

witnessed explosive regional growth and now serves the Town of Herndon; western Fairfax County, including the communities of Chantilly, Centreville and Fairfax; and eastern Loudoun County, including the communities of Sterling/Dulles, South Riding, and parts of Ashburn. The DRCC defines itself as a workforce chamber and is known for its leadership in the areas of diversity, education, and transportation advocacy.

As the former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and now as a Member of Congress representing much of this community, I have been proud to partner with the DRCC on promoting the region's pro-business climate and expanding Metro's Silver Line into the Dulles Corridor.

Northern Virginia is considered one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family. One factor in this designation is our outstanding school systems. The DRCC recognizes the importance of a globally competitive K–12 education system to our workforce development and believes the most important investment Virginia can make is in human capital.

The jobs of the future and the ability of our businesses to compete rest in having a well-trained workforce. As an elected representative and a parent, I believe that investing in education and college access programs, with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, is an investment in America and will spur innovation and set our young people on a path for lifelong success. This year's awardees have demonstrated how outstanding educators are crucial leaders on that journey. Therefore, I am pleased to join the chamber in congratulating the following recipients of the 2013 Educator of the Year Award:

Ms. Whitney Branisteanu, Dranesville Elementary School; Ms. Hallie Case, Herndon Middle School; Ms. Barbara Clougherty, Chantilly High School; Ms. Jen Howe, Chantilly Academy; Mr. Jeff Jones, Mountain View High School; Ms. Cheryl McGovern, Herndon Elementary School; Ms. Kelly Mosgrove, Ormond Stone Middle School; Ms. Amy Valint, Herndon High School; Ms. Kay Ward, Liberty Middle School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals and thanking them for their many contributions to our children's success and our nation's future.

HONORING ANDREW L. HAWKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a war veteran, Mr. Andrew L. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins is a native of Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. He is the youngest son born to the late Dave and Evelyn Hawkins of Webb. He received his early education in the West Tallahatchie School District and is a 1966 graduate of West District High School of Sumner. Mr. Hawkins migrated to Chicago, IL after graduation, and shortly thereafter was inducted into the United States Army.

Mr. Hawkins attended Basic Training and Advanced Infantry Training (AIT) in Fort Polk, Louisiana. He qualified with the 45 caliber, M–

14 and M–16 as a marksman and sharp shooter. His next duty station following AIT landed him in Southeast Asia (Vietnam) from 1969 to 1970, where he served one year of duty initially while stationed in La Kai for several months with the First Infantry Division. The remainder of his tour was with the 101st Airborne Division, where he was wounded in action and was awarded a Purple Heart Medal and returned home.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, he began pursuing higher education at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois on the GI Bill. He completed his bachelor's degree and much of his master's at DePaul. He later moved back to his home state of Mississippi because he felt that his military experience had equipped him with life skills and discipline to cope with life challenges back home. Mr. Hawkins attributes his will to survive and success to his parents, community, elementary and high school teachers, and his strong spiritual upbringing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing wounded Vietnam War Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Andrew L. Hawkins, for his dedication and service to his country while in the United States Army.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF STEM EDUCATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education to this country's future and posterity. Educating a STEM workforce has become increasingly central to U.S. economic competitiveness and growth and requires the collaborative efforts of government, private industry and non-profits to succeed.

STEM fields are more important than ever to the development and maintenance of a high standard of life than ever. However, over the past several decades the performance of American students in STEM subjects has lagged behind their international peers. And at the same time that students are spending less time studying science in the classroom than they did a decade ago, only one out of every five households has access to STEM extracurricular activities.

Employers are increasingly frustrated when searching for qualified applicants for high-paying STEM jobs. Job growth in STEM fields offers great potential, estimated to grow at the rate of 17 percent by 2018—nearly double the rate of non-STEM related careers. Given these figures, it is difficult to understate the importance of STEM education, both in and outside of school, for our nation's collective economic future and the future our nation's students. Federal, state, and local governments must partner with the private sector to provide American students with the resources necessary to compete in an increasingly competitive global market.

One private sector campaign aimed at addressing this issue is Time Warner Cable's Connect a Million Minds (Camm) program. Camm is designed to inspire the next generation of problem solvers by connecting young

people to the wonders of STEM outside of the classroom. Introduced in November 2009 in conjunction with President Obama's "Educate to Innovate" effort, Camm has answered the President's call-to action for cross-sector partnerships to address the STEM crisis. In downstate New York, Camm connects parents and students with dozens of local STEM resources that would otherwise remain untapped, including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the National Park Service at Hamilton Grange, and the New York Transit Museum.

I want to congratulate Time Warner Cable for this important initiative and urge my colleague to recognize how essential such programs are to all of our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 4th anniversary of The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, I would like to take a moment to recognize the importance of equal pay for equal work. Equal opportunity for women—of which equal pay is a fundamental facet—is an essential premise for our nation to be a Democracy.

In 2009, the Democratic Congress took strides to further close the gender discrimination gap in the professional work environment by passing The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which was the first bill President Obama signed law. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is of enormous importance for women's rights in the workplace. For decades, companies large and small have paid women less for the same work compared to their male counterparts. This law reaffirmed that each occurrence of pay and compensation discrimination against women violates title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The law addressed a Supreme Court ruling in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company that undermined statutory protections against discrimination by unduly restricting the time period in which victims of discrimination could challenge and recover for discriminatory compensation decisions or other practices, contrary to the intent of Congress. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act restored women's right to challenge employers once they discovered they were wrongfully discriminated against in terms of pay and benefits. Further, the law clarified that employees are entitled to up to two years of backpay for such discrimination, as provided under title VII.

Since enactment, courts around the country have applied the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act as Congress intended, for straightforward pay discrimination cases based on sex, race, disability, and age. In clarifying the period during which a worker may file a discrimination claim by each unfair paycheck, the law has provided a proper time frame extension to file lawsuits against employers for wage discrepancies. The anniversary of the signing of this bill reflects the commitment of our nation to ensure equal pay for all Americans and serves as a reminder that we must monitor and protect civil rights laws.

Unfortunately, equal opportunity is not yet a reality for women. This is why I join my Democratic colleagues in supporting the The Paycheck Fairness Act, which strengthens the equality provisions within the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and eliminates the loopholes not seen in the past. For example, it increases penalties on employers who violate federal law and allows women to pursue legal matters if they are treated unjustly. The legislation also ensures equality in the tax code so that everyone—male and female, high-income earners and those living in poverty—pays their respective tax rate. Fairness should be applicable to all, in wages and in taxes. The Paycheck Fairness Act provides effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for equal work, and Congress should pass the bill as soon as possible.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HORACE NARVEL BROOKS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Horace "Chief" Narvel Brooks. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the good and long life of Mr. Brooks, who passed away on Sunday, January 20, 2013.

Horace joined the United States Navy at the age of 17 and served in both World War II and the Korean War. Horace, having faithfully served, retired from the military as a Chief Gunner's Mate. Horace far exceeded his duty in serving both his country, family and the 24th District of Texas. Each year around Veterans Day, Horace would share stories of his military duties with high school students, imparting wisdom and firsthand experiences.

Mr. Speaker, Horace "Chief" Brooks was a great father and family man, and a true American patriot. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating his life, and honoring the many people whose lives are better for having crossed his path.

RECOGNIZING THE TURNING POINT MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, as the nation's capital hosts a weekend celebration of women's suffrage on March 2 and 3, I want to share with my colleagues a little-known, national landmark in my—the Turning Point Memorial at the former Occoquan Workhouse, in Lorton.

From 1917 to 1919, more than 200 women from 26 states were arrested for "obstructing traffic" and "holding a meeting on public grounds." Around 70 of those women, suffragists who were called "Silent Sentinels," were imprisoned for picketing with signs and banners on the White House sidewalk demanding their right to vote. Police hauled them to the then Occoquan Workhouse, later called the Lorton Prison, in Fairfax County, where they were jailed.

Their incarceration was one of the most significant but least known events of the women's suffrage movement and a true turning point in the ultimately successful struggle. The gutsy women—labeled by some as "unpatriotic"—held firm to their goals. Choosing jail over paying a \$25 fine, one protested, "Not a dollar of your fine shall we pay. To pay a fine would be an admission of guilt. We are innocent!"

Winning the right to vote took 72 years when Tennessee ratified the 19th Amendment in 1920, the largest extension of democratic rights in the nation's history. The suffragists' nonviolent actions pioneered civil rights tactics later used in other civic movements and their refusal to back down became a model for activists.

To recognize their struggle, the all-volunteer Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association is building the memorial in the shadow of the nation's capital in Fairfax County. It will feature a waterfall and 19 stations (for the 19th Amendment) along a winding garden path to relate the history of the movement and the story of empowerment and perseverance. More information can be found online at www.suffragistmemorial.org.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the members and supporters of the Association and wishing them continued success with the memorial.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 47, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 11, the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Over the last 18 years, VAWA has provided life-saving assistance to hundreds of thousands of women, men, and children. Originally passed by Congress in 1994 as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, this landmark, bipartisan legislation was enacted in response to the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence and the significant impact that such violence has on the lives of women.

Just last month a co-ed at the venerable University of Virginia, my alma mater was convicted of murdering his girlfriend. This hits close to home. As well as Yvette Cade, who had acid poured over her face by an irate ex-husband. As well as the murder of Annie Le at Harvard University. And unfortunately, I could go on and on. These women were white, black, and Asian, living in different cities under different circumstances. They had one common denominator: victims of abject and perverse violence. Lives destroyed because of men-at-large.

With each reauthorization, VAWA has been improved in meaningful ways to reflect a growing understanding of how best to meet the varied and changing needs of survivors.

VAWA is working, while rates of domestic violence have dropped by over 50 percent in the past 18 years, there remains a lot of work to be done still have a lot of work ahead of us.

In December, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the first National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), which found:

1 in 5 women have been raped in their lifetime and 1 in 4 women have been the victim of severe physical violence by a partner;

Over 80% of women who were victimized experienced significant short-term and long-term impacts related to the violence and were more likely to experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and long-term chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes.

Every nine seconds a woman in the United States is assaulted or beaten by stalkers or her partner.

Every year in the United States, 1,000 to 1,600 women die at the hands of their male partners, often after a long, escalating pattern of battering.

In 2009, 111 women were killed by their former or current husband, intimate partner or boyfriend in the State of Texas.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF INJURY
FOR WOMEN IN AMERICA

According to a study, there are more victims of domestic violence than victims of rape, mugging and automobile accidents combined. VAWA was designed to address these gruesome statistics.

VAWA established the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which receives over 22,000 calls each month. VAWA funds train over 500,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and other personnel each year.

This landmark legislation sent the message that violence against women is a crime and will not be tolerated.

States are taking violence against women more seriously and all states now have stalking laws, criminal sanctions for violation of civil protection orders, and reforms that make date or spousal rape as serious of a crime as stranger rape.

H.R. 11

The bipartisan Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. 78 out of 22 U.S. Senators supported this important bipartisan legislation.

The VAWA Reauthorization bill significantly strengthens the ability of the Federal Government, the States, law enforcement, and service providers to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. As with the previous reauthorizations of VAWA in 2000 and 2005, this bill responds to the realities and needs reported by those who work with victims every day to make VAWA work better for all victims.

The Republican leadership announced they will bring their version of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorization to the House Floor. As opposed to the bipartisan Senate bill, the House Republican version of VAWA omits protections for the LGBT, Native women, and immigrant communities. It also excludes provisions that combat sex trafficking, and that would have helped law enforcement address the backlog in DNA evidence kits. The GOP version is being brought to the House Floor in the complete absence of committee action and without the consultation of House Democrats.

As my colleague, Congressman JOHN CONYERS stated "The House Republican version of VAWA is evidence that the Majority continues to pick and choose which victims of domestic