

paid by gender and not according to the skills and efforts necessary to do the job. I introduce the FPA because the pay problems today of most women stem mainly from the segregating of women and men in different jobs. Two-thirds of white women and three quarters of African-American women work in just three areas: sales/clerical, service, and factories. We need more aggressive strategies to break through the societal habits present throughout history, the world over, as well as employer-steering of jobs based on gender, which is as old as paid employment itself.

The FPA requires that, if men and women are doing comparable work, they be paid comparable wages. If a woman is an emergency services operator, for example, a female-dominated profession, she should be paid no less than a fire dispatcher, a male-dominated profession, simply because each of these jobs has been dominated by one sex. If a woman is a social worker, a traditionally female occupation, she should earn no less than a probation officer, a traditionally male job, simply because of the gender associated with each of these jobs.

The FPA, like the EPA, will not tamper with the market system. As with the EPA, the burden will be on the plaintiff to prove discrimination. The plaintiff must show that the reason for the disparate treatment is gender discrimination, not legitimate market factors. Corrections to achieve comparable pay for men and women are not radical or unprecedented. State employees in almost half of the state governments, in red and blue states alike, have already demonstrated that you can eliminate the part of the pay gap that is due to discrimination. Twenty states have adjusted wages for female state employees, raising pay for teachers, nurses, clerical workers, librarians, and other female-dominated jobs that paid less than men with comparable jobs. Minnesota, for example, implemented a pay equity plan when they found that similarly skilled female jobs paid 20 percent less than male jobs. There may be some portion of a gender wage gap that is traceable to market conditions, but twenty states have shown that you can tackle the gender discrimination-based gap without interfering with the market system. The states generally have closed the discrimination gap over a period of four or five years at a one-time cost of no more than three to four percent of payroll.

In addition, many female workers routinely achieve pay equity through collective bargaining, and countless employers provide it on their own as they see women shifting out of vital female-dominated occupations, as a result of the shortage of skilled workers, as well as the unfairness to women. Unequal pay has been built into the way women have been treated since Adam and Eve. To dislodge such deep-seated and pervasive treatment, we must go to the source, the traditional female occupations, where pay is linked with gender and always has been.

The best case for a strong and updated EPA, with at least the Paycheck Fairness Act, occurred here in the Congress in 2003, when female custodians in the House and Senate won an EPA case after showing that female workers were paid a dollar less for doing the same or similar work as men. Had these women not been represented by their union, they would have had an almost impossible task of using the rules for bringing and sus-

taining an EPA class action suit. The FPA simply modernizes the EPA to bring it in line with subsequent civil rights statutes. From my tenure as EEOC chair, I know all too well the several ways that this historic legislation needs a 21st century makeover.

Let us start with the Paycheck Fairness Act so we can be prepared to go further with the FPA we introduce today. Let us start now to make the pay worthy of the American women we have asked to go to work.

#### HONORING CHEF THOMAS ALOYSIUS KELLER

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chef Thomas Aloysius Keller, of Yountville, California on the occasion of being honored by French President Nicolas Sarkozy as a Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor.

Chef Keller was born at Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, California to Elizabeth and Edward Keller on October 14, 1955. He is the youngest of five boys. Chef Keller's experience in the restaurant business began when his family moved to Florida. He was studying psychology and working as a dishwasher when his mother asked him to take over as a replacement chef at the restaurant she managed.

One summer he was discovered by French-born Roland Henin, who taught Chef Keller the fundamentals of French cuisine. After working at a small French restaurant in the Hudson River Valley in Catskill, New York, he moved to France where he refined his skills through working at Michelin-starred restaurants, including Guy Savoy and Taillevent. He soon returned to the U.S. and opened his first restaurant, Rakel, in 1986.

In 1994, Chef Keller took ownership of The French Laundry in Yountville. Built as a saloon in the 1900s and converted to a French steam laundry in the 1920s, the restaurant has commanded world-wide recognition, having been named "Best Restaurant in the World" in 2003 and 2004. It has been awarded three Michelin stars every year since 2006. In 1996 he was named Best Chef in California and in 1997, Best Chef in America by the James Beard Foundation. He now has 8 restaurants and two bakeries in the U.S., among those Bouchon, Ad Hoc, and renowned New York City restaurant, Per Se. Chef Keller's work ethic knows no bounds and the professionalism of his staff is legendary—two of the reasons why his ventures are successful.

Chef Keller is also the author of various award winning books, including, "The French Laundry," "Bouchon," "Under Pressure," and the best fried chicken recipe in "Ad Hoc At Home," which was on the New York Times Best Sellers list for 6 weeks.

Chef Keller is also very giving of his time to organizations and causes which benefit the Napa Valley. He helps with March of Dimes, City Meals on Wheels, Share our Strength and Auction Napa Valley. He is on the Board of Trustees for the Culinary Institute of America, and is the President of Bocuse d'Or USA.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge my friend Chef Thomas

Keller for his extraordinary work and for being only one of three Americans who have been bestowed the honor of Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor.

#### HONORING COKER TIRE

#### HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2011*

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding husband, wife, and son team who run a vibrant small business right in my hometown of Chattanooga, TN. From a humble beginning in 1958 Harold, Lil, and their son Corky Coker have developed Coker Tire into a model small business and another great success story in the revival of the city of Chattanooga.

Coker Tire was founded in 1958 in Chattanooga by Harold and Lil Coker. From the beginning, Coker Tire was no ordinary tire store. Harold's interest in classic cars led him to create a shop that could supply tires for vintage and antique cars as well as normal tires for everyday vehicles. No one, least of all Harold and Lil, had any idea how the market for vintage car tires would play out over time.

In 1974, Harold and Lil's son Corky was given control of the antique division of the business. At the time, the antique division occupied just 500 square feet of space and was only a small part of the business. Corky worked hard to aggressively expand his business, traveling the world to find molds for antique tires, and using old blueprints to create tire molds that he couldn't find. He then built these tires to modern standards and partnered with some of the world's largest tire manufacturers to license and distribute his products.

As Coker Tire developed over the years, they have gone from a small showroom with one employee, to a 200,000 square foot warehouse, numerous buildings in Chattanooga, and over 80 employees. Corky's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. In 1995 he was named Small Business Person of the Year for the State of Tennessee, and in 1998 the Specialty Equipment Market Association inducted him into their Hall of Fame. I hope you will all join me in honoring a remarkable American small-business success story and congratulating the Coker family on the 53rd Anniversary of their fine business.

#### EQUAL PAY DAY

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as we argue the merits of various budget proposals, we must not forget that the wallets and savings accounts of our mothers, sisters, and daughters are not as heavy as they should be. Today, on Equal Pay Day, we recognize the discrimination women continue to experience each time they receive a paycheck.

Women earn roughly 77 cents to every dollar a man earns. This translates to almost an \$11,000 reduction in annual female median

earnings. Over her lifetime, a woman will see a reduction in her savings for retirement, including Social Security and pension plans, and in her ability to save for lifetime goals such as buying a home and paying for a college education.

In the 111th Congress, I was the first female Chair of the Joint Economic Committee, and as such I made a commitment to look at women's current role in the economy through numerous reports and hearings. As a capstone, in December 2010, the Committee issued a comprehensive report compiling research done by the Committee, testimony from several hearings, and GAO reports assessing the detrimental gender wage gap for part-time workers and older Americans as well as wider discussions of women's continued underrepresentation in management level positions and the positive impact of health care reform and financial reform on women and their families. As I said in that report, "The decisions we make today will have dramatic impacts on our nation's future economic well-being, and we must carefully consider what those decisions will mean for women, both as consumers and as producers."

Regardless of demographics, industries, occupations or education, gender wage discrimination touches nearly every family. When you discriminate against a woman, you discriminate against her husband, her children, her entire family. In these economically difficult times, more than ever women find themselves to be the sole or primary household breadwinner, which means the wage gap undermines the economic security of our nation's families.

The persistence and stagnation of the gender wage gap is inexcusable. That is why I am proud to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill that provides women with the tools to fight wage discrimination and improve the economic security of working families. I urge my colleagues to stand up for the basic rights and fairness of 51% of the U.S. population.

CONGRATULATING JOE REAGAN  
AND JOE SWEENEY FOR THEIR  
PUBLIC SERVICE

### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2011*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the promise of our great nation depends on each generation working to leave this country a better place than they found it. Men and women of great service dedicate their lives to the ideals of such a promise. I rise today to honor two public servants, Joe Reagan and Joe Sweeney, as they end their public careers in service to the citizens of Brentwood, Tennessee.

All across America, small towns and large cities depend on the leadership, vision, and service of their local elected officials. First elected as City Commissioner in 1992, Joe Reagan's dedication to the City of Brentwood extends far beyond his official title. Reagan's emphasis on community development and sustained growth assisted the city in attaining the highest city bond rating possible, ushered her into the new world of internet and social media, and facilitated the opening of centers of great commerce for Brentwood.

One person making a commitment to public service could truly make a difference. The dedicated work and service of Joe Sweeney embodies such a long-lasting truth. Beginning his service in 1972 to one of Tennessee's finest communities, Sweeney was elected to serve the three year old City of Brentwood. Under his 39 year watch, Brentwood grew from 958 households to over 40,000 residents; from a city staff of 15, to an expanded library of 55,000 square feet; and from 64.13 city road miles, to almost 1,000 acres of city parks. Serving several terms in city leadership positions, I am confident Joe Sweeney's fidelity to the City of Brentwood, as well as the higher calling to public service, is what helped to bring Brentwood into a position of prominence in the great state of Tennessee.

Dr. Joseph Warren, one of devoted Found Fathers, encouraged the patriots of the young colonies to "act worthy of yourselves." Mr. Speaker, in an age where devotion to public service is not the norm, it is my privilege to

acknowledge two public servants who live Dr. Warren's call. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joe Reagan and Joe Sweeney for their lasting example in devotion to the work of public service.

EXPLANATION REGARDING VOTE  
AGAINST THE SHORT-TERM CONTINUING RESOLUTION ON APRIL 9, 2011

### HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2011*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, at 12:40 a.m. on Saturday, April 9, I voted against the most recent short-term continuing resolution to keep government running for another seven days.

I was one of 42 Democrats who voted against this short-term extension, which passed 348 to 70. I voted "no" in protest of the irresponsible way the Republican leadership has handled these funding negotiations and to register my strong concern about what the next appropriation and budget bills will mean to the American middle class and poor.

I am on record in support of keeping government running. I voted four time during April 7th and 8th to allow a vote on a clean, straightforward short-term extension of funding at current levels to allow time for negotiation on a final deal for the balance of funding for FY2011. The Republicans would not allow this commonsense approach; instead we finally were given a chance to vote on a resolution that provided a short-term extension with another \$2 billion in cuts. This time the cuts came from needed investments in transportation infrastructure and HUD Public Housing. This included cuts for airport facilities, transit programs, and rail projects. These are exactly the wrong kind of cut to make at this time, when we should be investing in infrastructure to help create jobs.

On Wednesday, April 13, we will be voting on a bill containing \$39 billion in cuts to fund the balance of 2011. My priorities are to help the middle class and create jobs. I will be looking at the details on those cuts before making a final decision on how to vote on that bill.