

us and improve nutrition. These safety net programs, including SNAP, the Child Nutrition Programs, and WIC are vitally important to helping those in need put food on the table during economic hard times and helping make sure no one especially seniors and children—goes to bed hungry in America. The Child Nutrition Programs including the National School Lunch Program are among the most important and successful anti-hunger and nutrition programs in the country. Thanks to diligent oversight by USDA, and significant reforms in the program, SNAP is one of the most effective and efficient federal programs. It is a testament to USDA's longstanding commitment to the highest standards and oversight of its programs.

Globally, the impact of USDA is just as great. I have long promoted an integrated government-wide approach to addressing global hunger and food insecurity. Beginning with the Bush Administration and expanding under the leadership of President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack and USAID Administrator Raj Shah, I am proud to say that global food security programs are stronger than ever. In particular, I am proud to support USDA's signature role in global agricultural development, emergency food aid, and international school feeding programs.

Agriculture is not just a nostalgic reflection of the past, it is a critical part of contemporary American life and the U.S. economy. I would like to take this opportunity to salute the thousands of Massachusetts small farmers who contribute so much not only to the economy, but to the nutrition and health of the people of Massachusetts, New England and the nation. It has been such a privilege for me to visit their farms, dairies and gardens and witness first-hand the great work they are doing.

I am pleased to extend my heartiest birthday wishes to USDA on this landmark anniversary, and I wish them the very best success in supporting agricultural development here at home and around the world in the next 150 years.

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL
SCLEROSIS (ALS) ADVOCATES

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the hundreds of brave advocates who are visiting Capitol Hill from Maine and across the country to raise awareness about Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

They are here today to share their stories, to educate others about the challenges they face, and to make sure that we continue to invest in the critical research and data collection that is essential to finally making a breakthrough in the fight against ALS.

Some are here to advocate on behalf of themselves, and some are here to represent their loved ones, friends, and neighbors—far too many of whom have already been lost to ALS. They are all here to give voice to the many thousands of Americans who suffer from this disease but can't be here in person to speak for themselves.

Because of their efforts, no Member of Congress will be able to say they haven't been touched by this terrible disease. And because of their efforts, I truly believe that one day in the not so distant future we will finally have a cure.

I also want to honor one special individual in particular who had planned to be here today, before he lost his battle with ALS on April 27, 2012 at just 34 years old.

Joshua Kennedy led a life of exemplary service. He served his country bravely as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserves, including eighteen months in Iraq as a petroleum supply specialist. He served his family as a devoted husband to his wife Ernesta and a proud father to his sons Tyler, Charles, and Andrew. He served his community in Maine as a correctional officer at Androscoggin County Jail in Auburn. Then after his diagnosis in March 2010, he began to serve his country in a way he never imagined—as a passionate advocate for ALS awareness.

I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Josh in my Portland office not long after his diagnosis. I was struck by his compelling story, his warm smile, his love for his family, and his bravery in the face of unbeatable odds. He and Ernesta later traveled to Washington DC, where he brought his message to Congress and inspired action the same way he inspired the community who rallied around him and his family back home. Even as his voice eluded him and his body began to fail him, it was clear that his spirit remained strong.

I had looked forward to seeing him again this year, and his presence is dearly missed today, as it will be for years to come. There are not enough words to appropriately honor his legacy or to comfort his family on their tremendous loss. But I know his advocacy was not in vain. It is because of people like Josh that we are making progress, bit by bit, and I look forward to the day when we can celebrate his memory with a cure for ALS.

REMEMBERING ORLANDO ZAPATA
TAMAYO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Orlando Zapata Tamayo who would have turned 45 years old today, had his life not been cut short by the murderous Castro dictatorship.

Orlando Zapata Tamayo was a member of the pro-democracy organizations Movimiento Alternativa Republicana and the Consejo Nacional de Resistencia Covica. He was arrested several times, including on March 20th, 2003 during Cuba's notorious "Black Spring." During his many years in prison, he suffered beatings, humiliation, and long periods of solitary confinement. Zapata Tamayo began a hunger strike on December 3rd, 2009 to protest inhumane prison conditions and arbitrary extensions of his sentences. His hunger strike lasted more than 80 days. During that time, he was deprived of water, suffered abhorrent prison conditions, and ultimately died at the hands of the Castro regime on February 23rd, 2010.

Sadly, the two years since his death have been years of increased repression and more

murders by the Castro regime. The number of political arrests doubled between 2010 and 2011, and the first three months of 2012 have proven even more brutal and repressive than the same period last year. While we continue to mourn the loss of Zapata Tamayo, his spirit and mission have nonetheless strengthened Cuba's courageous pro-democracy movement. Shortly after Zapata Tamayo's death, other pro-democracy activists continued his cause such as Jorge Luis Garcia Perez ("Antunez"), who founded the "Orlando Zapata Tamayo National Front for Civic Resistance and Civil Disobedience." In so many ways, he still lives. Among the pro-democracy activists that honor him and continue his mission, Mr. Zapata Tamayo is an enduring symbol of perseverance in the face of brutal repression.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Orlando Zapata Tamayo. Although his life was brutally cut short, he will forever be a blessing to Cuba's courageous pro-democracy movement and to the activists that will not allow his sacrifice to be in vain.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hamilton College on the occasion of its bicentennial.

Hamilton is one of this Nation's finest liberal arts colleges. It is known for its rigorous academic program to prepare students for lives of meaning and purpose. The College is renowned for teaching students to express their ideas with clarity and precision, to think creatively and analytically, and to act ethically and with conviction.

Hamilton College was originally founded in 1793 as the Hamilton-Oneida Academy by the Reverend Samuel Kirkland, missionary to the Oneida Indians. Rev. Kirkland's vision was to educate the children of the Oneidas alongside the children of the white settlers streaming into Central New York following the American Revolution. He presented his plan of education in 1793 to President George Washington who "expressed approbation" and to Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton who lent his name to the institution and consented to become a trustee. Oneida Chief Skenandoa and Baron von Steuben, inspector general of the Continental Army and "drillmaster" of Washington's troops during the War for Independence, were present when the cornerstone for the new Academy was laid on July 1, 1794.

The Hamilton-Oneida Academy lasted 19 years before it was rechartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York as Hamilton College on May 26, 1812. The institution is believed to be the 31st oldest college in the United States.

Over the years, Hamilton has never wavered from its mission to teach the liberal arts and sciences. In 1968, all-male Hamilton College established the all-female Kirkland College, which lasted 10 years until the two colleges combined in 1978.

Today, Hamilton enrolls 1,812 students from 49 States and 37 countries. Its student-to-faculty ratio of 9-to-1 ensures significant individual attention for its students, many of whom

compete successfully for Fulbright Awards, Goldwater Scholarships and other prestigious national fellowships and scholarships funded by this body.

Included among its graduates are public servants at every level, including most notably former Vice President of the United States James "Schoolcraft" Sherman; former Secretary of State, Secretary of War, U.S. Senator and recipient of the 1912 Nobel Peace Prize Elihu Root; current Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; and former U.S. Ambassadors Arnold Raphel, William Luers, Sol Linowitz, Michael Klosson and Edward Walker. The College also counts among its alumni prominent business leaders, scientists, artists, educators, physicians, ministers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, entertainers, writers, and journalists.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing and congratulating the students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees of Hamilton College on the occasion of their institution's two hundredth anniversary on May 26, 2012.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Department of Agriculture. It was 150 years ago to this day that President Abraham Lincoln established the USDA.

As Americans, we have been blessed with the most successful agricultural economy on earth. U.S. consumers spend, on average, less than 10 percent of their disposable income on food—the lowest of any developed nation in the world. In Europe, consumers spend double that percentage and, in developing countries, consumers often spend more than half of their income on food. As Americans, we can be proud of our producers and the role our agriculture department has played in making advancements in the agricultural sector. Successes in agriculture lift all aspects of our economy.

American agriculture's success has been fueled largely by the hard work of our farmers and ranchers. They withstand incredible challenges on a daily basis to provide our nation with a safe, abundant and affordable food supply. More and more, our producers will be depended upon to feed not only Americans here at home, but a growing world population. I am confident our producers, our research institutions and the private sector will be able to harness innovation to meet the daunting challenge of feeding a world population that is expected to grow from around 7 billion to over 9 billion by the year 2050.

Agriculture will continue to represent the foundation of the U.S. economy. I am proud of what agriculture has been able to accomplish over the last 150 years with the support of USDA. It is with great respect for the farmers and ranchers in Southern Missouri I represent, and those in industry and our research institutions, that I recognize agriculture's great success story over the last 150 years.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected to federal office, I have been a champion for women's equality and have introduced the Equal Rights Amendment, ERA, for the last 15 years. I will continue to advocate for this important legislation until women are included in the Constitution.

Despite determined efforts by many dedicated activists, the ERA has never become part of our Constitution. On the 40th anniversary of the Congress passing the Equal Rights Amendment, I was joined by a number of speakers who spoke about the importance of equality for women. I submit their comments below to demonstrate the wide support for this Constitutional amendment. It is my great hope that we will soon realize a time when my bill does not need to be reintroduced and speeches and events to raise awareness of the ERA are not needed; simply put, a time when the ERA has been adopted and true equality has finally been achieved.

SENATOR BIRCH BAYH

REMARKS ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT BIRCH BAYH

To Bobbie Francis and Members of the NCWO-ERA Task Force:

I'm sorry I can't be there to share interesting conversations with all of you. I particularly appreciate the invitation from Bobbie Francis to join her and all of the friends of the NCWO-ERA Task Force in discussing an issue that has been close to my heart for more than 40 years.

Recent events have seen an assault on those who provide health care services to women and we have even seen questions raised anew about issues like contraception. It may have been 40 years since we passed the ERA in Congress but the reasons why many of us tried to write women's rights into the Constitution are still with us today.

As the Chief Senate Sponsor and floor leader of the Equal Rights Amendment, I remember well the intensity of the battle we fought in the early 1970's. America's history has been a steady expansion of individual rights, beginning with the expansion of the franchise in our early years. From the rights of former slaves after the Civil War to the expansion of the vote for women and then for 18 year olds, we have codified in our Constitution an ongoing commitment to individual rights. It seemed fitting then, and seems fitting now, that our Constitution speak loudly and clearly that the law allow no discrimination on the basis of gender.

While the principles involved in this battle remain, the country has evolved quite a bit since 1972. In 1972 there were 2 women in the US Senate and 13 in the House of Representatives. Now there are 17 women Senators and 75 Congresswomen. There were no female Governors in 1972 and had been only 3 in all our history before that, there are 6 now. We have had a female Speaker of the House and have scores of CEOs, business owners and leaders in all walks of life who are female. The number of women elected to state legislatures across the country is larger than ever before. The number of women in the military cannot be compared to the numbers 40 years ago. And in a recent issue of News-

week, long-time Supreme Court reporter Nina Totenberg spoke about taking the job at NPR in the 70s because the pay was too low for men to want the job.

There has indeed been progress, but the principles remain the same.

To open the sports pages in the morning is to see female athletes in a number of sports. To watch the television news in the evening has us watching many female anchor persons, weather ladies, and sports announcers. Even the major sports telecasts regularly involve on-air female broadcasters. But is there equal pay for equal work today? Are there still obstacles on the professional paths to boardrooms for women? Is sexual harassment still a prominent issue in offices around America and in our military?

It is still fitting in the 21st century for our nation to include in its basic law the principle that discrimination based on sex has no place in American life. It is fitting for our daughters and granddaughters to be reminded that their parents and grandparents took a stand to protect their futures and to ensure that they have an equal place in modern America.

In closing, let me stress that the ERA is still the right thing to do, not only in principle but in every day practice.

Thank you for your continued, dedicated efforts.

JANET KOPENHAVER, FEW

JANET KOPENHAVER, WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE, FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN (FEW), REMARKS AT 3/22 PRESS CONFERENCE

I want to thank Rep. Carolyn Maloney and all the co-sponsors on the ERA bill for their continuing support of women's issues. I am so happy to be here representing Federally Employed Women. The enactment of an Equal Rights Amendment is our number one legislative priority and our members have been busy sending letters to their Representatives urging them to co-sponsor this critical bill.

On my way in today on the metro, I was carrying one of those green ERA signs, a woman came up to me and said "Wow—that sign is old." No kidding! Too old in my opinion. Hopefully we can soon put all these signs in the Sewall Belmont House as historical artifacts no longer needed for lobbying!

But really, in a nutshell, no one in this country would say that women are not equal to men. No one! So let's end the hypocrisy and pass the ERA this year. The time has come and the time is now!

SARAH BEAR

REMARKS BY SARAH BEAR, EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCH 22, 2012

I cannot begin to tell you how many people I've encountered that believe the Equal Rights Amendment has been passed. They are shocked when I break the unfortunate news to them that it has not, in fact, been passed. Shouldn't this, in and of itself, be proof that the ERA should be ratified?

It is such a simple statement: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridge by the United States or by any state on account of sex." Is it so difficult to ratify this amendment and permanently add it to the Constitution? What makes men, women, or transgendered individuals so different that we don't deserve equal protection under the Constitution? We're all people. We all feel, cry, smile, laugh. We're just as much human as the person next to us, whether or not we share similar reproductive organs.

As a distant relative of the inspirational suffragist and author of the ERA, Alice Paul, it is in my blood to fight for this basic right. I promise to her, the Alice Paul Institute, and all the amazing women and men who have fought and continue to fight for equal