

According to the Economic Policy Institute, between 1979 and 1994 nearly 2.5 million jobs in our country were lost to America's backward trade policy, which says to America's workers the solution for them is to work for shrinking wages and benefits and net worth in order to buy more imported products from places where workers have absolutely no rights.

The second consequence of the trade deficit is its crippling effect on wages here at home. Workers who lose their manufacturing jobs still have to find some way to feed, clothe, and educate their families; and usually that is in the form of a service job with a substantial pay and benefit cut.

The Economic Policy Institute points out that increasing imports from low-wage, undemocratic countries are contributing to decreasing wages of our workers. Our U.S. firms and workers are forced to cut their standards of living to compete. They cut wages or cut hours or cut benefits to reduce costs. And as a result, our workers are finding that their real buying power of their wages has been declining for almost 15 years. In fact, the growing gigantic trade deficit literally lops off a whopping 25 percent of the economic bang that would occur inside this economy if in fact our trade ledger was balanced.

Probably the biggest consequence of this deficit is what it does to our long-term competitiveness, as America writes off one industry after another: televisions, electronics, clothing, recently steel. We have seen how many parts of this economy have been savagely hit.

Mr. Speaker, this fault line in America cannot be ignored. We can see the consequences getting worse every year. But the people being hurt cannot afford high-powered lobbyists in this city. If we want American workers to be able to increase their net worth, save for their futures, invest in the stock market, start their own small businesses, we need to make sure our economic foundation is rock solid.

Mr. Speaker, we ignore this trade deficit, this fault line, at our own peril.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank my colleagues who have spoken so eloquently tonight about the importance of Women's History Month or who have submitted statements for the RECORD.

I want to especially thank my Republican colleague the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) for being here this evening and also for submitting her statement on the RECORD for the contribution of African American women in America's history.

We are, in the month of March, proudly celebrating the achievements

of all women in this Nation. I come this evening to take a few minutes to briefly talk about the history of Women's History Month and to celebrate the contributions of women, especially African American women, the contributions which they have made to this country and the world.

Back in 1978, the first Women's History Week celebration was initiated in Sonoma County, CA, which is now represented by a great woman, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), who serves here with us in this Congress. It began in Sonoma County as a means of introducing students and teachers to the many contributions that women of all cultures have made to the building of this Nation.

Three years later, the idea of celebrating Women's History Week began to spread across this Nation and the National Women's History Project was created to provide technical assistance to educators and community organizers and to produce and distribute women's history materials.

In 1981, then Representative, now Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, and Senator ORRIN HATCH cosponsored a joint congressional resolution proclaiming the week of March 8 National Women's History Week. The success of National Women's History Week and the availability of information on women's history necessitated expanding the celebration to a full month.

In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the celebration to the entire month of March. The resolution was approved with bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

Today schools, communities, and workplaces celebrate the month with special curriculum and events. The popularity of women's history celebrations has sparked a new interest in uncovering women's forgotten heritage. It has allowed all Americans to learn more about women who have made a tremendous impact on our Nation's history.

□ 2130

Women's history is really a new way of looking at events and individuals that have made this country what it is today. History as it has been traditionally taught has virtually excluded women and people of color. One would think that someone would have noticed that half of the United States population is missing from our history. Textbooks, curricula and academic research has been silent about the impact that women and people of color have made. The silences have made women's accomplishments and contributions to American life invisible.

Mr. Speaker, the history of African-American women's participation in American politics must recognize our involvement in traditional political acts such as registering, voting and holding office, but also those nontraditional activities in which we engaged long before we had access to the ballot.

Because African-American women are simultaneously members of the two groups that have suffered the Nation's most blatant exclusions from politics, African American and women, our political behavior has been largely really overlooked.

African-American women organized slave revolts, established underground networks and even sued for the right to vote. Public records reveal that many African-American women were involved in the abolition movement and were active participants in the early women's rights movement. African-American women's political activities have largely been directed towards altering our disadvantaged status as African Americans and women and making sure that this country lives up to its responsibilities for equality and justice for all people.

Today, we look at African-American women holding political office as a very recent experience. African-American women who have previously served in this Congress include my mentor, our first African-American woman who served here, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, as well as Barbara Jordan, Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, Cardiss Collins, Katie Hall and Barbara Rose Collins. I stand here as the 171st woman, the 100th African American and the 19th African-American woman ever to have the privilege of serving in this body. I stand here because of those who came before us. I stand here as a result of the work of many of those individuals, and in the words of the Honorable Shirley Chisholm, "We all came here to serve as a catalyst for change."

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I certainly want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) for giving us the opportunity to have a moment.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO DR. YVONNE BOND MILLER

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge this month as Women's History Month and to honor the contributions of a distinguished African-American woman, Dr. Yvonne Bond Miller.

Dr. Miller is the first black woman to serve in the Virginia House of Delegates and the first black woman to serve in the Virginia Senate. She is the first woman of any race to serve as chair of a Senate committee in the State of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, Women's History Month is a time to recognize and give thanks to those women who dared to brave uncharted waters so that we may all fully participate in our society.

As we pay tribute to women for their vast contributions to our nation, I'd like to formally salute Dr. Miller as an educator and as the first African American woman to serve in the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia Senate. She has been widely recognized for her

work on behalf of children and under-represented persons. She understands the "double bind" and dual challenges facing women of color living in a society that marginalizes people by both gender and race. Despite those obstacles, she has risen above these circumstances and has made outstanding contributions to her community, always working to uplift persons with similarly disadvantaged status.

Yvonne Bond Miller was born in Edenton, North Carolina, the oldest of 13 children. She grew up in my home district of Norfolk and attended Booker T. Washington High School in Norfolk. Dr. Miller earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia State College (now Virginia State University), a Master of Arts Degree from the Teacher's College at Columbia University, and then a Doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. She is also a recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Virginia State University.

She has had a distinguished career as an educator, teaching first in the Norfolk Public Schools and then at Norfolk State University from 1968 to present, where she is currently a Professor of Education. For seven years, she was the head of the Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education at Norfolk State University. In addition to teaching, Dr. Miller has had an outstanding career in public service as a legislator. She was first elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1983, becoming the first African American woman in that body. Her accomplishments earned her a second term in 1985, and her career in the state legislature continued when she was elected to the Virginia Senate in 1987, becoming the first African American woman in the Virginia Senate as well. Since then, she has served with a meritorious record on several committees, including the Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee, where she is the first woman to chair a Virginia Senate committee. In addition, Dr. Miller has worked steadfastly on behalf of children and the otherwise underserved on Virginia's Youth Commission and Virginia Disability Commission.

Throughout her career as a legislator, Dr. Miller has demonstrated a consistent concern for the disadvantaged. She has worked hard in promoting education and early childhood issues, maintaining a living wage, and ensuring access to affordable health care. Dr. Miller's sense of justice, generosity, and dedication to the underprivileged carries over into her personal life as well. Most notably, she has established a scholarship fund at Norfolk State University for women returning to school. Her accolades are too numerous to describe in full, but it is no wonder that she has been honored with the Vivian C. Mason Meritorious Service Award from the Hampton Roads Urban League and the Social Action Award from the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

So, as we honor today the contributions of African women to our nation, we must pay a special tribute to Yvonne Bond Miller for prevailing in the face of adversity as an African American woman and for working tirelessly on behalf of children and other marginalized persons so that they too may be able to contribute to their fullest potential. Women's History Month is a time to recognize and give thanks to those women who dared to brave uncharted waters so that we may all fully participate in our own society. Thank You, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Yvonne Bond Miller.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, given the fact that this is indeed Women's History Month, I would just include the names of some of the outstanding women who have served with distinction in my community, the community where I live, people like Ms. Mamie Bone, Ms. Devira Beverly, Martha Marshall, Cora Moore, Mildred Dennis, Mary Alice (Ma) Henry, Ida Mae (Ma) Fletcher, Julia Fairfax, Earline Lindsey, Nancy Jefferson, Rosie Lee Betts, Nola Bright, Dr. Claudio O'Quinn, Ms. Rachel Ridley, Artensa Randolph, Dr. Lucy Chapelle.

I would mentioned one other woman, two others, who have had tremendous impacts on my life—a woman, Mrs. Beadie King, who was the teacher in the first school that I attended which was a one-room schoolhouse where Ms. Beadie King taught eight grades plus what we call the little primer and the big primer at the same time. Many of the things that I know and learned, many of the values, many of the attributes that I think that I have developed have actually come from the teachings of Mrs. Beadie King. And so I pay tribute to her as an outstanding educator.

The other woman, Mrs. Mazie L. Davis, my mother, who probably more than any other single person contributed to my development, because it was she and my father who basically suggested to me that life has the potential of being for each one of us whatever it is that we would determine to make life.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in salute of African American women.

African American women have a unique place in the history of our country. Fighting against racial and gender discrimination, we have had to fight two battles often at odds with each other. However, many African American women have not let race and gender prevent them from fighting for equality. These women's heroic efforts have forever changed American history. Women like Harriet Tubman who helped slaves escape via her underground railroad. Without Ms. Tubman many future African American doctors, politicians, lawyers, and teachers would not be alive.

Mr. Speaker so many African American women have been a part of our history: Sojourner truth, Coretta Scott King, Ida B. Wells to name a few. Today I would like to acknowledge one of those great African American female leaders—Juanita Shanks Croft.

Dallas native Juanita Craft fought for desegregation in Dallas and all over Texas. This onetime hotel worker, use the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to fight legalized racism. She helped desegregate the University of Texas Law School, North Texas State University and the State Fair of Texas. She also helped desegregate many Dallas lunch counters, theaters and restaurants.

She worked with Christian Adair, who helped found the Houston chapter of the NAACP, to end segregation and promote African Americans. Because of their efforts, Hattie Mae White became the first black women elected to the Houston school boards in 1958. This also paved the way for the late Barbara Jordan to become the first African American woman and also the first African American since reconstruction elected to the Texas state Senate.

Ms. Craft served 25 years as the Dallas NAACP precinct chairperson. She helped found more than 100 chapters of the NAACP and helped Thurgood Marshall work on the U.S. Supreme Court case *Smith vs. Allwright*, which gave African Americans the right to vote in the Texas Democratic primaries in 1944. Ms. Craft was the first African-American woman to vote in Dallas and was elected to the Dallas City Council in 1975 at the age of 73.

Ms. Craft was a civil rights teacher to the young opening her home to anyone who wanted to learn about making change. Many of those young students today are teachers, lobbyists, community and civil rights activists and city officials.

Today her home in Dallas is a civil rights historic landmark where President Lyndon B. Johnson and Martin Luther King Jr. were once visitors.

I salute Juanita Craft's courage to fight for equality for African Americans. I salute her courage to teach others how to work for change. Through her legacy, we can see the battles which have been fought and can be proud of the progress our sisters have made so that we can attend any university, sit at any lunch counter, walk into any store and speak of this floor.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DEMINT). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight with several of my colleagues who I think will be joining me, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM). I am in my fifth year as a Member of Congress from Oklahoma. I am also in my last term as a self-imposed term limit on myself.