

In addition, I am concerned about the potential impact of sections 1602 and 1919 on privacy, press freedoms, and other civil liberties. I strongly urge the administration to implement these provisions in a manner consistent with the First and Fourth Amendments of the Constitution and other applicable provisions of Federal law. Providing for the security of the American people is one of our greatest responsibilities; however, we must equally ensure that we safeguard the individual liberties enshrined in our Constitution.

147TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT PESHTIGO FIRE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a solemn occasion, the 147th anniversary of the Great Peshtigo Fire in Wisconsin. On October 8, 1871, Wisconsin's 10th largest city at the time was completely destroyed in what is still the largest fire in U.S. history.

The city of Peshtigo, WI, was first settled in 1838. The community is surrounded by dense Wisconsin forest and has long been sustained economically by lumber, shipping, and railroad interests. Located off the western shore of Green Bay in Marinette County, the area was home to Menominee and Ho-Chunk Native-Americans.

Historians and survivors of the fire theorize that the blaze was started by railroad workers who were cutting trees and burning debris outside of Peshtigo. A combination of a prolonged drought, a heavy reliance on wooden buildings, and 100-mph winds aligned to create a firestorm that reached 3 miles across and 1,000 feet high. Over the course of the night, the fire scorched over 1.2 million acres and caused an estimated \$169 million in damages. Between 1,200 and 2,500 people lost their lives. The fire's complete destruction of local records prevented an accurate death toll. An estimated 350 victims lie in a mass grave in Peshtigo, victims who could not be identified because they were either burned beyond recognition or because those who could identify them perished too.

Although the Great Peshtigo Fire has been well documented, little has been written about the crucial role Native Americans played in preventing further loss of life among European settlers. One of the most compelling stories involves Abraham Place, who traveled on foot to Wisconsin from Vermont in 1837 to build a homestead in the Sugar Bush neighborhood just outside of Peshtigo. He married a Menominee woman, and together with their children, they tended one of the largest farms in the area. While marrying a Native-American woman was socially acceptable when Place first settled there, attitudes had changed by 1871, and he was scorned by his fellow settlers.

The Native Americans he regularly welcomed to his home warned him of the impending danger of fire after

months of little to no rain and helped him create a 3-foot-deep firebreak around his farm. His European neighbors dismissed his precaution as the actions of a crazy man who had married a Native American. Mrs. Place's in-laws then spent hours placing dozens of wet blankets on the roof of their house to prevent its destruction. Their home was one of the few buildings still standing on the morning of October 9.

Many of the same neighbors who had ridiculed them ran to their house or died trying. Survivors found the bodies of 35 residents who never made it to the farm. The hundred or so refugees who arrived safely at the Place home found a makeshift hospital where they could nurse their wounds and recuperate. Some stayed for weeks, their earlier disdain cured by necessity.

In the days following the Peshtigo fire, survivors emerged from the Peshtigo River and other safe havens untouched by the flames to look for missing loved ones and to begin to rebuild their lives. As word of the devastation spread, donations of food, clothing, and money poured in from across the State, the Nation, and several foreign countries. This selfless, unified show of support empowered the people of Peshtigo to rebuild their homes and restore their community.

Occurring on the same night as the Great Chicago Fire, the Peshtigo fire has been largely forgotten, even though the Wisconsin death toll is estimated to be seven times that of the Chicago tragedy. That is why I join Peshtigo residents in remembering the time when prejudices that turned neighbors into enemies were set aside in the midst of unimaginable hardship. I applaud their efforts to pause this October 8 to remember this inconceivable catastrophe, commemorate its victims, and honor the resilience of those who worked so hard to rebuild this city from the ashes of total devastation into the tranquil community of today.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN MOUNT

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I recognize a pillar of the community in Reno, NV: Evelyn Mount. For over 41 years, Evelyn has graciously provided Reno residents and families in times of need with the comfort of a holiday meal. This year marks the end of an era in community leadership in Reno, as Evelyn intends to step away from the role of organizing and coordinating her annual food drive.

Growing up in the small city of Tallulah, LA, Evelyn's family instilled in her the importance of the values of sacrifice and service. Those values have been at the core of how Evelyn has lived her life, putting the needs of others ahead of her own. It wasn't until 1976 that Evelyn and her husband Leon brought this selflessness to Reno, NV. Soon after her arrival, she began work

as a telephone operator at the airport. Committed to assisting those in need, Evelyn started collecting food donations in her spare time. Her devotion to the Reno community did not go unnoticed, as employees from other departments quickly contributed to her food collection. To her credit, Evelyn was able to collect more than 200 bags of food to distribute amongst members of the northern Nevada community. Her success prompted the expansion of her operations, which now includes an outreach center and several volunteers.

Nevadans who know Evelyn have come to understand her sense of duty to community and affiliate the autumn season as "Evelyn Mount food drive season." The sense of community, care, and inclusion that Evelyn has given Reno residents is perhaps her most important legacy. She has inspired countless volunteers to donate their time and money, while providing hope to families who are down on their luck. Because of her, a compassionate community of selfless volunteers has grown in northern Nevada, including some who were once on the receiving end of food donations. Recognizing Evelyn's profound commitment to our community, the city of Reno renamed a community center near Evelyn's home, titling it the Evelyn Mount Northeast Community Center. This center reminds us all of the difference just one person can make in the lives of many.

I ask my colleagues to join me in further recognizing Mrs. Evelyn Mount's legacy for a life of humanitarianism and service to her community, for her sense of responsibility to others, and for her fight against hunger in Reno, NV. Evelyn Mount is the epitome of a community leader, and I admire her unparalleled ability to inspire others to donate their time and energy to a cause greater than themselves.●

2018 IDAHO HOMETOWN HERO MEDALISTS

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 2018 Idaho Hometown Hero Medalists.

Idahoans who are extraordinarily dedicated to hard work, self-improvement, and community service are honored each year since 2011 with the Idaho Hometown Hero Medal. Drs. Fahim and Naeem Rahim established this award to recognize outstanding Idahoans working for the betterment of our communities.

Ten Idahoans were selected to receive the award this year. They were honored at a celebration themed Lighting the Future, for those who are inspiring and leading the way for a better tomorrow. Liyah Babayan, a refugee from Azerbaijan living in Twin Falls, is being honored for her efforts to raise awareness and resources to address chronic posttraumatic stress disorder, PTSD, in refugees, especially children. Christian Colonel, of Pocatello, is a former Major League Baseball player honored for using his understanding of