

Science, she has to be intimately familiar with the details and the appropriate way to allocate funds that are vital for our civilian program to go forward in the visionary and frontier breaking manner that it always has and I am grateful for her leadership. I wanted to add this to the accolades that she so well deserves and has already heard from so many of our colleagues.

Senator MIKULSKI began her tenure in Congress in 1977 as a member of the House of Representatives. She represented Maryland's Third District for ten years before moving to the Senate in 1986.

During her time in the Senate, Senator MIKULSKI has been a champion for many of the issues that are particularly important to my fellow Floridians and me. She is a strong supporter of veterans' and seniors' issues.

Senator MIKULSKI has also worked to protect our oceans by supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, especially during one of the worst environmental disasters we've seen. In 2010 she conducted a subcommittee hearing to explore the use of dispersants in response to the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf, helping us to better understand the long-term consequences of that environmental tragedy.

Senator MIKULSKI also serves as Chairman for the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Children and Families. In December, she chaired a hearing on child abuse, casting light on this issue and urging her colleagues to take greater steps to combat it.

I am honored to have served with Senator MIKULSKI for the past decade, and I look forward to continuing to work with her on matters of great importance to Maryland, Florida, and the rest of the country.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in honoring the service of the Senator from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI, on becoming the longest-serving woman in the history of Congress. She is an inspiration, a mentor, and a friend, and I congratulate her on achieving this historic milestone.

The story of BARBARA MIKULSKI is the story of the American Dream. The daughter of a grocer in Baltimore, she learned what it meant to do a hard day's work. She got good grades, went to college, and eventually got her Master's Degree in Social Work.

When she was in her 20's, she got involved in a fight to stop a highway proposal that would have cut through a working-class neighborhood. She stopped that highway and saved the homes of the families who lived there.

Those families saw something that day that all of us would recognize today: a woman of passion, hard work, and determination.

Throughout her years of service, she has reflected these values day in and day out as she has fought for America's

working families. She understands that our country needs to make things and grow things if we are going to have a middle class and an American Dream. She understands the dignity of work, and how important that is to families who want to create a better future for their children, just as BARBARA's family did for her.

And in her many years of leadership and service, she has been fighting every day to create a better future for every little girl and boy in Maryland. She did not come here for the power; she came here to serve. And I think that is why the people of Maryland have chosen her, time and time again, to be their champion in the U.S. Senate.

In the whole history of the United States, 1,931 people have served in the U.S. Senate. Of those, 39 were women. And of those, 17 are serving right now. And of those, only one—Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI—is our Dean and our mentor.

I want to thank my friend, Senator MIKULSKI, for all she has done for me and for all the women who will follow in her footsteps in the years to come.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, the Senate is in the midst of recognizing a very important milestone in our history. I would like to join my Senate colleagues in congratulating Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI as the longest serving female Member of Congress.

As we all know, Senator MIKULSKI has dedicated her life to public service. Before running for public office, Senator MIKULSKI worked as a social worker helping at-risk children and educating seniors on Medicare. In 1971, she successfully ran for her first public office and was elected to serve in the Baltimore City Council, where she served for 5 years.

Senator MIKULSKI first ran for Congress in 1976, seeking to represent Maryland's Third District. She won that race and went on to hold the seat for a decade. In 1986 she decided to run for the U.S. Senate, and she has been serving here ever since. The Senate was a very different place when she first arrived as one of two women Senators. She not only had to learn how the Senate functioned but had a quick lesson in bipartisanship—as the other woman, Nancy Kassebaum-Baker, was a Republican from Kansas. Today, we have 17 women in the Senate and 76 women serving in the House of Representatives.

Senator MIKULSKI has been an outspoken advocate for working people everywhere. Due in large part to her leadership and strong advocacy on behalf of women, our daughters and granddaughters will have opportunities that were not available to many women in the past. She is a wonderful role model through her dedication to public service, as she fights passionately every day for the people of Maryland that she is here to represent.

And so I want to add my voice to those praising Senator MIKULSKI as she reaches this important milestone. She

is a true pioneer, a strong example of a smart legislator, and an outspoken voice for working people. I have great respect for the journey she has taken, and I am proud to serve alongside her.

JOBS ACT

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on H.R. 3606, the JOBS Act, which we passed in the Senate last Thursday, March 22, 2012 by a vote of 73-26. I am very pleased that this legislation passed with such strong bipartisan support, particularly because it includes a measure which I authored to update the shareholder threshold before which banks must register their securities with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Title VI of the JOBS Act is based off of S. 1941, which I introduced on December 5, 2011 with Senator MARK PRYOR. Section 601 of this title increases the registration threshold for banks and bank holding companies to 2,000 persons and the deregistration threshold to 1,200 person.

As the author of Title VI of the JOBS Act, I welcome today's consideration of H.R. 3606 in the House of Representatives and the endorsement that President Obama has given this job-creating legislation in a Statement of Administration Policy. The new thresholds for registration and deregistration are effective upon the President's signature since no rulemaking is necessary. It is the intent of Congress that this new law should apply immediately to banks and bank holding companies so that they can raise additional capital to increase lending in their communities.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize the dedication of women service members and women veterans in celebration of Women's History Month.

Women have played an important role in our Nation's military from the time of our Founding Fathers. Today, women make up 15 percent of the Active-Duty military and 18 percent of Guard and Reserve forces. Our women soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen have served courageously in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have played a variety of roles ranging from convoy leaders to fighter pilots to field medics. I am inspired by their bravery and their dedication to our country.

Already women make up nearly 10 percent of the veteran population, a proportion that Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, expects to grow over the next decade. VA has already come a long way in addressing the unique health needs and challenges that women face. A generation ago, VA would have been the last place that we would associate with women's health, but just this past January, VA marked an important milestone in caring for

women veterans. In Salt Lake City, UT, a woman veteran not only received all of her prenatal care from VA but also delivered a beautiful baby girl under the care of her VA obstetrician. Yet, for all of its recent progress, VA still must do more to ensure that women veterans are receiving the care that they need and deserve. As they return from the battlefield, the VA system must be equipped to help women veterans step back into their lives as mothers, wives, and citizens.

I am incredibly proud of the women who have served or are serving our Nation in uniform, and I strongly believe we must do all we can to honor them. That is why I led the effort to pass into law the Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act. This bill, which was included as part of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, helped to transform the way that VA addresses the needs of women veterans. This act authorized the VA to provide neonatal care, train mental health professionals to provide mental health services for sexual trauma, develop a childcare pilot program, and staff each VA medical center with a full-time women veterans program manager. VA has an obligation to provide women veterans with quality care, and we have an obligation to make sure VA does so.

Our commitment to women veterans does not end with passing legislation like the Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act. We must actively monitor the implementation and effect of these bills to make sure that no woman falls through the cracks. In December of 2010, a VA Office of Inspector General report found that the Veterans Benefit Association had not fully assessed available military sexual trauma-related claims data and had no clear understanding of how consistently these claims were being adjudicated. While both men and women service members carry the devastating wounds of military sexual trauma, the GAO found in 2002 that 22 percent of screened women service members reported military sexual trauma compared to 1 percent of screened men. With this shocking statistic in mind, Senator TESTER and I pressed VBA to improve the accuracy and consistency of their military sexual trauma-related disability claims process. I am happy to say that VA agreed with our assessment and has since worked to overhaul the way it processes military sexual trauma disability claims.

Mr. President, the committee's experience with military sexual trauma disability claims is symbolic of the kind of work that remains to be done for women veterans. I recognize the challenges that women veterans face over the coming years and remain determined to work on their behalf. The promise that we make to our veterans is sacred and knows no gender. To honor our veterans, we must honor this promise for each and every one of them.

EYE DONOR AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, March 2012 marks the 29th annual National Eye Donor Month—a month devoted to honoring eye donors and corneal recipients, and increasing awareness of the need for eye donations.

Since President Ronald Reagan declared the first National Eye Donor Month in 1983, the Eye Bank Association of America, EBAA, and its 97-member eyebanks have used National Eye Donor Month to educate the general public about the donors and their families who provide life-changing corneal transplants for over 50,000 people annually.

Of the EBAA's 97-member eyebanks, four are located in Ohio, and they possess a deep-rooted commitment to restoring sight by providing corneas for sight-saving transplant procedures. In 2010, charitable eye donations made by Ohio residents allowed our State eyebanks to provide more than 1,000 corneas to help their friends and neighbors regain sight, and an additional 1,000 eyes and corneas for additional surgical procedures, as well as for research and educational purposes.

These selfless efforts have not gone unnoticed, changing the lives of thousands of Ohioans through the selfless gifts of donors and their families.

The Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank in Columbus, serving 45 counties, has made possible over 12,000 corneal transplants since 1973.

In the past 10 years, the Cincinnati Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, located in the southern part of our State, gave the gift of sight to nearly 6,300 individuals through transplantation.

In northern Ohio, the Cleveland Eye Bank has provided corneas for over 20,000 cornea transplants since its founding in 1958.

Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio, LEBWCO, in Dayton has provided high-quality ocular tissue to surgeons and patients since 1982 and serves more than 1 million people in nine counties. LEBWCO is dedicated to making the gift of sight a reality for the Dayton community and all Ohioans.

Since the EBAA's inception in 1961, corneal transplants have changed the lives of over 1,000,000 people. However, much remains to be done to offer more people the opportunity to receive life-changing corneal transplants.

I encourage all Americans to register to become eye donors. Inform your family of your wishes; designate yourself as a donor on your driver's license; and register as an eye donor through your State donor registry.

I urge my colleagues to work with their local eyebanks and the EBAA to promote the importance of eye donation and its life-enhancing effects on corneal recipients.

During March 2012, let us commemorate the lives of the donors who make corneal transplants possible, celebrate the sight restored by these transplants, and work to widen the path for additional advancements in corneal transplantation.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND J. PRICE III

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President. I rise today to honor Raymond J. Price III upon his retirement from the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, IUPAT. For more than 30 years, Ray Price has represented his fellow workers in Ohio and across the country with distinction and dignity.

In September 1978, he started as an apprentice painter at IUPAT Painters Local 867 in Cleveland. He honed his craft to become a journey worker just 3 years later. As he rose through the ranks he earned the trust and admiration of his fellow brothers and sisters progressing as a business representative, business manager, and, by 1995, as manager and secretary-treasurer of IUPAT District Council 6, which covers all of Ohio and central Kentucky.

He would become heavily involved with the Cleveland Building Trades Council and served as vice president of the Cleveland AFL-CIO Federation of Labor. What IUPAT members in Ohio understood about his loyalty and toughness, soon members from across the country would also recognize. In 1999 he joined the International Union staff as a representative of the general president and, later, as general vice-president at large. With each new challenge and responsibility, Ray showed how a progressive labor movement is critical to our country and to our middle class.

Thank you, Ray, for your counsel and friendship. As you spend time at your cottage on the Sandusky River, I wish you a happy retirement with your wife Mary Ann, your children, and extended family by your side. You have left a legacy that shows how one can make a career fighting for working men and women—and making a community and country more just and fairer for all.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE DAVIES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I honor New Haven open chief executive officer Mike Davies, who was named a 2012 inductee of the International Tennis Hall of Fame and Museum, a nonprofit organization founded in 1954. The official induction ceremony will take place this summer, and so, very appropriately, the outdoor tennis season provides an opportunity to honor a man who has significantly influenced the game of tennis. He is truly an athlete and sportsman for all seasons.

Other 2012 inductees include U.S. Gold medalist Jennifer Capriati, Brazilian top athlete Gustavo Kuerten, Russian star Yevgeny Kafelnikov, and three-time Paralympic medalist Thomas "Randy" Snow, all recognized in the Recent Player Category. Snow, who passed away in 2009, was a tireless leader for the disabled, inspiring many as a champion of wheelchair tennis. Spanish superstar Manuel Orantes and Australian champion Thelma Coyne-Long