

the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I first want to commend my colleagues for the attention they have brought to Women's History Month. Their hearings, seminars, and legislative measures have focused much needed attention on women—their health, their reproductive rights and the need for gender equity in class and on the courts. I am pleased to be a part of tonight's activity saluting extraordinary women from our districts and from around the world.

I rise today to salute Connecticut's Katharine Houghton Hepburn, one of the earliest advocates for gender equity in education and reproductive rights for women. Her name may sound familiar for other reasons as she was the mother of actress Katharine Hepburn. But not enough is known about her own achievements. Orphaned at 14, it's been said that her mother's dying words to her were "get an education"—and she did, entering Bryn Mawr's Class of 1899 at the age of 16.

She obtained degrees in chemistry and physics—precisely because those were the subjects she most dreaded, and later earned a master's degree in art history from Radcliffe.

After college, Katharine Houghton married a prominent Connecticut doctor and became a determined suffragist and an outspoken birth control advocate. Her opposition was formidable. Connecticut State obscenity laws at the time made it illegal to mail any information on birth control and it was even a crime for doctors to distribute birth control information or tell anyone where it might be obtained. In a 1941 interview, Houghton said that when she confronted Connecticut State Legislators with the birth control issue, they were embarrassed and terrified. "They nudged each other like schoolboys," she said, "but after ten years of it, they got used to us." And one can only imagine what her neighbors of upscale Fenwick, CT, thought of her views. Houghton once said that they were worried her campaign to make birth control available for all women would only lead to their corruption. She responded by saying:

We are not trying to produce immorality
* * * we are trying to explain the use of
human intelligence to control human nature.

At the same time, her work on behalf of the suffragist movement continued. And in 1920, right after the 36th State gave women the right to vote, Connecticut Democrats approached Houghton and asked her to run for the U.S. Senate. Connecticut had not yet ratified the 19th amendment, though, so she continued with the task at hand. As her daughter's fame grew, so did her own and in 1933, she led a procession of women up to Capitol Hill to push for a bill that would have permitted physicians to distribute birth control information. Among the marchers—Margaret Sanger and Amelia Earhart.

Houghton worried that her activities would harm her daughter's burgeoning acting career. But Katharine Hepburn strongly supported her mother's work. "I detest the newspaper's reference to her as Katharine Hepburn's mother," she said, "My mother is important. I am not." Let's all remember Katharine Houghton's importance today. She fought for women when the country, her State, and even her own neighborhood, were opposed to her causes. But she continued on for decades for most of her life—inspiring women and creating an America that would make good on her promise of equal opportunity and equal justice for all.

Madam Speaker, I would like to yield now to my friend and colleague from North Carolina [Mrs. EVA CLAYTON].

Mrs. CLAYTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me, and thank my colleagues who have arranged this special tribute to women.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I think of the numerous contributions women have made to make this world a better place to live.

When I look at the First Congressional District of North Carolina, I find an extraordinary woman, a woman who is a fine example of womanhood who has dedicated her life to improving the lives of others. She has taken on many difficult tasks, oftentimes sacrificing herself and spending her own money to improve the lives of others.

She is a living legend in North Carolina. She is Mrs. Alice Ballance, a mother, a grandmother, and businesswoman.

Her commitment to her family and community has made her stand head and shoulders above the masses. She is many things to many people, but above all she is a champion of the disadvantaged and children.

"Miss Alice" as she is affectionately known around Bertie County in the First Congressional District of North Carolina, has proven again and again her commitment to being a model citizen. "Miss Alice" has maintained close ties to her community, church, and family, and has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the poor and disadvantaged citizens of her county. She organized and established child and adult care for the children and seniors of her county.

Her activism dates back to the civil rights era of the sixties. She has testified before the U.S. Senate on behalf of North Carolinians and founded the People's Program on Poverty to assist the needy citizens of Bertie County. She has been recognized by several national and regional organizations for her many community activities.

Mr. Speaker, today I salute a woman who is part of our rich and proud history in North Carolina. A woman whose contribution to our society has made North Carolina a better place to live.

She is the essence of leadership, the epitome of statesmanship, and the em-

bodiment of selflessness and commitment.

More importantly, she is not afraid to fight for her principles and to stand up for her beliefs. Pride, achievement, and success are her watchwords. Alice Ballance has paved the road of opportunity for women like me and I am happy to name her North Carolina's First Congressional District, Woman of the Year.

HONORING HELEN RUDEE AND ELIZABETH TERWILLIGER DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, first of all I would like to thank my colleagues and good friends for organizing this Women of the Year special order as part of our Women's History Month celebration.

Madam Speaker, I come to the floor of the House this evening to honor two outstanding women, Helen Rudee and Elizabeth Terwilliger, from the Sixth Congressional District of California.

When talking about Helen Rudee, it is hard not to sound repetitive because Helen Rudee was the first in just about everything she has done. Helen was the first woman president of the Santa Rosa Board of Education. She was the first woman on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. And she was the board's first chairwoman. In addition to her outstanding record in elected office, Helen raised four children and participated in just about every volunteer organization in Sonoma County.

This year, Helen is the recipient of the Konocti Girl Scout Council Jewel of a Woman Award for sharing her leadership skills with other young women in our community. It is truly fitting that we recognize Helen during Women's History Month. Helen Rudee is a woman who has made history, and she continues to make history.

I am also proud to honor Elizabeth Terwilliger, a real life trail blazer, who in 1991 was the recipient of President George Bush's Points of Light Award.

Long before environment became a household word, Elizabeth Terwilliger pioneered environmental education in Marin County. Now in her eighties, she continues to lead children, teachers, parents, and grandparents on hiking, canoeing, and bicycling adventures 6 days a week.

Mrs. Terwilliger's tireless commitment to our environment has inspired other volunteers to form the nonprofit Terwilliger Nature Education Center. Where every year, over 65,000 San Francisco Bay Area children enjoy the spectacular beauty of Marin County's trails, marshes, and beaches because of the Terwilliger Center.

Again, it is my great honor to recognize Helen Rudee and Elizabeth Terwilliger as 1996 Women of the Year. They have left an indelible mark on

Sonoma and Marin Counties, and their legacy will inspire generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from New York, CAROLYN MALONEY.

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I likewise join her in thanking ROSA DELARUO and LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD for organizing this special order in honor of women during Women's History Month.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor as my Woman of the Year a former Congressman, New York's tireless advocate for women, Bella Abzug. On behalf of women everywhere, I salute this remarkable woman, whose dedication and courage deserves recognition as we honor her and as we follow her lead.

Bella, who was born the same year that women won the right to vote, has spent her entire life fighting for women's rights. As a Member of Congress she wrote the first law banning discrimination against women in obtaining credit, and she initiated an organization which has become known as the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues.

Today, Bella continues her advocacy for women with her Women's Environment and Development Organization, a group which will soon introduce its Contract with American Women.

Today, in a Congress far more hostile to women's rights than any I can remember, I will do what Bella would appreciate the most, honor her spirit by reminding our adversaries that we will refuse to lose. We will succeed in overcoming the anti-women actions of this Congress because we have millions of women with us across this country.

Madam Speaker, we will succeed, because brave women like Bella Abzug have taught us how to succeed.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor, as my "woman of the year", former Congresswoman and tireless advocate for women's rights—Bella Abzug.

On behalf of women everywhere, I salute this remarkable woman, whose dedication and courage deserve recognition—as we honor her, and, as we follow her lead.

Bella, who was born the same year women won the right to vote, has spent her entire life fighting for women's rights.

As a member of Congress, she wrote the first law banning discrimination against women in obtaining credit; and, she initiated what became known as the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues.

Today, Bella continues her advocacy for women with her Women's Environment & Development Organization [WEDO], a group which will soon introduce its "Contract with American Women."

Today, in a Congress far more hostile to women's rights than any I remember, I will do what I think Bella would appreciate the most—honor her spirit by reminding our adversaries that we refuse to lose.

We will succeed in overcoming the anti-woman actions of this Congress because we have women like Bella with us.

Madam Speaker, We will succeed, because brave women like Bella Abzug have taught us how to succeed.

From every possible forum, Bella Abzug has spent her entire life fighting for women's rights.

In 1970, Bella became the first woman to run for and win a seat in Congress on a women's rights and peace platform.

Her term in office was far too short—only 6 years. But, her accomplishments however, were many.

She wrote the first law banning discrimination against women in obtaining credit, loans, and mortgages. She introduced precedent-setting bills on comprehensive child care, social security for homemakers, abortion rights, and Gay rights. One of the earliest votes Bella cast was to approve the Equal Rights Amendment, and, she introduced a resolution proclaiming August 26th Women's Equality Day. The resolution was approved and signed into law by President Nixon.

Bella's work in and outside of Congress led to her national and international renown as a forceful and tenacious organizer of women. She held the first planning sessions for the National Women's Political Caucus [NWPC] in her office, and, in 1971 became its first co-Chair. Since its inception, the NWPC has been a major force in recruiting women to run for office; in maintaining a database of women in politics; and in putting women's issues on the national and international agendas.

Today, Bella has turned her attentions to women's rights in the global arena. Bella is the Co-founder of the Women's Environment & Development Organization [WEDO]. WEDO is an international network which organizes women to help save the planet from worsening environmental threats, and from pollution and poverty.

As co-Chair of WEDO, Bella presided over the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet, held in Miami in 1991. The women's agenda which emerged from that Congress became the focus of activities used in connection with preparations for the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, which Bella and WEDO leaders from around the world participated in.

Most recently, I am pleased to say that Bella was a key organizer at the extremely successful Fourth U.N. World Conference on Women in Beijing, China in September of 1995. I was proud to join Bella in Beijing, and I am proud to continue working with her to "Bring Beijing Home." Bella and the WEDO network continue to work at the United Nations, organizing women's caucus meetings at subsequent major international conferences of particular concern to women.

Bella's international work has been recognized as crucial to the inclusion of women's perspectives, demands, and participation in policy-making in U.N. platforms for action and resulting programs.

Madam Speaker, in honoring Bella Abzug here today, it is impossible to include all the contributions she has made to the advancement of women's rights. So, we must merely recognize and honor the enormity of her life's work. And, we must take up her baton to ensure continuation of her work—especially in this 104th Congress, the most hostile Congress to women's rights in my memory.

We face a great deal more than the 104th Congress' hostility toward women. We must

also face the following facts: 96 percent of our country's top executives are males; the more a professional field is dominated by women, the lower the pay scale; women are the sole breadwinners in more than 25 percent of the world's families; and prostitution and pornography are the only industries in which women earn more than men.

Today, I rise to inform this Congress that in the honor and spirit of Bella Abzug, whom I put forward as my "Woman of the Year," that we refuse to lose.

We will succeed in enacting legislation which will counter the anti-woman actions of the extremists of the 104th Congress. We will succeed in enacting pro-woman legislation because women like Bella have blazed the way. We will succeed because over 150 years of women who faced greater obstacles than we do did not give up.

We will succeed because Bella succeeded before us. We will succeed because of those that fought before her. We will succeed because we have a perpetual and ever-forward looking movement of women righting relentlessly for equal rights.

We will follow Bella's lead, and remind ourselves that, "It's up to the women!"

Mr. FRAZER. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the House on this very important special order celebrating March as Women's History Month. First, I want to thank the distinguished Member from California, Ms. WOOLSEY, for holding this special order.

It gives me great pride to celebrate the accomplishments of an outstanding African-American educator from St. Croix, VI, Mrs. Eulalie Rohlsen Rivera. Mrs. Eulalie Rohlsen Rivera was born August 2, 1909, in Frederiksted, St. Croix. She earned her assistant-grade teachers license in 1932 and her principal license in 1934. Mrs. Rivera grew up in the Ebenezer Orphanage on St. Croix. During her teens she was assigned to teach the kindergarten class. This assignment launched her teaching career. She briefly taught at the Christiansted Kindergarten and later at the Diamond School from there she went on to teach at La Princesse School and the Claude Markoe School where she remained until her retirement in 1974.

Mrs. Rivera is truly a great civic leader. She gave of her time and talents to such organizations as the Women's League of St. Croix, Frederiksted Democratic Club, Frederiksted Hospital Auxiliary, Lutheran Church Sunday School, St. Croix Business and Professional Women's Club, League of Women Voters of St. Croix, Committee on Aging, and the Friends of Denmark.

In 1967 Mrs. Rivera was named "Woman of the Year" by the Frederiksted Business and Professional Women's Club and "Teacher of the Year" at the Claude O. Markoe School.

On February 19, 1974 the Legislature of the Virgin Islands renamed the Grove Place Elementary School, the Eulalie Rivera School. In 1980, still striving to make a difference in the lives of children and teachers in the Virgin Islands, Mrs. Rivera ran for Virgin Islands Board of Education in 1982 and won. She served two terms, one term as vice chairman of the board. She retired from the board in 1985 but returned to serve two additional terms.

Mrs. Rivera is prime example of dedicated public service and civil leadership. It is this legacy which makes her an outstanding African-American female.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD and Congresswoman DELAUNO for providing this opportunity for us to highlight women who have had an impact on our lives and on the lives of others in our communities and in our Nation. Today we are here to honor a Woman of the Year, someone who we know to be an exceptional person from our district, who we seek to recognize for her leadership in a particular issue or field.

I am so proud and delighted to honor Ms. Kai Parker from Gardena, CA, in my district. Ms. Parker is an advocate for children, an activist in the community, a member of several boards and commissions, and a political appointee—serving as the Gardena Human Resources Commissioner.

Kai Parker has devoted her life to helping people reach their highest potential, from young children to seniors. In her current position as executive office coordinator of the Special Projects Bureau of Operations within the Department of Children Services in the County of Los Angeles, she has worked tirelessly to serve the children of Gardena, specifically children who come from foster homes. She has developed numerous, highly successful programs to develop skills and instill pride in people who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Kai, herself, was raised in public housing, overcoming many obstacles along the way to her success. So she knows how self-respect can empower people to work hard and take them as far as they can go.

I had the opportunity to visit one of Kai's programs in Gardena called the African-Centered Saturday School. This program aims to provide a safe, nurturing environment for children who have been directed into the child custody system. Many of these children have been placed in protective custody, in a foster home, or with relatives, to distance them from parents who harmed them or who could not properly care for them. These are not bad kids, they are just unsafe. Many have experienced severe physical and emotional abuse, neglect, abandonment, poverty, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, educational handicaps, and many other serious social disorders. Yet, oftentimes, they still love their parents and do not understand what is happening to them. Kai has worked to decrease their trauma by loving them and empowering them to help themselves and turn their lives around.

Let me tell you about this program which serves 35 children between the ages of 6 months and 13 years. Those who attend Saturday School every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. receive academic instruction and tutoring, nutritious meals, and health care. They participate in field trips, special community events, recreation, and cultural activities. And this program is almost totally privately funded (after a jump-start from the city of Gardena).

One of the most important features of Saturday School is that the children are exposed to and encouraged to learn more about the African culture. They are taught about their African ancestors and their traditions and food, they learn Swahili, and through that they develop a sense of nobility, which in turn highlights their self-esteem. This program enriches their knowledge of their culture and of themselves. It seeks to instill pride in them so that, throughout their lives, the children will have a strong sense of who they are, as well as a vision of where they may want to go in their future.

Kai Parker's program, in only 2 years, has visibly developed and empowered the inner-city children it is designed to assist, as well as the community. It has brought together the whole Los Angeles community, or village, to help create whole citizens of these wonderful kids. From the donated church space to the tutoring offered by members of the Los Angeles Board of Education, community members from all walks of life volunteer to protect children. Thank you so much, Kai Parker, for creating this exemplary, highly successful program, and for all your inspirational work on behalf of our community.

One more thing. I am proud to say that Kai and I both work together as members of the Black Women's Forum. She has too many credentials and awards to list, but I must say that her efforts in helping welfare children and troubled youth through her many successful programs, from Saturday School to Summer Youth Institute Camps, have changed many lives. I commend her efforts to improve people's lives and am honored to name her my "Woman of the Year" from the 35th district of California.

Mr. FROST. Madam Speaker, as part of Women's History Month, I am pleased to have the opportunity to select Mrs. Izean Davidson, of Fort Worth, TX, as Woman of the Year.

Mrs. Izean Davidson, a life long Texan, has spent 42 years as an educator in the Texas public school system, serving as a classroom teacher and reading specialist. A leader in her community, Mrs. Davidson is a strong advocate for teaching the highest social and academic values to young adults. As a member of the Baker Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, she has worked tirelessly to implement programs which build self esteem and inspire young Texans.

In addition, Mrs. Davidson has participated in various organizations, boards and committees, including: the Fort Worth Mayor's Council, NAACP Board of Directors, Delegate to the National Democratic Convention for three successive terms, and Fort Worth Commission of the Status of Women.

It is an honor and a privilege to know Mrs. Izean Davidson. Clearly, her hard work and dedication to public service have improved the lives of many people in Fort Worth as well as in the State of Texas. I am proud to recognize Mrs. Davidson's contribution to women's history during this special month.

Mr. STOKES. Madam Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to our colleague, the gentle lady from the District of Columbia, ELLEANOR HOLMES NORTON, for leading this important special order. This evening, she has reserved time so that we can have meaningful dialogue on the issue of women, wages, and jobs. It is a topic of paramount importance to this Congress and the Nation.

As I join my colleagues this evening, I am reminded that many years ago, a widowed mother scrubbed floors to earn a living and to provide an education for her two sons. Trying to balance raising a family and working a low-paying job, I recall that the family endured many hardships and struggles. This woman was my mother, Louise Stokes. As I join you today, I would like to remind my colleagues that women continue to face these same types of obstacles.

I am disappointed that this Republican-controlled Congress which came to Capitol Hill armed with its "Contract with America" and

"Personal Responsibility" initiatives has not only neglected women, but they have sought to destroy decades of progress. During this Congress, we have been forced to defend women's rights. We have fought to protect the programs which impact the lives of women and their families, including school lunch and child care programs, tax incentives for working families, and the elimination of the glass ceiling so that women and minorities can advance in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of women in the workplace is particularly significant. In greater numbers, in more occupations, and for more years of their lives than ever before, today's women constitute nearly half of our Nation's work force. Unfortunately, they are still earning considerably less than their male counterparts. Although the passage of the equal pay act in 1963 attempts to ensure equal wages for men and women, in today's market, a woman earns 71 cents for every dollar of her male counterpart. Further, despite increased access to higher education, women with a college education earn, on the average, only slightly more than men with a high school diploma, and they earn about \$10,000 a year less than men with comparable education.

While we focus tonight's special order on the status of women, we are reminded of how their lives touch the lives of millions of America's children. If we look at statistics, never has the number of working women with young children been higher—67 percent of women with children under the age of 18 are working or seeking employment. As such, child care is of paramount concern to working women and to women interested in entering the work force.

As you may know, this issue greatly affects our Nation's low-income women. In fact, the Republican welfare reform proposal, H.R. 4, includes provisions which would cause major reductions in child care funding. This would have a devastating impact on the ability of single parents to become employed. If we are serious about ending welfare, then we must be willing to make the investment and provide the vehicle that is so necessary to achieving this goal. To do anything less is an injustice to our children.

Mr. Speaker, I join Congresswoman NORTON and others gathered in the House Chamber as we reaffirm our commitment to addressing the needs of women throughout the Nation. Pay equity, child care, and equality in the job market, are goals that can be and must be achieved. We stand today challenging our colleagues to join in this important effort.

HONORING ADA LOIS SIPUEL FISHER AND HELEN COLE DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, there have been two special women throughout my life, my deceased mother, Helen Watts, and my gracious wife, Frankie Watts, and, of course, my four wonderful daughters.

During this month of March, dedicated as National Women's Month, tonight I would like to pay tribute to two very special women from the great