

But this does not mean that, as a Nation, we have erased the adversity and discrimination that continues to stifle equality. According to the U.S. Census, women who work full time, year-round, earned 76 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earned. Gaps in health care coverage affect millions of Americans and women, especially those living in poverty, face significant barriers to receiving care. Access to preventative measures unique to ensuring a woman's health, such as screenings for breast and cervical cancer, has been harder to achieve in recent years and participation rates for such screenings have declined since 2001. Such inequalities are very troubling, and we must continue to work to ensure that these disparities are eradicated for the sake of future generations.

It is a privilege to commemorate and appreciate the women who have made an indelible impact on our lives and the history of this country. I encourage my colleagues to take Women's History Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of women, but also as a time to redouble our efforts to ensure that these achievements are retained and to work toward the goal of full equality.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Women's History Month. As one of the 14 women in the United States Senate, I consider this tribute of the highest importance. This year's theme for the month is "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams." There is no better time to salute the work women around the world have done at home and abroad to empower communities.

I am proud to come from the State where Women's History Month was conceived in 1978. Almost 30 years ago, the education task force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women in California first established Women's History Week in recognition of the achievements of women. This was soon expanded into a month-long celebration, realizing the dream of honoring women in a special way each year.

Women's History Month recognizes those who continually strive for greatness. One that comes to mind is Mary Helen Rogers, who passed away earlier this month. She dedicated her life to protecting African American families in San Francisco from urban displacement. While raising 12 children, she became an expert in housing laws. She helped start the Western Addition Community Organization, which forced the city to assist the residents it displaced. She later went on to serve as the San Francisco Housing Authority's community relations manager. Mary Helen Rogers demonstrated through her life's work the importance of community activism and the power of an individual to inspire action in those around her.

Just last month we lost another very special woman—Dana Reeve, the widow of actor Christopher Reeve. Her com-

mitment to spinal cord injury research and loving dedication to her husband was unmatched. Since Chris' death, she carried his spirit with her in her drive to push Congress to expand embryonic stem cell research. Dana was the face of the fight on behalf of patients across the country with spinal cord injury, Parkinson's, juvenile diabetes and countless other illnesses. Her passing should serve as call for expansion of embryonic stem cell research. Mrs. Reeve's steadfast loyalty and compassionate care serves as an example to all women. She will be missed.

In Los Angeles, "Sweet" Alice Harris has been a leader in her community for over 40 years. Her steadfast commitment to the community through parent organizations, emergency relief, and youth programs, has made her an example of true community leadership.

As American women, we share a common history: It is a history of fighting for many of the rights and opportunities for which today's young women will prosper. We have come a long way from the days when women had no right to vote, no right to own property, and had extremely limited inheritance or child custody rights.

It wasn't until the Women's Property Act of 1839 that women gained land entitlement. The women's suffrage movement began in 1848; however the 19th amendment, granting women the right to vote, did not come to pass until 72 long years later, in 1920. It is a right for which our predecessors worked hard for. We owe it to them to fulfill our civic duty.

Today, American women are active in every sphere of our society. We have made our mark in this country's private and public sectors. Over 65 million women are a part of the American workforce. There are over 10 million woman-owned businesses. Women represent our Nation around the world. Many proudly wear our Nation's uniform.

Much has changed for over the past century. But make no mistake; much more needs to be done. We must provide improved health care and educational and workforce support for our Nation's women. We need to eliminate violence against women. We need to ensure that women continue to have the right to choose and autonomy over their bodies.

Violence against women is intolerable. Every 15 seconds a woman is battered, and each day four women die from domestic violence. Women should not be threatened by fear and violence. This is why the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization is such an important piece of legislation.

We also need to improve healthcare in our Nation. Breast cancer continues to be a serious threat to women in this country. One out of seven American women will develop the disease, and nearly 41,000 will die from it this year. We must commit ourselves to finding a cure for this disease which affects women regardless of race, class, or religion.

As the sponsor of the breast cancer research stamp, I am proud to say that since its inception in 1998, the stamp has helped raise nearly \$50 million. These funds go a long way to help fund research and increase public awareness for this devastating disease. I am also supporting the National Institute of Health and National Cancer Institute legislative efforts to ensure that women undergoing mastectomy and lumpectomy surgeries are protected during their hospital stays. By continuing to prioritize investment in research, it is my hope that we can reach the goal of eradicating breast cancer by 2015.

Pregnant women must be provided with access to clinical care and parenting support. The U.S. infant mortality rate is 35th in the world. We must change this. Providing mothers with proper nutrition and healthy lifestyle education is key to combating preventable illnesses and deaths in mothers and children. Additionally, women are balancing careers with families more than ever, creating the need for affordable, quality childcare options.

Women are also in the midst of the war in Iraq, and we need to honor these women fighting to protect this country and for the dreams of those women who have been oppressed in Iraq and Afghanistan for too long.

Women began enlisting in the military at the start of World War I. Today women are serving in Iraq in record numbers. Women in the armed services make up 15 percent of active duty personnel. There have been nearly 2,000 California female deployments since 9/11. They do jobs that range from intelligence officers to doctors, to ground soldiers.

In Louisiana, Hurricane Katrina swept communities away in an instant. In the areas hardest hit by Katrina, 56 percent of families are headed by women, who are now taking the lead role in rebuilding the homes and lives their families and neighbors once knew. They deserve our help and support. It is only through their efforts that communities in New Orleans can thrive once again.

I salute the women leading the way in building stronger communities in California and across the Nation. They continue to lead and inspire us all. It is through their tenacity, strength, and passion that we see the transformation of dreams into realities. I have great hope for future generations of women, but we must protect and expand the cherished rights of today's women, so that they may continue to serve their communities and realize their dreams.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE PASSING OF JOE TECCE

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of a great American, a Boston institution, and a personal friend. Earlier

this month the legendary restaurateur Joe Tecce passed away, and with his death at age 94 a colorful chapter of Boston's history came to a close.

Joe's journey in the hospitality business started with a pushcart selling fruit on the North End's Salem Street at age 14, and due to his father's death years earlier, that job would constitute much of the family income. His trademark perseverance and business sense allowed him to open the Bella Napoli pizzeria in 1947. This 30 seat restaurant would host the first of countless guests, from all walks of life and from all over the world, who would make an evening special by sitting at one of Joe's coveted tables.

Once formally established on North Washington Street, Joe Tecce's Ristorante, or what regulars simply called "Tecce's", became a favorite of Bostonians, tourists from around the world, and celebrities of every stripe for more than 40 years. His reputation grew as his business and family did, and for Joe the two were almost inseparable. In addition to his traditional culinary skills, Joe became a host of such generosity and grace that he became an ambassador for the city itself. Standing at the door of Tecce's, often with his trademark wide-brimmed felt hat, Joe would greet everyone from Elizabeth Taylor and Nancy Reagan, to Frank Sinatra and Al Pacino, as well as luminaries from the worlds of sports such as Bobby Orr, Reggie Jackson and Larry Bird. His love of boxing not only attracted Rocky Marciano and Marvin Hagler to visit, it actually resulted in Joe being named to the Boxing Commission by then-Governor Ed King.

To walk into Tecce's was to walk into his home, and as you took your seat you could look around and see generations of Joe's family, sons and cousins, pushing forward the legacy he started with his fruit cart over 60 years earlier. For me and my family, no trip to the Boston Garden for a Celtics or Bruins game would be complete without starting the evening at Tecce's, and over the many years I knew Joe it became customary for my friends to gather there before a political event or a night at the theater.

Joe Tecce loved his family, his neighbors, and the North End and its traditions. But it was with his restaurant that he wove together all three and throughout the course of his career they became one. His legacy of generosity and hospitality leaves the city of Boston a better place, and it is with a heavy heart that I join his countless friends and beloved family in honoring his time with us.●

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER MARK S. HOCHBERG

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize CDR Mark S. Hochberg on his retirement from 20 years of faithful and dedicated service to the U.S. Navy.

Throughout his career as a Seabee and civil engineer, he has made count-

less contributions to our Navy and Nation that improved the Navy's readiness and bettered the lives of its men and women. I want to thank him for his service and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.●

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 2487. A bill to ensure an abundant and affordable supply of highly nutritious fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops for American consumers and international markets by enhancing the competitiveness of United States-grown specialty crops; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. Res. 416. A resolution recognizing the victims of Hurricane Rita 6 months after the disaster, commending the resiliency of the people of Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas, and committing to stand by them in their relief and rebuilding efforts; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. FRIST, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. SUNUNU, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BURNS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. Res. 417. A resolution honoring the National Association of State Veterans Homes and the 119 State veterans homes providing long-term care to veterans that are represented by that association for their contributions to the health care of veterans and the health-care system of the Nation; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BURR, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CONRAD, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 418. A resolution designating the week beginning April 2, 2006, as "Week of the Young Child"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 419. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the new United Nations Human Rights Council fails to adequately reform the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, thus preventing that body from becoming an effective monitor of human rights throughout the world; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 718

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 718, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide standards and procedures to guide both State and local law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officers during internal investigations, interrogation of law enforcement officers, and administrative disciplinary hearings, and to ensure accountability of law enforcement officers, to guarantee the due process rights of law enforcement officers, and to require States to enact law enforcement discipline, accountability, and due process laws.

S. 722

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to make permanent the enhanced educational savings provisions for qualified tuition programs enacted as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1728, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the Indian employment credit and the depreciation rules for property used predominantly within an Indian reservation.

S. 2135

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2135, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to report to Congress concerning proposed changes to longstanding policies that prohibit foreign interests from exercising actual control over the economic, competitive, safety, and security decisions of United States airlines, and for other purposes.

S. 2296

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2296, a bill to establish a fact-finding Commission to extend the