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Senate

BICENTENNIAL OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Hon. Tammy Duckworth

OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE SENATE

Monday, February 8, 2021

Ms. Duckworth. Madam President, I rise today in celebration of the George Washington University's bicentennial. As a proud alumna of this great institution of higher education, I would like to recognize GW's achievement in reaching this historic milestone.

Founded as a modest Columbian College 200 years ago, there was no guarantee that the George Washington University would succeed. Ultimately, it was the dedication, ingenuity, and hard work of many generations of world class faculty, impressive students, and accomplished alumni over the past two centuries that accounts for why GW evolved into the preeminent, global research university it is today.

Aspiring citizen-leaders worldwide attend the George Washington University precisely because of the opportunities GW provides its students to not only learn inside the classroom from leading thinkers and researchers, but to grow by applying this academic knowledge outside the classroom in a wide-range of settings throughout our Nation's Capital.

In fact, the George Washington University's vast network of world-class academic opportunities, partnerships, and policy-research initiatives is not only responsible for educating our future leaders, but also for advancing technological innovation, driving improvements in public health and policy, and developing a greater understanding of both our world and humanity in ways that have made an impact on millions of lives.

At this moment, GW faculty are conducting pioneering research to fight global poverty, HIV/AIDS, cancer, climate change, terrorism and many other urgent challenges. Many of GW's researchers, doctors, and public health officials have been at the forefront in responding to the deadly Coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

As the George Washington University celebrates its bicentennial, it is a good time to reflect on the incredible legacy established by thousands of distinguished GW alumni. Graduates include current and former heads of state from around the world, scores of dedicated public servants, and leading experts that have accumulated a vast record of accomplishments across many academic fields.

Last, but certainly not least, and a point of great personal appreciation for this GW alum, is GW's longstanding commitment to U.S. service members, veterans, and military families. Indeed, the very first recipient of the original Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944—more commonly known as the GI Bill of Rights—was Donald Balfour, a GW student. Today, GW is consistently recognized as one of our Nation's best institutions of higher education for veterans and military-affiliated students because it

recognizes the invaluable leadership experience and unique perspectives these men and women bring to the classroom.

As GW enters its third century, I look forward to watching as the George Washington University builds on its 200-year legacy of academic excellence and ground-breaking research by attracting, educating, and inspiring future generations of leaders who will make a positive impact on the world.