

Dr. Prasad and his wife, Dr. Sudah Prasad, an immunologist, have been quiet and consistent donors to St. John's NICU over the years. Their latest gift of \$1 million will support a major expansion of St. John's neonatal intensive care unit. The expansion, expected to be finished in February, will more than double the size of the current NICU and provide single-family patient rooms for premature and critically ill infants.

As a father whose first baby came into this world with serious health challenges, I have a sense of what such supportive accommodations will mean to families of sick and fragile babies, and I am grateful to Dr. Prasad for his generous support of this worthy cause.

St. John's was one of the first hospitals in Illinois to establish a NICU for premature and critically ill infants. Each year, about 2,00 babies are born at St. John's, and about 700 babies from 35 Illinois counties receive care in the hospital's NICU.

In announcing Dr. Prasad's donation, Beverly Neisler, chief development officer for the HSHS St. John's Foundation said, "Dr. Prasad's gift is a beautiful testament as to who he is as a person. He is a generous and kind man who has built a successful life through hard work, dedication and determination. He means so much to us."

"A golden opportunity" is how Dr. Prasad remembers his chance to come to America nearly a half-century ago. "It felt like heaven," he says, nothing like India in the 1970s. At 24, he had never before seen TV.

Nearly 50 years later, Dr. Prasad is a father of three and grandfather of six. Two of his daughters have followed him into the medical profession. Dr. Prasad himself continues to practice anesthesiology and pain management 2 weeks each month at a private medical practice in the Springfield area.

The current COVID crisis reminds us daily how much we depend on the skills and sacrifices of front-line medical workers and how many of those medical workers are, like Dr. Prasad, immigrants. We are fortunate and we are safer and healthier because they have chosen to make America their home. On behalf of the families of Illinois, I want to thank Dr. Prasad again for keeping two generations of Illinoisans healthy and for his generous gift to future generations.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, providing suffrage for all sexes in the Constitution of the United States.

The amendment states that the right to vote "shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." The suffrage Movement opened the doors to women's participation in the electoral process and contributed to equitable civic leadership and engagement.

Today, I honor the historic milestone of the women's suffrage movement, and the contributions from my home state of Vermont, while acknowledging the barriers to voting that have harmed and continue to harm some of the most marginalized people in our country.

Vermont's contributions to the suffrage movement ranged from participation on the local level to the national marches. Vermonters fought for women's legal civic participation in our schools, municipal offices, and our State legislature, along with the national right to vote. I am grateful to every Vermonter who fought a more equitable political system.

Notable Vermont suffragists include Clarina Howard Nichols of Townshend, who fought for women's property rights. Annette Parmalee of Washington, one of the most outspoken suffragists in my State, who fought for suffrage locally, statewide and nationally. And Lucy Daniel of Grafton, who used civil disobedience to lend her weight to the fight. I am proud of every Vermonter's contribution to the movement and helping our country expand access to the ballot box.

Suffragists were women of races, ages, and political backgrounds. Yet after the 19th Amendment, millions of women—particularly African-Americans in the Jim Crow South—remained shut out of the polls for decades. Many States and municipalities continued to ignore the 15th and 19th Amendments, effectively withholding voting rights from women, Black people, and anyone who was low-income or "uneducated". The harm was most profound at the intersection of marginalized groups.

I find the efforts to stop people from voting to be deeply unpatriotic—then and now. In our long history, the United States has made it harder for some individuals to be civically engaged because of their gender identity, their income, or race. We know that the literacy tests kept those shut out of the education system from the electoral process. We know that poll taxes kept poor people from casting a ballot. And we know that barriers to voting still exist today.

We have seen people from majority Black districts wait in line for double the amount of time as their neighboring white districts. We have seen eligible voters turned away because of inaccurate voting roll purges. From gerrymandering, to archaic voter ID laws, to limiting voter registration, discriminatory efforts still exist that harm our democracy and deprive Americans of a government that represents them. In my view, voting should be a simple process. We should be passing laws to make it easier to vote, not harder.

First and foremost, we must restate the Voting Rights Act. We need to make election day a national holiday so that more people are able to get to the polls without losing time or wages from work. We need to expand automatic voter registration, early

voting and vote-by-mail capabilities. We need to address voter suppression head on. And we must overturn the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision and reform campaign finance laws to prevent large corporations and billionaires from having an outsized voice in the electoral process.

Today in honor of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, I call on Americans to pursue equity with the same vigor as the suffragists. Question rules and laws that obstruct political participation. Speak out against injustices. And continue to fight for policies that center our Nation's political process on "we the people."

#### 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of a significant anniversary in our Nation's history. Thirty years ago, on July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA. Because of the monumental impact on individuals with disabilities, the ADA remains one of the most celebrated pieces of civil rights legislation today.

Behind the ADA is a specific vision: a more equitable, accessible and inclusive America. This watershed legislation sought to eradicate the discrimination that long confronted individuals with disabilities in the United States in many areas—including employment, education, transportation, and government services. The ADA established a clear and comprehensive national mandate to ensure individuals with disabilities have equal opportunities to participate in their communities.

We can be proud of organizations in Arkansas dedicated to providing services and life-enhancing skills so individuals with disabilities can engage in everyday activities and independent living.

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the ADA, the Senate recently passed S. Res. 661 recognizing this landmark legislation and the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities that was made possible with this law.

In celebration of this milestone, I am proud to recognize the advancement of disability rights in Arkansas and nationwide.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted no on rollcall vote 153, motion to proceed to the House message to accompany S.178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.