

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JUSTICE SUE
BELL COBB

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb.

On April 12th, Justice Cobb was honored with the Albert P. Brewer Award for outstanding public service to the State of Alabama.

Chief Justice Cobb has dedicated over 27 years of her life to serving the people of the State of Alabama. She began her service as Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in 2007.

Throughout her career, Justice Cobb has made protecting our Nation's children one of her highest priorities. She has served as the President of the Alabama Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Chairwoman of the Children First Foundation. For her efforts, Justice Cobb has been recognized by the Child Welfare League of America and the National Juvenile Detention Association.

Additionally, Justice Cobb has been an advocate for the American Cancer Society. She has served as the Chairwoman of the Alabama Division of the American Cancer Society and has been named as the Volunteer of the Year by that organization. Additionally, she has been awarded the St. George Medal, the highest national award given by the American Cancer Society.

I applaud Justice Sue Bell Cobb on her outstanding judicial career and I thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of the men and women of the State of Alabama.

RECOGNIZING THE TEXAS WOMAN'S
UNIVERSITY GYMNASTICS
TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Texas Woman's Uni-

versity Pioneers gymnastics team on winning first place at the 2008 USA Gymnastics Women's Collegiate National Championship in Shreveport, Louisiana. Through a show of dedication, passion and solidarity, the Pioneers secured the USAG National Title on Friday, April 18, 2008.

The Texas Woman's University Pioneers rallied dramatically to come from behind and win the National Title. Their score of 194.700 was not only sufficient to clinch first place, but was also the team's highest score of the season. Additionally, many members of the team met or exceeded their personal best scores in the individual events.

The Pioneers seized their first USAG National Title in 1993, with additional wins in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, and 2006. Their success at the 2008 USA Gymnastics Women's Collegiate National Championship gives them a total of nine National Titles in the last 16 years.

Many titles and awards have been awarded to the team as a result of their hard work and dedication, as well as the support and guidance of head coach Frank Kudlac, Assistant Coaches Lisa Klein and Tim Rivera, Graduate Assistant Gretchen Goerlitz, and Trainer Kris Ring.

TWU team members Courtney Arno-Temple, Jennifer Kingsbury, Nicole Poling, Michelle Graves, Alexa Brennan, Keri Miller, Leslie Pladson, Amie Boles, Amy Hulbert, Brista Michael, Kelsey Nixon, Brittany Parker, Tonya Pipkorn, Abbi Thomas, Mollie Blessing, Kristie Costa, Caroline Hilpisch, Jennifer Liberato, Lauren Sizemore, and Amanda Walker have carried on the Pioneer's legacy of excellence, and are outstanding representatives of their school and the community.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to heartily applaud the efforts and success of the Texas Woman's University gymnastics team. Their legacy of hard work and excellence shall continue to inspire others to go after their dreams. I am extremely honored to represent these fine young individuals in the 26th District of Texas, and I am confident that they will continue to achieve greatness in future endeavors.

OBSERVANCE OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, today, as we observe Equal Pay Day, I rise with my colleagues and professional women everywhere to say: Women are the face of pay equity.

The Census Bureau reports that, on average, a woman earns 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. More simply, I would have been working since the beginning of the year to earn the same annual salary as a man who started today, April 22.

Equal pay is not solely a women's issue, it's a family issue; when women aren't paid equally, their families pay the price. There are long-term consequences too: lower pay means less Social Security and less saved for retirement.

We have talked for years about closing the wage gap, now we must act. Today I was added as the 227th cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, joining more than half of this body who believes it is time to eliminate gender-based wage discrimination once and for all.

Congresswoman DELAURO's bill, which she has introduced for the last eight years, strengthens enforcement of the Equal Pay Act while providing businesses with training and resources to ensure they're in compliance.

Madam Speaker, since the Equal Pay Act was passed in 1963, we have made great strides. Wages for women are up, and the pay gap has narrowed, but the gap is still far too wide, and women and their families are paying a terrible price.

This is my first year, and my first Equal Pay Day, as a member of this House. I genuinely look forward to a time when I don't need to remind Americans that Women are the face of pay equity.