SENATE ACTIVITIES FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 4

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

WHO: All Senators, in honor of your predecessors in the 66th Congress.

WHEN: **Tuesday, June 4, 2019, exactly 100 years to the date of the passage of the 19th Amendment in the U.S. Senate.** The 19th Amendment then began the race to ratification, requiring three-fourths of the 48 states to ratify it before it was added to the Constitution on August 26, 1920.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

1) **Wear a yellow rose on your lapel throughout the day** to show your support for women's history and the 19th Amendment. The roses will be donated by the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission. Pick up your rose on your way in or out of the Democratic and Republican Policy Lunches, or in the Democratic and Republican Cloak Rooms from 2:15-6pm.

2) **Gather in the President's Room (S-216) at 2:15pm** following Policy Lunches to take a commemorative photo (*women Senators only*).

3) **Give a floor speech from 4-6pm** to celebrate the tough, smart Americans from your state who made the 19th Amendment happen. Contact Rowan Bost in Senator Collins' office at rowan_bost@collins.senate.gov to sign-up.

4) Reaffirm the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote by **supporting S.Res. 212**. Contact Nona McCoy at nona_mccoy@appro.senate.gov to become a cosponsor.

5) Attend the **exhibit opening and reception at the Library of Congress at 6:30pm** for a special reading of the 19th Amendment by Members of Congress. For more information, contact Elizabeth Torkelson in the LOC Congressional Relations Office at etork@loc.gov.

6) On your **social accounts**, share suffrage stories from your state and use hashtags #womensvote100 #suffragesisters and #suffragents. Contact Anna Laymon, National Events Director for the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, for our media toolkit, including sample op-eds and video scripts, at anna@womensvote100.org.

WHY YELLOW ROSES?

In advance of the final state's ratification vote in Tennessee, both suffragists and anti-suffragists began wearing roses on their dresses and encouraging legislators to wear roses on their lapels to identify their respective sides. Suffragists, for women's voting rights, wore yellow roses. Anti-suffragists, against women's enfranchisement, wore red roses. On the day of the vote, the red roses barely outnumbered the yellow. The Speaker of the TN House, who was against women voting, saw an opportunity to kill the Amendment in TN. He called the roll. One by one, each member voted in the way their rose color indicated they would until the roll rested on a 24-year-old freshman with a red rose on his suit. The morning of the vote, Harry Burn, who had intended to vote against women's suffrage, received a letter from his mother urging him to "be a good boy" and vote for ratification. So despite his red rose, the young legislator voted yes...hastening the course of American history and ushering in a new era for women. Recreating the splendor of a chamber full of roses will be a picture worth a thousand words and 100 years. However, there's no way to assign value to all those roses being yellow this time…that moment will be priceless.

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