

While Juneteenth represents an import phase in our history, it does not represent the end of discrimination and prejudice. African Americans would continue to struggle to establish equality as citizens, in education, professional careers and socioeconomic status because of Jim Crow laws and other forms of insidious discrimination.

In marking this occasion, it is appropriate to reflect on what was responsible for its creation. Millions of Africans, kidnapped by traders or sold into bondage by warring African kings, were ripped from their ancestral homes and carried across the Atlantic Ocean under hellish conditions known as the Middle Passage. While estimates vary, it is likely that as many as 2.5 million Africans died before ever reaching the shores of the "New World."

No comfort found them upon their arrival, as they were treated as chattel and sold to merchants and farmers. Their daily lives included intense, back-breaking physical labor for long hours in poor conditions, with no hope of attaining freedom or economic advancement. Maryland was complicit in this bondage, and at one point in the late 16th century, slaves made up approximately a third of the State's population.

Maryland, however, helped to lead the abolitionist movement as well. The underground railroad, vital to the freedom of many slaves, ran through Maryland's Eastern Shore and Chesapeake Bay. Its operation relied on the kindness and secrecy of a vast network of often anonymous citizens, many who lived in Maryland, all equally dedicated to ferrying fleeing slaves to freedom in New York, Massachusetts, and Canada.

Indeed, determined slaves from Maryland would leave an indelible mark on our national landscape. Harriet Tubman, a slave from Dorchester County, MD, went on to guide her family as well as 300 other slaves over 19 trips into the South out of slavery and into the North. During her clandestine daring, she never lost a single "passenger."

Frederick Douglass, born in Talbot County, escaped northwards at age 20 and began a long life of fiercely advocating for racial equality not only in the United States but abroad as well. He established the hallmark arguments that abolitionists would echo for years to come, until Emancipation was finally proclaimed.

Emancipation was not the end of the struggle. Explicit laws and implicit associations would continue to create and sustain dire inequalities in the African-American community. Maryland passed 15 Jim Crow laws between 1870 and 1957, laws that would meaningfully segregate almost every area of public life, and would contribute to the man who would later argue the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case, Thurgood Marshall, being denied admission to the University of Maryland Law School. Marshall would go on to

become the first Black Supreme Court Justice, and would help to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all Americans, regardless of race.

This Juneteenth, we must recommit ourselves to fighting racial disparity and prejudice. As we look back at the legacy of Juneteenth, and how the slow spread of the news of freedom brought forward a new era in our country's history, we must recommit ourselves to the hard work of ensuring that equal representation, equal opportunity, and equal justice are spread everywhere as well. Though the progress and spread may be slow, it will reach every American if we continue to vigilantly demand equality to access to health care, equal treatment by financial institutions, equal educational opportunities, and adherence to the words of our forefathers that "all men are created equal."

We must continue to eliminate inequality so we can truly honor the spirit of Juneteenth.

RECOGNIZING TIM THOMAS HOCKEY LLC

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, last night, the Boston Bruins completed a stunning comeback to win the Stanley Cup for the first time since 1972. This monumental victory is a testament to the team's workmanlike approach to the game, and there is much praise to go around. But one of the key players who contributed to the inspired game 7 win was Tim Thomas, Boston's fantastic goaltender. Winner of the Conn Smythe Trophy of Stanley Cup Final Most Valuable Player—at age 37, the oldest player to win this honor—Thomas posted a .967 save percentage in the series, stopping 238 of 246 shots, and stopping a record 798 shots in the entire playoffs. More than just a team player on the ice, Tim Thomas is also involved in the community with his Tim Thomas Hockey Camps. Today, I rise to recognize Tim Thomas and his endeavors to promote both hockey and sportsmanship throughout New England.

Incorporated in Portland, ME, Tim Thomas Hockey Camps got their start 4 years ago to help players of all ages participate and develop skills in the exciting sport of hockey. Camps are held during the summer across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts, and campers have expressed tremendous appreciation of the dedication of the camps' staff to teaching the fundamentals of the game. Tim leads a team of 20 experienced staff members, from former National Hockey League players to college standouts and coaches, who impart their vast knowledge on camp attendees. Aside from the technical aspects of hockey, the camps also teach players about teamwork, camaraderie, and the importance of a strong work ethic. Additionally, the Tim Thomas Foundation helps both hockey players and organizations in need of assistance, and supports a number of

groups and charities from the Greely Hockey Boosters in Cumberland, ME, to the Hunger Mountain Children's Center in Waterbury, VT.

Tim's desire to help others attain their goals in hockey comes from his own moving story, which is a case study in hard work, patience and perseverance. A star goalie at the University of Vermont, he was drafted 217th overall in 1994 by the now-defunct Quebec Nordiques. After spending several seasons in the minor leagues and in Europe, Tim made his debut with the Boston Bruins when he was 28 years old and became the team's starting goaltender 3 years later. Tim has racked up numerous accolades and All Star Game appearances over the course of his career, including winning the Vezina Trophy in 2009 as the NHL's best goaltender. He is almost certainly a lock to win it again this year. Furthermore, what makes this year's accomplishment so special is that Tim had off-season hip surgery last summer.

Tim Thomas' remarkable road to the Stanley Cup is truly noteworthy for aspiring hockey players across New England, and indeed the country. To many, he is a hero who helped bring the Cup back to Boston for the first time in 39 years. But to many more, Tim Thomas is also a role model, who inspires children of all ages to pursue their goals and dreams in the hopes that, one day, with hard work and resolve, they too can attain the ultimate prize. I thank Tim Thomas and everyone who is a part of the Tim Thomas Hockey Camps for their superb work, and offer my congratulations to the Bruins organization on its stellar victory!

TRIBUTE TO GERRY COUNIHAN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a wonderful member of our Senate family. After 20 years of public service, Gerry Counihan is retiring from his post as Senate elevator operator.

In 1991, shortly after earning a degree from Franciscan University, Gerry began his Capitol Hill journey working in the mailroom for Senator JOHN MCCAIN.

Gerry then moved on to become a Capitol tour guide in 1997, where he distinguished himself with his enthusiasm and strong work ethic. Ted Daniel, former director for the Capitol's visitor services, hired Gerry, and remembers that on Gerry's first day he came to work thoroughly prepared, standing head and shoulders above his peers.

It was this passion and "can-do" attitude that led Gerry to become an integral part of the tour guide team that every day bring history to life for visitors. Gerry even made Capitol history himself. He gave the first public tour following the fatal shooting of two U.S. Capitol Police officers in 1998. And when the Capitol reopened to visitors following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Gerry again was chosen to lead the first tour.