

have concerns with our hospitals. Medicare has become a huge factor in whether or not hospital doors remain open, whether or not there are physicians in our communities, and we need to continue to find ways that we can reimburse our health care providers in rural America who are 60, 70, 80 and even 90 percent of the patients that those hospitals treat and that are seen by our physicians are Medicare recipients.

In addition, we have issues related to small businesses. How do we keep our businesses on Main Street? Clearly, the tax burden, the rules and regulations that we in Congress and those in administrations, current and past, have placed upon our business community have a huge impact. We do not have more customers everyday who move to our communities for our businesses to sell to, to spread those increasing costs among. So we in Congress have an obligation to oversight, to reign in those rules and regulations that lack common sense and that are not based upon science, because the end result of failing to do so means that the business community in rural America suffers.

It is also important for us to have adequate transportation, to make certain that our railroads, our highways, our airports and aviation are functioning, that people who live in rural America have access to the rest of the world. Of course we have concerns about the consequences of losing passenger train service across long distances of our country. I look forward to working with my colleagues in that regard.

Finally, I would say education and technology are important to rural America. We need to do our part to make certain that our Federal mandates are paid for. The consequences of our failure to pay for IDEA has a huge effect upon those who try to finance local school districts through the property tax levy.

So we have our work cut out for us as we look at educational issues to make sure that what we require, we pay for. It is important for us to make certain that the rural communities and the people who live there are not left behind as the rest of the world accesses technology. It is important to us to have fiber optics and Internet and broadband services; things that used to have to be done in the city can now be done in rural places across the country.

So despite all of our challenges, we know what the issues are. We must work together, rural and urban America, to try to make a difference in the lives of all Americans. But I will tell my colleagues that despite the problems in 66 counties during the last few weeks, I remain optimistic because the people are there to make a difference.

□ 1930

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois

(Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT (J.G.) RAFE WYSHAM, USN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a young Oregonian serving our country abroad as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Lieutenant Junior Grade Rafe Wysham, a native of Madras, Oregon, is currently assigned as an F-14 Radar Intercept Officer aboard the U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy* in the Arabian sea.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Wysham is a third-generation naval officer. His grandfather, a veteran of the Second World War, served on a destroyer and received the Purple Heart. Rafe's father, Bill, served as a tactical coordinator on a P-3 naval aircraft in Vietnam. In short, Mr. Speaker, the Wysham family is not unfamiliar with the sacrifices that attend service in the United States Armed Forces.

After his graduation from Madras High School in 1994, Rafe entered the United States Naval Academy, where he graduated in 1998 in the top 10 percent of his class. Following his graduation from the academy, Rafe was sent to flight school in Pensacola, Florida, followed by advanced training in Norfolk, Virginia. His assignment to the U.S.S. *Kennedy* marks his first overseas deployment.

Mr. Speaker, on March 3 of this year, Lieutenant Wysham was confronted with a sobering reminder of the danger he faces every time he straps himself into his Tomcat and is catapulted into the sky.

That day during takeoff on a routine training mission in the Mediterranean Sea, Rafe's aircraft developed a problem that prevented it from gaining enough airspeed to take flight. Nevertheless, the carrier's catapult system launched the plane forward too fast to abort the takeoff, but too slow to make it into the air. The aircraft's pilot, Lieutenant Commander Christopher M. Blaschum of Virginia Beach, immediately called for both to eject.

Rafe complied, but blacked out from the force of that ejection. Tragically, while Rafe's parachute opened and delivered him safely to the water below, Commander Blaschum's chute failed and his life was lost.

Lieutenant Wysham woke to find himself floating in the water in full gear, directly in the path of one of the world's most lethal warships. Cutting away his seat pan, he swam desperately to escape the oncoming carrier, which passed within 20 feet of him. Fortunately, Rafe survived.

Mr. Speaker, the loss of his pilot was a devastating blow to Lieutenant

Wysham, his shipmates aboard the U.S.S. *Kennedy*, and the entire naval family. Commander Blaschum leaves behind a wife and two sons, Jack and Max, who will carry the memory of their father's service and his ultimate sacrifice as long as they live.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Wysham would probably be mortified to know that he is being honored on the floor of the United States House of Representatives today. He is not the sort who seeks public recognition for his service to our country. Neither is he the sort to dwell on his own mortality, or let the fear of the unexpected keep him from completing his vital mission.

Indeed, Rafe was back up in the air less than a week after the accident, and in an e-mail to his mother shortly after the incident, Rafe wrote, "I entered this business knowing something like this could happen." Like the thousands of men and women in uniform fighting the war on terrorism, Lieutenant Wysham simply accepts his reality, and he marches on.

Mr. Speaker, the author, James Michener, wrote a famous story of another group of naval aviators whose service in the Korean War bears close resemblance to that of the men and women serving in harm's way today. In his novel, the *Bridges at Toko-Ri*, Michener tells of an officer named Harry Brubaker, a lawyer who had fought as a carrier pilot in World War II, and then was recalled to fight again in the skies over Korea. Brubaker is not at all pleased with the turn of events, but tucks in his chin and accepts his duty, nonetheless.

Brubaker's task force commander is a salty old admiral named Tarrant, who develops a deep but well-concealed affection for the young pilot. Tarrant describes him as one of the men who "hammer on in, even though the weight of the war has fallen unfairly on them. I always think of them as the voluntary men. The world is always dependent on the voluntary men."

In the end, Brubaker is lost pressing the attack on the bridges, leaving the old admiral reeling in the loss of one of his boys. On the final page of the book, he asks himself the question that haunts us all when we learn of the heroism of our men and women in uniform: "Why is America lucky enough to have such men," he asks. "Where did we get such men?"

Mr. Speaker, in this case, we got them from the small town of Madras, Oregon, and the bigger city of Virginia Beach, Virginia. Thank God we have them, voluntary men, like Rafe Wysham and Chris Blaschum. We should be forever grateful on that account.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING WALK-FM OF LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRUCCI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor WALK Radio Station in my district on Long Island that is celebrating their 50th birthday this Saturday, April 19. WALK-FM invited the public to visit its new stations and studios on Colonial Drive in Patchogue on its official opening day, Saturday, April 19, 1952.

Quoting from the invitation, the station's staff was "most anxious for you to see the glamorous, fully-equipped studios and offices in our ultra-modern building, which is not only the radio showplace of Long Island, but one of the most beautiful radio stations in the East."

WALK received well wishes on the air that day from radio and television personalities of the era, including Perry Como, Dick Powell, Kay Starr, and Jack Sterling.

A clipping from the Bay Shore Sentinel and Journal dated April 24, 1952, described WALK this way: "The ultra-modern station affords the best in facilities and promises to become a most important link in the communications field in Suffolk County."

In more recent years, WALK 97.5 FM has had consistent ratings success. WALK has been the number one adult radio station on Long Island for over 16 years, reflecting a heritage of broadcast excellence. WALK uniquely balances the needs of the Long Island community in providing vital news, weather, and traffic information, and a variety of music that Long Islanders enjoy at home, at work, and while in their car.

WALK's news and public service commitment has been recognized and honored over the years with a slew of awards from the Long Island Coalition for Fair Broadcasting, the New York State Broadcasters Association, and the Press Club of Long Island. On the trade side, their programming has won national awards from Billboard Magazine and Radio & Records.

WALK 97.5 was chosen as the National Association of Broadcasters' Marconi Adult Contemporary Station of the year in 2001, giving the station national recognition for its community service and leadership.

In short, WALK embraces the Long Island community through its tireless support of the island's not-for-profit organizations and important causes, like the fight against breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating WALK-FM radio and its employees for 25 years of being a thoughtful neighbor, and for its leadership in the community for over 50 years.

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

tleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EQUAL PAY

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

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Equal Pay Day. The Equal Pay Act became public law in 1963, making it illegal to pay women lower rates for the same job strictly on the basis of sex. Yet, almost four decades later, the wage gap among women and men persists.

It is appalling that in the year 2002, women across the United States continue to be discriminated against on the basis of gender. Women holding similar jobs with similar education, skills, work experience, job content, still earn less than men. The Census Bureau reports that women earn 27 cents less than men on the dollar.

Why would I bring this up, other than it being Equal Pay Day, Mr. Speaker? There has been a lot of commentary here on the floor of the House about welfare and welfare reform, and truly, women want not to draw welfare, but rather to get into the marketplace and be economically self-sufficient.

Yet, we find just in Indiana, in a glance at Indiana, that the African American women earn only 67 percent of what men earn, and the earnings among Latino women fall even lower, earning 58 percent of what men earn. Three-quarters of African American women and Latinos work in just three types of employment: sales, clerical, and service and factory jobs, and a majority of those women do not even make enough money to reach the poverty line for a family of four, which is \$18,000 in the year 2002.

In Indiana, women, older women, women who are Social Security age, are living in poverty because their income, their lifetime income earnings, have decided the amount of their Social Security checks. So the consequence of that is that women are drawing a very minuscule amount of Social Security checks, which propels them into a remaining lifetime of poverty.

Thirty-nine years ago, President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act. He called it the first step in addressing the unconscionable practice of paying female employees less wages than male employees for the same job. At that time, women earned 58 cents for each dollar earned by a man. So Mr. Speaker, equal pay is not only a woman's issue, it is a family issue. It is beneficial for the entire family.

Women often provide a significant amount or all of their family's income, and in many cases, they are the sole wage-earners, struggling to provide their families with the best quality of

life they possibly can. It is a shame that they and their families continue to be victims of this unjust discrimination.

I thought it was imperative that we call this to the attention of the House of Representatives and to the United States, as well, to suggest that we have, indeed, come a long way since Niagara Falls, but we have a long way to go.

STUART R. PADDOCK, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, Stuart Paddock, Jr., was a leader. He inspired reverence among his friends, his associates, and his employees. He was a leader who did not take credit, but instead, gave it away. He led with vision, enthusiasm, determination, and courage. His kind words, his optimism, trust in people, and thoughtfulness endeared him to all.

According to an editorial in today's Daily Herald, if we took a poll of the people who work at the Herald, we would find something extraordinary. We could not find a single person with a bad word to say about Stu, not one. The work force numbers 880. That is the kind of leader he was.

Stu Paddock died on Monday, April 15, at the age of 86. During three-and-one-half decades of ownership, he built the Daily Herald from a weekly community newspaper to the third largest daily in Illinois. His is a remarkable success story of a family-owned business in an era of corporate giants.

Paddock was the inspirational heart and soul of one of the small number of family-owned newspapers in America. When he assumed leadership of the company in 1968, the newspapers were publishing three times a week, with a circulation below 20,000. At his death, he left a growing suburban daily with a circulation of over 148,000, now the 7th largest in the Nation.

Born September 19, 1915, in Palatine, Paddock graduated in 1937 from Knox College in Galesburg, and joined the paper as an assistant editor. He was called into service shortly after Pearl Harbor as a second lieutenant, serving as a company commander in a tank destroyer battalion as part of Patton's Third Army in Europe. He was discharged in 1946 at the rank of captain.

In 1969, Paddock's willingness to take risks saved the newspaper. A critical slowdown occurred when Marshall Field and his Sun-Times started a daily newspaper called The Day in direct competition with the Herald. Over the next 4 years, the weekly Herald newspapers lost 40 percent of their circulation.

A plan to publish three times a week failed to turn around the paper's fortunes. "We either had to go daily or die," Paddock later reflected. Shortly after taking over as president, he