

retiring next year. I am saddened that so many talented women are planning to leave Congress, and I wanted to take this opportunity tonight to express our gratitude for their many contributions during their years of service.

I am going to proceed in order of years of service—first, PAT SCHROEDER, the dean of the women Members of Congress. PAT was elected in 1972, and became the first woman to serve on the House Armed Services Committee. During her service on that Committee, PAT has been the champion of women in the military and military families. She has also served on the Judiciary Committee for many years, where she led the fight to expand civil rights protections and reproductive rights for women.

For 1979 until 1995, PAT served as the co-chair, along with Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE, of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Under their leadership, Congress approved a number of landmark bills, including the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Violence Against Women Act, the Civil Rights Restoration Act, the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act, which made great strides in bringing equity to women's health research, and so many other reforms benefiting women and children. I have been honored to be one of the two co-chairs, along with my colleague and good friend, NITA LOWEY, to succeed PAT and now-Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE.

PAT also served for many years as the chair of the former Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, and brought national attention to a number of issues facing children and families. She is currently serving as chair of the Women's Caucus Task Force on Children, Youth, and Families. I also had the pleasure of serving with her on the former Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, where she served as chair of the Civil Service Subcommittee, and I can also attest to her commitment to federally employed and retired women.

It is hard to imagine this House and the Women's Caucus without PAT SCHROEDER. She will be greatly missed.

CARDISS COLLINS is another distinguished senior woman in the House and the longest serving African-American woman in Congress. I have had the pleasure of serving with her on the Committee on Government Reform, and I have been impressed with her perseverance on that committee. She has been a strong advocate for women, families, the poor, and Federal workers and retirees.

During her service in Congress, CARDISS has worked to improve the health of women and minorities. She was the sponsor of legislation extending Medicare coverage for mammography screening and sponsored legislation that expanded Medicaid coverage for Pap smears. CARDISS sponsored legislation that established a permanent Office on Minority Health at NIH, and is the author of several laws addressing

child abuse prevention and child safety.

CARDISS has been particularly active in fighting for gender equity in college athletics. Her advocacy of title IX led to her induction into the Women and Girls' Sports Hall of Fame in 1994. CARDISS' leadership on these issues has been instrumental, and she will be missed.

BARBARA VUCANOVICH has served in this body for seven terms, and is the first woman elected to a Federal office from Nevada and the first Nevadan to serve in a leadership position in the House; she was elected secretary of the Republican Conference earlier this year. She is the only Republican woman on the Appropriations Committee and she is the second woman in history to become an appropriations subcommittee chair.

BARBARA has made many contributions to equity in women's health research. As a breast cancer survivor, BARBARA has brought her own experience to the fight against breast cancer. In her work on the Appropriations Committee, she has been a champion of breast cancer research, both at the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense. She has been a vocal advocate for regular and affordable mammograms and is the sponsor of legislation to provide annual mammograms for older women under Medicare and Medicaid. BARBARA's efforts on behalf of women and families will be missed, and I know that she will continue her work for breast cancer prevention and research after she leaves Congress.

JAN MEYERS was first elected to the House in 1984, and is currently the Chair of the House Small Business Committee, the first Republican woman since 1954 to chair a House committee. Her expertise on small business issues has been invaluable, and she chairs the Women's Caucus Task Force on Entrepreneurship and Economic Equity. JAN has worked very hard to restore the home office deduction and she has focused on promoting tax incentives and regulatory relief for small businesses. She has also worked to expand access to capital for small businesses.

JAN has been a consistent and strong supporter of the rights of women, particularly the reproductive rights of women here in this country and abroad. She has served on the International Relations Committee, where she has pursued her commitment to raising the status of women in developing countries. Last year, JAN sponsored amendments to both the foreign aid authorization and appropriations bills to protect family planning funding so that women and their families can take control of decisions relating to the size of their families and the spacing of their children. I am saddened to see JAN go, and her strong support of women and families will be sorely missed.

BARBARA ROSE COLLINS was elected to Congress in 1990; she was the first

African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress from the State of Michigan. I have served with her on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, where she is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Postal Service. During the 103d Congress, BARBARA-ROSE served as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Postal Operations. During her service in Congress, BARBARA-ROSE sponsored legislation to combat stalking and to increase breast cancer research. She also chaired the Congressional Caucus on Children, Youth, and Families in the 103d Congress. I know she will continue her work on behalf of women and families after she leaves this body.

BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN became the first woman to represent the First District of Arkansas when she was elected in 1992. BLANCHE serves on the Commerce Committee, and helped form The Coalition, a group of conservative House Democrats who have sponsored a number of important legislative initiatives. The Coalition has worked with the Tuesday Group, a group of moderate Republicans, to which I belong, and I believe our groups have contributed a great deal to the compromises developed on a number of issues in this Congress. BLANCHE has also done a great deal to enhance rural development in her district. I congratulate her on the birth of her twin boys this summer, and I am sure that her departure from public service is only a temporary one?

ENID GREENE was elected in 1994, and was the first Republican freshman to be appointed to the House Rules Committee in 80 years. She serves on the Congressional Family Caucus, the House Small Business Survival Caucus, and the Executive Committee of the Republican Congressional Committee. ENID has been a strong advocate for lobbying and budget reform. She also has the distinction of being the first Republican Member of Congress to give birth while in office. I wish her well in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the departure of these many women Members is a great loss for this body. I will be working with these distinguished Members and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that more women are assigned to important committee positions and that more women run for leadership posts in both parties. I salute these outstanding women members of Congress, and I look forward to continuing to work with them after they leave the House.

Mr. Speaker, I believe very firmly that every time a woman is elevated, all women are elevated, and society is richer for it.

#### RETIRING WOMEN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of our seven retiring women Members of Congress, women who have diligently served their constituents and paved the road for many women ahead.

CARDISS COLLINS

First, I wish to recognize Congresswoman CARDISS COLLINS, the longest serving African-American woman in Congress. Congresswoman COLLINS has worked to improve the quality of health care for women and minorities.

She has authored legislation which expanded Medicare coverage for mammographies and Pap smears which detect cervical and uterine cancers.

In addition, the Congresswoman was the guiding force for legislation which established a permanent office on minority health within the National Institutes of Health.

Not only has Congresswoman COLLINS forged the way for women and women's issues, she has also made significant strides in other legislative areas.

As chair of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Competitiveness, she enacted the Child Abuse Prevention Act and the Child Safety Protection Act.

The Congresswoman's efforts also led to the adoption of the Aviation Security Improvement Act.

Congresswoman COLLINS has been the first in many of her endeavors, including:

First woman and African-American to be Democratic whip-at-large;

And, first woman and African-American to serve as chair of two subcommittees: (1) the Government Operations Subcommittee on Manpower and Housing, and;

(2) Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Competitiveness. And the list goes on.

Our working together in Congress has been great, but it does not surpass our social and personal relationship that has grown over the years.

I met CARDISS shortly after she came to the Hill, and I was one of her sponsors for membership in both Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Links Inc.—two organizations that are near and dear to my heart.

I have enjoyed sharing my family with her family. She knows that my door is always open to her, and vice versa. I have always been greeted with open arms and enjoyed her home-cooked meals \* \* \* and there is nothing better than CARDISS COLLINS home-cooked rolls!

There is no doubt that I, along with your constituents and other Members of Congress will miss the wisdom and energy you brought to the House.

Congresswoman COLLINS, please know that we appreciate all that you have done and what you symbolize. I know that you have inspired other women to fulfill their leadership potential.

PATRICIA SCHROEDER

As the longest-serving woman in the House, Congresswoman SCHROEDER's outspoken and independent voice will be greatly missed by all of us.

Through the years, Congresswoman SCHROEDER has worked tirelessly and has demonstrated leadership in the areas of foreign and military policy, arms control and dis-

armament, as well as women's economic equity and health, and educational opportunity.

From 1979 until 1995, Congresswoman SCHROEDER cochaired the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

Under her leadership, the Caucus launched an effort to improve women's health policies by submitting a comprehensive legislative package entitled the "Women's Health Equity Act." During the 103d Congress, several bills from this act were signed into law.

On a more personal note, I was a part of your audience during your brief pursuit for the office of the Presidency.

I have no doubt that with all of the knowledge and leadership abilities that you possess, we will definitely see you again in the political arena.

Congresswoman SCHROEDER, tonight I join with my colleagues in commending you for your many hard fought battles on behalf of the women and children of the world.

BARBARA ROSE COLLINS

As a fellow Congressional Black Caucus member, I would also like to wish Congresswoman BARBARA ROSE COLLINS well in her retirement.

BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN

Congratulations also to Congresswoman BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN, my classmate from the neighboring State of Arkansas.

Congresswoman LINCOLN, you are a bright and rising star. Good luck as you take your sabbatical to share your time with your family.

Finally, though I have not had long acquaintances with the other retiring Members, I hear that there is life after office.

I hope that you will have positive and fruitful experiences whether you choose to focus on family or continue to serve the public.

Best wishes all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. LOWEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. LAHOOD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. LAHOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Florida [Mrs. THURMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. THURMAN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HOUGHTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINTOSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Ms. DUNN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. DUNN of Washington addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINNIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]