial of the President of the United States on January 16, 2020. After hearing hours of arguments from both House managers and the President's legal defense team and Senators asking 180 questions to both sides, the trial concluded February 5, 2020.

There are key dates to know:

April 21, 2019, President Zelensky is elected President of Ukraine.

May 21, President Zelensky sworn in. After the ceremony, President Zelensky abolishes Parliament and calls for quick snap elections on July 21.

July 21, Ukrainian Parliamentary elections. President Zelensky's party wins a huge majority.

July 25, President Trump calls President Zelensky to congratulate him and his party.

August 12, An unnamed whistleblower working in the U.S. intelligence