

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE HARRISBURG HIGH SCHOOL LADY BULLDOGS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Harrisburg High School Lady Bulldogs Basketball team for winning the Class 2 Missouri State Championship on March 17, 2012.

The young women and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the state basketball championship to their school and community. In the final championship game against the New Haven Shamrocks, the Lady Bulldogs prevailed 43 to 32, making it their second state championship in three seasons.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Harrisburg Lady Bulldogs for a job well done!

RESTORING ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR AMERICAN WOMEN

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the report released earlier this month by The White House Council on Women and Girls which provided a sampling of the policies, programs, and legislative initiatives that have resulted from the Administration's efforts to create an economy built to last for American women. I cannot stress enough how critical women are to our nation's economic success and how there still exists an ever-present need for us to continue our efforts to end discriminatory practices in the workforce.

It is vital for us to work together to ensure women's economic security through all stages of life—from young women furthering their education and beginning their careers, to working women who create jobs and provide for their families, to seniors in retirement or getting ready for retirement. Many positive steps have been taken and much change has been effectuated, but there is much more that can be and should be done.

Today, more than ever, women's efforts in the workforce are essential to sustaining a strong economy, not to mention that more women now are the primary income earners in most American families. Yet women in our economy and our work force are still earning just 77 cents on every dollar paid to men. Couple the gender gap with statistics on race and it is even worse. African American women

earn a mere 64 cents on the dollar, while Hispanic women receive an appalling 56 cents on the dollar compared to men. How can this still be when women now make up nearly fifty percent of our workforce? Families are effectively losing part of their income every month due to this gender inequality.

We must put an end to discriminatory practices in the workforce once and for all. Expanding economic opportunities for women is critical to building an economy that restores security for middle class families. We must promote such an economy by encouraging the advancement of women in education and the workforce and by rewarding their efforts equally and accordingly. We must ensure that women who want to continue their education and attend college and graduate school can do so. We must ensure that when a woman seeks higher employment she is able to attain it without being discriminated based on her gender and more importantly where she will receive equal pay as her male counterpart. We must ensure that fulfillment of such goals for women are not an improbability, but a guarantee.

We no longer live in the 1950s where a sole income earner, historically a man, could support an entire family. We are living in an era where the want for a dual income is not a luxury, but a necessity to sustain a middle class family. I applaud President Obama's hard work to ensure that women are treated equally in the workforce and paid fairly for their work. From signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, to creating the National Equal Pay Task Force, President Obama has fought for equality for women in the workforce, and there is no reason why this Congress should not work equally as hard to support and advance his efforts. There should be no second class citizens in our workplaces in the twenty-first century.

In a time where women's labor force participation has increased dramatically and where families are becoming increasingly reliant on women's incomes due to the rising cost of living, how does it make sense that pay disparities between men and women still persist? Why must women face greater risk for income insecurity than men? The reality is that over the course of her lifetime, these pay discrepancies can cost a woman and her family tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost wages, reduced pensions, and reduced Social Security benefits. Why is it that the Republican majority is not concerned about these disparities?

The statistics on this issue are very clear; we cannot have a vibrant society if women are not doing well. The success of American women is critical for the success of American families and the American economy. Consequently, when women still face barriers to participation in the workplace and marketplace, it affects all Americans.

Unfortunately, rather than concentrating on eliminating such discrepancies and ensuring equality, the Republican majority has instead

been fixated on limiting women's rights and freedoms. For over a year now the Republican majority has taken aim at denying women access to health care and restricting women's choices in the area of reproductive health altogether. This is an incredibly ill-guided waste of time, and makes no economic sense. When women are denied access to health care or have to pay more for their health care than men, it hurts entire families and in turn the economy as a whole. In 31 states, all of the best-selling plans engage in gender rating. And in states that permit this practice, 92 percent of the best-selling plans charge 40-year-old women more than 40-year-old men for identical coverage. In the aggregate, women spend an estimated \$1 billion more than men for equivalent health coverage. We should be working together to eliminate these disparities, instead of fending off attacks by the Republican majority who have continuously brought forth anti-women's health legislation in the 112th Congress and attacked the Affordable Care Act which beginning in 2014 will prohibit insurance companies from charging women more for health insurance simply because of their gender.

The Republican majority has taken minor breaks from attacking women's rights in this Congress only to work on stripping senior benefits and ending Medicare as we know it. All seniors should be able to retire with dignity, and live out their final years with security and access to healthcare. This should not be a privilege enjoyed by the 1 percent. We must work to ensure that senior citizens receive the care they need when they are most vulnerable; but instead the Republicans want to hand them a voucher and have them fend for themselves with insurance companies. The coverage Medicare provides is particularly critical for women, because of their greater life expectancies and partially because of costs related to preventive services such as mammograms and bone density tests.

As a result of lower earnings during her time in the workforce, an elderly woman rarely has a significant income from her pension, as compared to the average elderly man. So it should not be surprising that elderly women rely on Social Security to a greater extent than men, and over half of America's more than 48 million Medicare beneficiaries are women. And this is where unequal pay throughout a woman's working lifetime comes full circle.

Mr. Speaker, let us in Congress work together to pass legislation that outlaws gender discrimination, allows for prosecution of pay discrimination against women, invests in child care, and supports the advancement of women as they provide for their families and save for the future. It is through our hard work to ensure equal treatment of all women in the workforce, marketplace, and society as a whole that we can resoundingly voice our commitment to support American women and families.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
HOBART CLAY MARCHANT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with both pride and sadness that I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of my father, Hobart Clay Marchant, who passed away on March 22nd at the age of 91. He leaves behind a great legacy seen in my mother, a woman he married 62 years ago, and in his family of five children, fifteen grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

My father's life was dedicated to the service of those around him. This was seen at a young age when, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he answered the call of duty and enlisted as a field radio operator for the U.S. Army. For three years, my father served in World War II on the hilltops of the Pacific Islands intercepting vital messages to protect his country and further the cause of freedom. His time overseas also included ground combat at Iwo Jima. It was just one year ago that my dad was reflecting on his time of service and told me how privileged and proud he was to live in the land of the free.

After returning home, my father married my mother, Frances Helen Jones, on August 18, 1950, in Grand Prairie, Texas. As the family grew, my parents moved us to the Carrollton-Farmers Branch area. There my father founded a barbershop he ran for 46 years. It was in that storefront where he taught me and my siblings the values of hard work and family as we polished shoes and greeted customers. My father went on to found a roofing and building development business he ran in partnership with my brothers and me until his retirement. That business, H.C. Marchant Custom Homes, still remains in our family today.

A devout Christian, my father was a charter member of the Carrollton Church of the Nazarene and an active member throughout his life. There he began decades of service caring for the community and his family. Psalm 112 says the righteous man is one who deals generously, who is marked with grace and mercy, and whose heart is firm in the Lord. This describes the life my father lived, and I rest fondly on the promise found in this same Psalm that the righteous man will be remembered forever.

Hobart Marchant was my lifelong hero and an inspiration for all his children. His service to his country is representative of his entire generation and the work ethic and patriotism they passed on to their children. My father always believed in America and her future, and was influential in my decision to enter public service. After every flight home from votes in Washington, he was always my first visit. I would not be the man I am today, nor had the success and grace of God throughout my life, had he not been a guiding force in my childhood, youth, and adulthood.

Mr. Speaker, my father was a great man in the community in which he lived and worked. His work ethic, values, and integrity have set an example for his entire family and those who knew him. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating his life and honoring the many people whose lives are better for having known him.

A TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN INGRAM SEITZ, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2012

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our Nation's most distinguished women.

Today, I pay tribute to Carolyn Ingram Seitz of Altadena, California. A zoning and planning consultant who has worked on many projects in Altadena for the last two decades, Carolyn moved to Altadena in 2000.

Not long after she moved into Altadena, Ms. Seitz became involved in the community, advocating for community safety, and working with the Altadena Sheriff's Department and community members on neighborhood nuisance and other issues. She worked with her neighbors to form a neighborhood watch, and helped other neighborhoods prepare and be organized for cataclysmic events or natural disasters. Carolyn has also assisted with organizing Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, trainings, which offers drills, trainings and refreshers throughout the year. She is the Altadena Sheriff's Station CERT working group and sits on the Los Angeles County Operational Area Disaster Corps Volunteers Advisory Council. When the Station Fire occurred, Ms. Seitz worked tirelessly for many hours to ensure that the community had updated information on the fire, and the probable impacts caused by the rain that would result in flooding and mudflows.

Carolyn was appointed as the Chairwoman of the Altadena Sheriff's Community Advisory Committee in 2007. In 2010 she brought together the California Highway Patrol, American Red Cross, Pasadena Police Department and community members to a successful Neighborhood Watch Conference, which she organized at Loma Alta Park in Altadena. Along with her extensive volunteer work with the Altadena Sheriff's Department, Carolyn contributes many hours to organizations such as the Quality of Life Center, Inc., Mentoring and Partnership for Youth Development, the Altadena Chamber of Commerce and the Central Altadena Little League. Recognized for her work in improving sheriff-community relations, Ms. Seitz has also been honored with the Altadena Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award in 2010.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Carolyn Ingram Seitz.

TRANSPORTATION ORIENTED JOBS
INITIATIVE

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative LIPINSKI, I am introducing legis-

lation to stimulate the financing of passenger rail development from revenues generated from transportation oriented development.

The National High Performance Passenger Rail Transportation Oriented Development Act aims to capture some of the increasing value of commercial development around station areas, which in turn would help finance rail corridor infrastructure and operational expenses. Besides providing a funding stream for intercity and passenger operations, the initiative places emphasis on intermodal connectors to create vibrant communities along the corridor. The legislation aims to begin a major public-private partnership initiative that will revitalize America's rail infrastructure to create a true third passenger transportation option to highways and aviation while at the same time creating intermodal access communities.

Under the proposal, the U.S. Department of Transportation will retain a Planning Developer who will establish guidelines for transportation oriented development programs, including special assessment districts or similar mechanisms to capture revenues from increasing commercial value. Rail corridor development funds will be established at the regional level to capture increasing real estate values. A stream of those revenues will be directed to support rail passenger operations.

The proposal permits qualified projects to apply for federal incentives to finance construction and produce jobs. These incentives will include direct access to existing Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration programs, including a high priority for federal transportation grant applications. The initiative will be staffed by existing employees and remain revenue neutral in that all program activities, including the work of the Planning Developer, will be repaid once the high performance rail service and commercial development is implemented and generating revenues.

I hope that this bill will open a discussion on the possibilities and potential promise of passenger rail development in the U.S.

75TH BIRTHDAY OF THE AIR
FORCE'S 3D WEATHER SQUAD-
RON AT FORT HOOD, TX

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the 75th Birthday of the Air Force's 3d Weather Squadron at Fort Hood, Texas and honor the squadron's first commander, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient General Leon W. Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, I have the high honor of representing the brave men and women at Fort Hood, Texas, the largest military installation in the world. Every day that I have the opportunity to serve in Congress, I do so knowing that my number one responsibility is to give our men and women in uniform the support and resources they need to be successful. Each time I visit Fort Hood, I see America's finest, the Airmen and Soldiers who put it all on the line to allow us to live in the greatest country on Earth.

Representing Fort Hood, Texas also comes with the sober reminder of the sacrifice that