

been active in various Cal-EPA and San Joaquin Valley air pollution control initiatives.

In addition to his service in the Kern oil patch, Les is an active member of the communities in Bakersfield, Taft, and Kern County. To mention just a few of his endeavors, Les is a past president of the Taft Chamber of Commerce, past trustee of the Taft Union High School District, and a past chairman of the Water Association of Kern County and the West Side District Hospital Foundation. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce and the Petroleum Club of Bakersfield, a trustee of the Kern County Museum Foundation, and a member of the Greater Valley Center/Regional Economic Alliance for Leadership, the San Joaquin Valley Air Study Policy Committee, and of Governor Schwarzenegger's California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

Les and his wife, June, have been married for 41 years and have raised two daughters, Tessa and Kerrie, and one son, Les III. They have nine grandchildren: Tanisha, Ayana, Darius, Arizona, Keelan, Sierra, Logun, Willow and Cash.

Receiving the IOPA 2008 Ray Bradley/Tom Woodward Lifetime Achievement Award is a fitting recognition of Les' lifelong commitment to advancing innovation and environmental issues among oil producers. With his dedication and larger-than-life personality, I know that Les will continue to be an effective leader in the Kern oil patch and a prominent community leader in my district. I commend his leadership and hope that Kern County continues to benefit from his experience and wisdom.

HONORING LYDIA PORUBSKY AND PORUBSKY GROCERY AND MEATS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today in remembrance of the late Lydia Porubsky who passed away February 11th at the age of 83. Mrs. Porubsky was known across Topeka, Kansas, for a chili recipe and her 6-day-a-week presence at Porubsky's Grocery and Meats.

Lydia, alongside her husband of 49 years, Charles, Sr., operated Porubsky's until Charles' death in 1998. Lydia, however, continued to be a fixture in the deli. She was the person every customer remembered thanks to her positions behind the counter and at the cash register. An amazing thing about Lydia is that she remembered you as well. The conversations and the small-talk she would engage in only enhanced the experience of eating at Porubsky's.

Porubsky's is also known for their great food. Not the least of which is the chili. Porubsky's developed a reputation over the years as having some of the most delicious chili in the area. According to The Topeka Capital-Journal, Porubsky's was featured in Gourmet Magazine. This publication's editors discovered what the people of Kansas had been enjoying for over 60 years. Gourmet Magazine summed it up as well as anyone when it stated, "Porubsky's is not just a place to eat. It is a destination in itself." While the magazine was referring specifically to the food, people

familiar with Porubsky's knew that Lydia was also a star attraction.

My personal experience with the Porubskys dates back to my time in the Kansas legislature. Several of my fellow legislators and I would make the trip to Porubsky's during our breaks. Meeting from January through June meant that we had at least 3 full months to truly enjoy Porubsky's hot chili and spicy pickles. With meat and cheese trays displayed, the restaurant was a warm respite from the cold and a welcome break from our political and governmental dealings.

But in a city with many dining options, it was Lydia's genuine interest in us that kept us coming back. Even today, as I travel Kansas, I will alter my plans so that I can have a ham salad sandwich at Porubsky's and enjoy this family's warm welcome and hospitality.

While Porubsky's and many family-owned establishments like it lack the bells and whistles of nationwide chains, the underlying quality that truly matters is the collection of people it takes to make it work. Charles Sr. and Lydia provided us with a model of small business ownership. My home State of Kansas is no stranger to family-owned and -operated undertakings. Our economy was built by people like the Porubskys, who knew that if they did not work for it, it was not going to be given to them. Their love of family and the city of Topeka will never be forgotten.

This staple of Topeka enterprise will continue through the efforts of the Porubskys' sons, Matthew, Charlie, Jr., Mark, alongside the Porubsky's daughters Cecelia Pierson and Teresa Thomas who have all made their homes in Topeka. This restaurant, this way of life must be remembered and admired, Madam Speaker. We all know a "Lydia Porubsky" in our lives. Every one of us has someone who reminds us of what is really important as our lives and our jobs continue to speed up. I am sorry that my Lydia Porubsky has passed on. I am thankful for having had the chance to know her and her family. This woman, this business, will remain a part of our greater Kansas community and will enjoy a special place in my heart.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Lydia Porubsky, offering our sympathy to her family, and praying for the continued success of Porubsky's Grocery and Meats.

IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, in 1963, when the Equal Pay Act was signed into law to grant the right to equal pay to women who worked full-time, year-round, women made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men doing the same level of work. In 2006, women earned 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. While that is progress, it is slow progress and it means that the wage gap between men and women has narrowed by less than half a cent per year since passage of that law. At the same time, African-American women today earn only 63 cents and Hispanic women bring home just 52 cents for each dollar earned by men.

In my State of Wisconsin, women with a college degree still make considerably less than men with the same amount of education. With rising gas prices, higher health insurance, and a disproportionate amount of single-family homes headed by women, it is of the utmost importance that workers receive fair and equal pay for equal work. This is not just a civil rights issue: it's a survival issue for women workers providing for their family's food, rent, and heat.

But a right to equal pay is no right at all unless it can be enforced.

Madam Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 by providing more effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work. For example women would be able to seek full compensatory and punitive damages because the bill would put gender-based discrimination on an equal footing with wage discrimination based on race or ethnicity for which full compensation is already available. The bill would also prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their coworkers, require the Department of Labor to enhance outreach and training efforts to work with employers to eliminate pay disparities, and create a new grant program to help strengthen the negotiation skills of girls and women.

This week, in honor of Equal Pay Day, the Senate plans to consider another bill, H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which is necessary to ensure that victims of workplace discrimination can seek effective remedies. A recent Supreme Court decision last spring made it extremely difficult for workers who suffer from workplace wage discrimination to seek justice in court. Instead of allowing workers who suffer wage discrimination to bring a case within 180 days of the last time they were illegally underpaid, the Supreme Court decision would require that the case be brought within 180 days of the first time that an employer first started to discriminate by paying lower wages.

This decision overturned precedent and made it much more difficult for workers to pursue pay discrimination claims. H.R. 2831 would simply restore the longstanding interpretation of title VII and other discrimination statutes, thereby protecting women and other workers.

Madam Speaker, equal work deserves equal pay, no matter your gender, skin color, national origin, age or disability. That's the law of the land. But we need to make sure that we have the measures in place to ensure that these rights can be strongly enforced.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CREDIT UNIONS

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of credit unions. As a member of a credit union, I am a true believer that people should help people; which are the credit unions' mission. Members know that during the economic downturn that we are currently facing right now, credit unions will always be there to serve their members to the best of their ability.

Members who have accounts in a credit union are owners of the financial institution and they elect the board of directors in a one person-one vote system regardless of the amount of money invested in the institution. That means that credit unions are in fact an economic democracy; every customer is both a member and a shareholder.

While this Nation is painfully suffering the current mortgage crisis, credit unions have displayed an outstanding record of service to both minority and low- to moderate-income mortgage applicants and have a long history of responsible mortgage lending. What is impressive to me, Madam Speaker, is that in 2006, credit unions approved an overwhelming 71 percent of applications from low- to moderate-income mortgage applicants.

Furthermore, as a member of the House Committee on Small Business, these non-profit, member-owned banking alternatives are attractive to many entrepreneurs because of the great lending rates and services they provide to them. For individual members, credit unions generally pay higher interest rates on deposits and charge lower interest rates on loans than banks while offering the same services such as savings accounts, checking accounts, credit cards, certificates of deposits, and online banking. So the fact that they provide competitive interest rates, fewer or no fees, and convenience makes so many members hold credit unions in such a high regard.

Madam Speaker, credit unions are extremely vital to my hometown, New York City. Credit unions serve more New Yorkers living in low-income and underserved areas that are continually being abandoned by big corporate banks. I must point out that there are about 43,697 credit union members living in my district. In fact, there are 6 credit unions in the New York 11th Congressional District, which has 3,662 members and an asset value totaling more than \$13 million dollars.

Madam Speaker, I must note that what many people do not know is that more than 1/3 of all credit union CEOs nationwide are women.

Therefore Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous contributions credit unions provide to so many communities throughout the country and provide any continued support to these financial institutions.

RECOGNIZING ALEXA POLASKI

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexa Polaski on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Polaski's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Alexa Polaski cleared and redesigned a garden courtyard at the Mimosa Manor Nursing Home in Keller, Texas. Miss Polaski secured donations from various companies, individuals and garden clubs so she could plant new perennials, annuals and trees. She also provided benches, bird feeders, and garden art. This transformation now allows the nursing home residents an outdoor area to enjoy.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Alexa Polaski in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

SASHA VANHEESCH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sasha VanHeesch, who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Sasha VanHeesch is a senior at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sasha VanHeesch is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

HONORING IAN MICAH WRIGHT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ian Micah Wright of Kearney, Missouri. Ian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ian Micah Wright for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING BRENDA VERNATTI

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a heroic educator who saved the life of one of her students a few weeks ago.

In the blink of an eye, a moment of levity and fun became a moment of terror, as fifth grader Kelci Ottwell, who had been at the lunch table, laughing at a friend's joke, suddenly found herself choking and unable to breathe. Gasping for air, Kelci moved toward her principal, Brenda Vernatti for help. Unable to speak, Kelci reached out for Ms. Vernatti's arm to get her attention.

Immediately sensing Kelci's distress, Ms. Vernatti swung into action and began to perform the Heimlich maneuver, trying in vain four times to dislodge the small piece of pizza that was by now causing Kelci's face to turn purple. Finally, on her fifth attempt, Kelci coughed up the pizza and began to breathe again.

Kelci's mother, Melissa, told the local newspaper, "She's my hero. I want the world to know she saved my baby's life."

Brenda Vernatti has served the Alton School District for 22 years, touching hundreds if not thousands of young lives. But just a few weeks ago, she went above and beyond the already lofty call of duty of an educator to become a life-saving hero.

Every day, our Nation is blessed to have heroic citizens ready to spring into action to help another in distress. Today, I have the honor of recognizing Brenda Vernatti, who has dedicated her life to helping others attain their goals through education, and who, in that blink of an eye, reminded us all of the heroes in our midst.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 5819

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I submit the following CBO cost estimate for the bill H.R. 5819.

H.R. 5819—SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act

Summary: H.R. 5819 would extend programs that require certain agencies to set aside portions of their research and development budgets for small businesses. The bill also would authorize appropriations to improve efforts to develop products funded through those programs that can be sold commercially. Finally, the bill would require participating agencies to develop new databases for program evaluation and business development.

Based on information from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and other agencies, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5819 would cost \$263 million over the 2009–2013 period, subject to appropriation of the specified and necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 5819 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 050 (national defense), 250 (general science, space, and technology), 270 (energy), 300 (natural resources and environment), 350 (agriculture), 370 (commerce and housing credit), 400 (transportation), 500 (education, training, employment, and social services), 550 (health), and 750 (administration of justice).