

However, since the 1996 welfare reform law, States have been able to expand categorical eligibility beyond its traditional bounds. That law created TANF to replace the Aid to Families with Dependent Children, AFDC, program, which was a traditional cash assistance program. TANF is a broad-purpose block grant that finances a wide range of social and human services.

TANF gives States flexibility in meeting its goals, resulting in a wide variation of benefits and services offered among the States. SNAP allows States to convey categorical eligibility based on receipt of a TANF "benefit," not just TANF cash welfare. This provides States with the ability to convey categorical eligibility based on a wide range of benefits and services. TANF benefits other than cash assistance typically are available to a broader range of households and at higher levels of income than are TANF cash assistance benefits.

In total, 43 jurisdictions have implemented what the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, has called "broad-based" categorical eligibility. These jurisdictions generally make all households with incomes below a State-determined income threshold eligible for SNAP. States do this by providing households with a low-cost TANF-funded benefit or service such as a brochure or referral to an "800" number telephone hotline.

There are varying income eligibility thresholds within States that convey "broad-based" categorical eligibility, though no State has a gross income limit above 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. In all but three of these jurisdictions, there is no asset test required for SNAP eligibility. Categorically eligible families bypass the regular SNAP asset limits.

However, their net incomes (income after deductions for expenses) must still be low enough to qualify for a SNAP benefit. That is, it is possible to be categorically eligible for SNAP but have net income too high to actually receive a benefit. The exception to this is one- or two-person households that would still receive the minimum benefit.

During the decade of the 2000s, there were a number of proposals to restrict categorical eligibility based on receipt of TANF benefits. These proposals would have limited TANF-based categorical assistance to households receiving TANF-funded cash assistance. The proposal was made by the Bush Administration in its farm bill proposals and several budget submissions. It passed the House in a budget reconciliation bill in 2005 but was not part of that year's final reconciliation package, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171).

Mr. Speaker, let's not punish those in need any longer! Help the poor—don't show the dark side of America.

RECOGNIZING EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Equal Pay Day and to stress my commitment to closing the wage gap between men and women once and for all. Women are critical to our Nation's eco-

nomics success and it is essential for us to redouble our efforts to end discriminatory practices in the workplace. Although many positive steps have been taken and much change has been effectuated, there is much more that can be and should be done.

On this day, let us give attention to how the wage gap affects women, families and the economy. Today, more than ever, women are equal, if not 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. In states across the country, women are collectively losing tens of billions of dollars annually—money that could alleviate the financial strain countless families are facing in this tough economy.

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 the workforce and by rewarding their efforts equally. We must ensure that when a woman seeks higher employment she is able to attain it without being discriminated against based on her gender and more importantly that she receive equal pay for equal work. We must ensure that equal pay and equal opportunity go hand in hand with hard work in the twenty-first century.

In the 1950's a sole income earner, historically a man, could support an entire family. Those days are long past, not ever to return. We are living in an era where dual incomes are not a luxury, but rather the necessary condition to sustain a middle class status.

I applaud President Obama's commitment to ensuring 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 be equally committed to the cause of pay equality for women.

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 rise of living costs, it makes no sense that pay disparities between men and women still persist. Women should not have to face greater risks 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 up to hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost wages, reduced pensions, and reduced Social Security benefits. I call this "gender theft." The Republican majority apparently believe this is an acceptable state of affairs.

The statistics 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 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. This war on women is hurtful and destructive, wastes time, and makes no economic sense. It makes America weaker, not stronger. It certainly does not reflect a kinder and gentler America.

Mr. Speaker, on this day—Equal Pay Day—let us resolve to honor women for the work they do to support and sustain their families. Let us start by paying women equally for the honorable work they do. 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.

SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4089) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing and shooting:

Mr. BOREN. Madam Chair, as a Congressman serving on the House Committee on Natural Resources and the past Co-Chairman of the bipartisan Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I support America's sportsmen and the acclaimed activities of hunting and recreational fishing and shooting through the enactment of H.R. 4089.

H.R. 4089 is essential to recognizing the importance of and facilitating the expansion and enhancement of hunting and recreational fishing and shooting. It is a compilation of four different bills (H.R. 2834, H.R. 3440, H.R. 991 and H.R. 1558) that promote and advance these time-honored traditions. The Sportsmen's Heritage Act reaffirms that hunting and recreational fishing and shooting are important activities by providing a sound legislative foundation for the advancement of America's sporting heritage.

Seventy-five years ago, the conservation community, including hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and related industries, supported the use of funds from an excise tax on firearms and ammunition—along with the dedicated revenue from hunting and fishing licenses—to be used exclusively by state fish and wildlife agencies to professionally manage fish and wildlife populations and provide access for sportsmen and the larger public to enjoy the benefits of this management. This funding mechanism was eventually expanded to include the fishing and boating communities as well as the archery community. Accordingly, these groups produced the American System of Conservation Funding: a unique "user pays—public benefits" approach. This user-pays funding strategy has produced numerous public benefits including: abundant fish and wildlife populations, access to public lands and clean waters, improved fish and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, wetland protection and associated water filtration and flood retention functions, improved soil and water conservation, shooting ranges and boating access facilities that are available for the

enjoyment of the entirety of the American public—hunters and non-hunters alike. In addition, sportsmen are an economic powerhouse. They directly support jobs, generate billions of dollars in Federal, State and local tax revenues, and invigorate the economies of local communities by spending their money on travel, lodging, food, sporting equipment, and so much more while participating in their sport.

Hunting and recreational fishing and shooting are the beating heart of conservation in the United States. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program—a program supported and made possible by the dollars of our Nation's sportsmen. Given the current celebration of the success of this program, it seems timely to support our sportsmen by enacting legislation that will provide them with more opportunities to participate in their sport. We as a legislature must come together—overcoming partisanship and working collaboratively with our partners in the Senate—to promote, advance and protect our Nation's sporting heritage. I support our Nation's sportsmen and I urge you to join me in supporting H.R. 4089.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 158, I was detained while attempting to reach the House floor to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

IN HONOR OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE PHILADELPHIA DIALOGUE FORUM AND PEACE ISLANDS INSTITUTE'S 8TH ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP AWARD

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five awardees who are receiving the Philadelphia Dialogue Forum and Peace Islands Institute's 8th Annual Friendship Award. On behalf of the 8th District of Pennsylvania, I would like to congratulate Kail Ellis, Natosha Warner, Dennis O'Brien, Richard Negrin and Dan Gottlieb. Thank you all very much for your fortitude and perseverance in a mission worth striving to accomplish.

In today's society, it is especially important that we all do our best to work together. I greatly appreciate the efforts of the Philadelphia Dialogue Forum and Peace Islands Institute in working to create links of understanding, acceptance, hope and trust amongst different communities, especially the communities in Bucks County.

My Congressional District is very diverse, but it's the efforts of organizations like these that make our community unite. By bringing people together in conferences, lectures, festivals and community service projects, local residents are given the opportunity to interact with one another and work to promote common values. It is more of these efforts that our country really needs.

I am honored to be speaking on behalf of the Philadelphia Dialogue Forum and Peace Islands Institute today, as well as the five awardees who have dedicated their time to promoting peace and tranquility in our society. I look forward to hearing about what you all have accomplished in the future, and I am grateful to represent you in Congress.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW SHOWMAN ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Matthew Showman of Willard, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Matthew's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2016. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Matthew brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2016. He has served in a leadership capacity as a class officer, student council class representative, and he also tutored elementary students. Matthew volunteered in his community by participating in fundraisers for the Ronald McDonald House and Willard Mercy Hospital. While attending Willard High School in Willard, Ohio, Matthew consistently achieved high honors, with an exceptional grade point average.

Throughout high school, Matthew was a member of the football and wrestling teams and earned varsity letters in each. In addition, Matthew was captain of the wrestling team and was the recipient of the team's Captain Award and Coach's Award. I am confident that Matthew will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Matthew on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Matthew will excel during his career at the Military Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

HONORING BRIDGET PHILLIPS

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Bridget Phil-

lips and mourn her upon her passing at the age of 79.

Born on December 19, 1932, Bridget Phillips grew to be a woman loved and revered by all who knew her. Mrs. Phillips was the proud matriarch of a three generation Michigan based business. She was gifted with a gracious, thoughtful and philanthropic spirit, generously dedicated to local organizations, such as St. Mary's Hospital, Madonna University, Angela Hospice and The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund.

Regrettably, on April 17, 2012, Bridget Phillips passed from this earthly world to her eternal reward. She is survived by her beloved husband of 57 years, William and her cherished children Lynn, Donna, Lisa, Terry, Scott, Bob, Amy and Sean. She will be long remembered by her much-loved siblings Bill, Derm, Mary, Fran and Terry. She leaves a precious legacy in her grandchildren Sarah, Erin, Meghan, Ben, Lauren, Max, Caleb, Haley, Laine, Jarred, Molly, Amy, Andy, Matt, Alia, Zane, Jack, Will, Luke and Owen. An amiably benevolent woman, Bridget will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, Bridget Phillips is remembered as a devoted wife, loving mother, adored grandmother, treasured sister, compassionate neighbor, and a valued friend. Bridget was a true lady who deeply treasured her family, friends, community and her country. Today, as we bid Bridget farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning her passing and honoring her dedicated commitment to her family, our community and country.

DESIGNATING THE SALT POND VISITOR CENTER AT CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE AS THE "TIP O'NEILL, JR. SALT POND VISITOR CENTER" STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill renaming the Salt Pond Visitor Center at Cape Cod National Seashore as the “Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Salt Pond Visitor Center.” I am proud to be joined by the entire Massachusetts delegation in the House of Representatives, who are original co-sponsors of this legislation, along with Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, who has been the greatest Speaker of the House since the legendary Tip O'Neill. Senator JOHN KERRY (D-MA) has introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

This year, on December 9th, Tip would have celebrated his 100th birthday. Tip lived a life dedicated to public service and lifting up the disadvantaged in society, beginning with his election to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1936. In 1949, Tip became the first Democratic Speaker in the history of the Massachusetts State Legislature, serving as Speaker until 1952, when he ran successfully for the United States House of Representatives to fill the seat vacated by Senator-elect John F. Kennedy.

Many of us here who served with Tip remember his warmth, his magnetic personality, and his unyielding support for working families and the middle class. When I was elected to