

hard work. I also wish to thank in particular Chairmen SENSENBRENNER, Congressman CONYERS, Congressman SMITH, and Congressman BERMAN, without whose efforts this bill could not become law.

EQUAL PAY DAY

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I stand today to speak in support of an issue that affects every woman in this country—the fight for equal pay for men and women.

Today is Equal Pay Day—the day when the wages paid to American women “catch up” to the wages paid to men last year. So, essentially, women have to work almost four months more than men who do the same job just to bring home the same amount of income.

Until the early 1960s, newspapers published separate want-ads for men and women. Some newspapers even printed the same job in the male and female listings, but with separate pay scales. Full-time working women would earn on average between 59–64 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earned doing the exact same job.

Finally, in 1963, Congress passed the Equal Pay Act making it illegal to pay women lower rates for the same job strictly on the basis of gender. Since its passage, we have made significant progress in the fight for equal pay. Women now earn 76 cents for every dollar earned by a man in the same position.

While we have improved over the last 40 years, however, we still have a long way to go. Apparently this Administration, however, thinks we can stop fighting for equal pay. The Department of Labor quietly eliminated its Equal Pay Matters Initiative, removed all information about narrowing the wage gap from its Web site, and refused to use available tools to identify violations of equal pay laws.

Today, we teach our young girls that they can be anything they want to be, that no job or career is out of their reach. What we do not tell our young girls is that once they get that job and start their career, they will make 24 percent less than their fellow male co-worker even if they do the same exact and work just as hard. And if they are women of color, they will make 34 percent less. If the U.S. Department of Labor thinks that this is acceptable, then we may as well tell those young girls to stop dreaming because their work will not be valued as much as their brother's will.

I think we should continue to encourage women who are in the workforce and young girls who will be in the workforce that working hard will pay-off. That is why I am proud to be a co-sponsor of two bills that will move this country toward equal pay for women—Senator CLINTON's Paycheck Fairness Act and Senator HARKIN's Fair Pay Act.

The Paycheck Fairness Act will enforce equal pay laws for Federal contractors and prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their co-workers. This bill also addresses what is known as the “negotiation gap.” Women are eight times less likely to negotiate their starting salaries than men. In order to empower women to negotiate their salaries, the Paycheck Fairness Act creates a training program to help women strengthen their negotiation skills. Finally, the bill requires the Department of Labor to continue collecting and disseminating information about women workers.

While the Paycheck Fairness Act addresses pay inequity among men and women for performing the same job, the Fair Pay Act addresses the problem of women not getting paid what they are worth for doing jobs that may be different than those performed by men, but are of equal value to the employer. The Fair Pay Act requires employers to provide equal pay for jobs that are comparable in skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions. The Fair Pay Act would apply to each company individually and would prohibit companies from reducing other employees' wages to achieve pay equity.

This issue is not just one of equality among men and women—it is a bread-and-butter issue for working families. According to the National Women's Law Center, if working women earned the same as men, those who work the same number of hours; have the same education, age, and union status; and live in the same region of the country, their annual family incomes would rise by \$4,000 and poverty rates would be cut in half. As we all know, family earnings determine where and how a family lives, the education of their children, the family's health care, their standard of living, including whether workers have a pension on which to retire comfortably. We're talking about serious consequences to this pervasive problem.

Since the beginning of my tenure, I have been very involved with this issue. When the administration wanted to eliminate the Equal Pay Initiative within the Department of Labor's Women's Bureau, I wrote a letter to President Bush expressing my outrage at the Department's actions. In addition, I was also a co-sponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 2004, which included the Paycheck Fairness Act.

I commend my colleagues, Senator CLINTON and Senator HARKIN, for their commitment to the equal pay issue. I am proud to join them as co-sponsors of the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Fair Pay Act. I believe that these two pieces of legislation will help put an end to the pay disparity between men and women and bring us closer to the year when we celebrate Equal Pay Day on January 1.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF MARLA RUZICKA

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the life and work of Marla Ruzicka, a remarkable woman and humanitarian who was killed last Saturday in a car bomb blast in Baghdad.

My thoughts and prayers go out to her parents, Cliff and Nancy, her siblings, and her friends and coworkers. She will be sorely missed.

Born and raised in Lakeport, CA, Marla dedicated her life to helping the innocent victims of war who needed a voice and needed a champion.

She traveled to war zones like Afghanistan and Iraq on her own and at her own risk to document civilian casualties and find ways to provide the needed humanitarian assistance.

Two years ago, at the age of 26, she founded the Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict to “mitigate the impact of the conflict and its aftermath on the people of Iraq by ensuring that timely and effective life-saving assistance is provided to those in need”.

A tireless and relentless advocate for her cause, she talked to anyone who would listen and would win over doubters with her smile, kindness, and compassion.

In fact, in no small part to her own initiative, she helped convince Congress and the U.S. military to provide \$30 million for innocent victims of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, something that had not been accomplished before.

Few have done so much and helped so many at such a young age.

Her father said he would remember her as a “lady with a tremendously open heart and warm feelings toward the people who've been in conflict and war.”

As we mourn the loss of a loving and caring American, let us also celebrate the life of Marla Ruzicka and rededicate ourselves to the cause she personified. In her memory, let us reach out to Afghan and Iraqi civilians who have suffered in silence and be their voice and champion.

I can think of no finer tribute.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING EL CAMINO REAL HIGH SCHOOL

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate El Camino Real High School of Woodland Hills, CA, on winning the prestigious U.S. Academic Decathlon for a second year in a row an astonishing achievement for all the students, teachers, and parents involved.

Each year, the U.S. Academic Decathlon brings together some of our Nation's brightest students for 2 days of competition on a broad range of subjects including mathematics, literature, economics, art, science, and music. I am very proud to report that

in the 24 years of this competition, schools representing California have finished first or second every year except for one.

El Camino's tremendous victory represents an incredible fourth title in the last 8 years. Only one other school in the Nation has been more successful. El Camino is the first school to win back-to-back championships since their fellow Californians, Palo Alto High School, achieved that distinction in 1982 and 1983.

This triumph is the result of much effort and sacrifice. These amazingly dedicated students have given up spring and summer vacations and spent up to 10 hours a day preparing. Their hard work and commitment have certainly paid great dividends.

El Camino finished first with 49,009 points out of a possible 60,000, beating their nearest opponent by 723, and were led by their top scorer—Laura Descher.

It is important to note that the Academic Decathlon is set up to award versatility and breadth of knowledge, requiring each student to prepare for all the various academic events. This means that each student has developed a diverse and robust degree of scholarship rather than just specializing in one given topic.

The nine students whose effort and determination have made our State so proud are Micah Roth, Benjamin Farahmand, Jihwan Kim, Lindsey Cohen, Laura Descher, Lindsay Gibbs, Sean Follmer, Brian Hwang, and Kevin Rosenberg.

A great deal of the credit must be given to the dedicated coaches—Christian Cerone and Lissa Gregorio. This whole experience has certainly been just as memorable for them as it has for their students.

Of course, no congratulations would be complete without mentioning the contributions of the parents and family members who have been there each step of the way to cheer these young people on and support them in their lofty goals.

Again, I congratulate El Camino Real High School on this great achievement and wish all the students involved continued success in whatever they decide to do. You have made your State, your parents, your school, and your Senator very proud.●

MRS. SUE PANETTA-LEE

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, Mrs. Sue Panetta-Lee will soon be installed as president of the Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Incorporated, of Missouri for 2005–2006. Sue is dedicated to the mission and vision of Business and Professional Women, BMW, and supports the legislative platform at the State and national levels.

Sue has been an active member since 1990 when she was introduced to BMW through the Young Careerist Program. She is a member of the St. Louis Metropolitan BMW in good standing and has served on and chaired many com-

mittees. Sue has experience in grant writing, program creation and implementation. She has presented training on numerous occasions in the community and for BMW on leadership, legislation, and many other topics of interest. Sue was instrumental in planning the state legislative conference in February 2000.

Sue is a team player and is a self-starter with decision making and leadership abilities. She has experience as a mentor and is devoted to empowering all persons to be equal as human beings. Sue is a dedicated and creative person who will speak up for ideas that promote BMW and women's issues. She believes that we grow more from embracing our differences and learning from each other's experiences and knowledge.

Sue is currently self-employed since 1998 in private practice as a Licensed Mental Health Therapist. Prior to that, Sue was clinical director for a community health agency for eight years. She has worked in other capacities as a social worker in the community for hospitals and in long-term care facilities, working with all age groups. Sue has a total of 22 years of work experience in the mental health field.

Currently Sue is serving as part of the Executive Board in the position of First Vice President, and is a member of American Association of University Women, Illinois Counselors' Association, and the Illinois Coalition to End Homelessness. Sue was a Young Careerist representing her district at the state level. She has held all positions at the local level with the exception of treasurer. At the state level Sue has served as Legislative, Membership, and Fund-raising Chairs. At the National level Sue has served on the Governance Task Force Committee.

As President of BMW, Sue will make executive committee and various other appointments. She will represent the State Federation at numerous national and state functions, and interpret the BMW/USA programs, policies, procedures, and objectives to the State Federation. I commend Sue for her outstanding service to the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. I wish Mrs. Panetta-Lee and her husband all the best.●

KEN MURPHREE

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Ken Murphree of Tunica for his distinguished service as president of Delta Council this year.

Delta Council is an economic development organization representing the 18 Delta and part-Delta counties of northwest Mississippi. Delta Council was organized in 1935 to bring together the agriculture and business leadership of the region to focus on the challenges which face the economy and society of the Delta.

Ken Murphree has served admirably as president of Delta Council; and with his distinguished record of public service as a county administrator for

DeSoto County during its early years as a growth-area for the Memphis metropolitan region, and more recently, as the county administrator for Tunica County, MS, he has provided careful and responsible leadership for orderly economic growth in our State. The growth of the local tax base in Tunica County, MS, resulting from the rapid expansion of the gaming industry in that area, has been characterized as a model and a standard by which other rural growth areas are measured.

Ken Murphree has been a strong proponent of Delta Council's programs of education and health care during the past year. His history of involvement in transportation improvements has served Delta Council well this year. The progress being registered on the development of Interstate 69 and the U.S. Highway 82—Mississippi River Bridge has also benefited from his leadership.

Ken has coordinated the activities of Delta Council in a way which has brought consensus throughout the region in areas such as flood control, industrial development, higher education funding, and transportation improvements.

Ken has been a leader in his community, and as he concludes his year as president of Delta Council I congratulate him for the contributions which he has made to this special region of our country. I look forward to his future contributions in improving the quality of life for our citizens in the Mississippi Delta.●

NEW MEXICO TECH

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, NM for the school's No. 2 ranking in The Princeton Review's 2006 edition of the Nation's "best value" colleges. New Mexico Tech is an outstanding school and I am very proud of what they have accomplished. This is a well deserved recognition for the excellent work being done by the faculty and students at this fine university.

The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, known to New Mexicans as New Mexico Tech, was originally founded in 1889 as the New Mexico School of Mines. At that time the Territorial Legislature, wanting to boost New Mexico's economy, decided to establish a School of Mines to train young mining engineers. Silver and lead ores taken from the nearby Magdalena Mountains were processed nearby and the new School of Mines would allow young mining engineers to train near the eventual site of their work. The New Mexico school of mines opened with one building, two professors, and seven students.

Over the years, their mission has expanded to say the least. Today the enrollment at this university exceeds 1,800 students from different parts of the country and the world. New Mexico Tech is an outstanding research university, recognized for their excellence