

He attended Groveton High School south of Alexandria, Virginia graduating in 1970. In 1974 he graduated from Grinnell College, Iowa where he obtained a bachelors of arts in American History and Political Science. From 1974 to 1975 he attended one year of graduate study in Public Administration at the University of Virginia Graduate Department of Government just before pursuing a degree in law. In 1978, he became a juris doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law. Ten years later he married his wife Mary Louise Wheeler.

Fred is also an active member in our island community. He previously served as a member of the Guam Election Commission from 1996–2000 and Chairman of the Election Commission from 2002 to 2007. He also served as the Chairman of the Legislative and Government Relations Committee. Since 1980, he has been a member in Hafa Adai Kiwanis Club of Guam as well as member of Toastmasters Club of Guam from 1983 to 1987. His corporate legal service expertise was instrumental in renaming and reorganizing the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam (CCCCG) enabling the CCCC to become a prominent organization on Guam. Fred also provided volunteer legal services to the Guam Association of Realtors from 2008–2010 and he currently serves as a director of the Board of Committee Chair of the Legislative Committee. He is also a licensed real estate broker and the Director of the Guam Association of Realtors.

I congratulate Frederick J. Horecky on receiving the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Minority Small Business Champion Award for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending him for his award and thanking him for his contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ESTHER PADILLA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of Esther Padilla who passed away at the age of 69. Her character exemplified the very best of what our nation has to offer—she was honest, generous, and possessed a strong work ethic.

Esther grew up in Fresno, California and was the youngest of 12 children. She attended Washington Union High School and then went on to California State University, Fresno where she earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in social work. As a young woman, Esther knew she wanted to help others and serve in her community.

Esther truly loved social work, and she served at a few different organizations. She worked for Fresno County's Department of Social Services, Fresno County Head Start, and Centro La Familia. Esther met her husband, Gilbert Padilla, while she was at a meeting for Head Start. They were married for 43 years and have one daughter, Adele.

After years of dedicating her life to social work, Esther decided to go work with Gilbert at the United Farm Workers (UFW). Her position at the UFW allowed her to become heavily involved with politics. Esther organized boy-

cotts, negotiated union contracts, and lobbied at our Nation's Capital.

The experiences she had and the knowledge she gained prepared Esther to serve on the Fresno City Council. Esther was the first and only Hispanic woman to ever be elected to the City Council. During her time on the council, Esther was passionate about improving the lives of her constituents. Making Fresno a better place was a priority of hers, and she played an integral part in getting Highways 180 and 168 built.

Beyond her service for the community, Esther will also be remembered for her advocacy of organ and tissue donation. Seventeen years ago, Adele donated a kidney to her mother. Esther understood that importance of organ donations because she was able to live almost two more decades due to the kindness of her daughter.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life and service of Esther Padilla. She was a shining example of a true public servant and proud American.

INTRODUCING THE VETERANS PENSIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2013, which will help protect our nation's veterans from unfairly losing their pensions benefits because they received payments to cover expenses incurred after an accident, theft, loss or casualty loss.

When assessing a veteran's eligibility for a pension, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) considers a variety of sources of revenue to determine a veteran's annual income. If such income exceeds the income limit set by the VA, the veteran does not qualify for a pension or loses their benefits. Currently, the VA considers any reimbursement that compensates a veteran for his/or her expenses due to accidents, theft or loss as income. Only reimbursements of expenses related to casualty loss are currently exempted from determination of income.

Under current law, if a veteran is seriously injured in an accident or the victim of a theft and receives insurance compensation to cover his/or her medical expenses, or the cost for pain and suffering, he or she will likely lose their pension. This means that the law effectively punishes veterans when they are involved in an accident or theft.

Such a tragedy happened to one of my constituents, a Navy veteran with muscular dystrophy who was hit by a truck when crossing the street in his wheelchair. His pension was abruptly cut-off after he received an insurance settlement payment to cover medical expenses for himself and his service dog, as well as material expenses to replace his wheelchair. As a result, he could not cover his daily expenses and mortgage payments and almost lost his home.

There is clearly something wrong with a law that cancels veterans' pensions following the award of an insurance payment, which was

only intended to cover exceptional medical expenses. I am distraught that the VA can cancel the pensions of unemployed and disabled veterans without further notice. The VA has a moral responsibility to care for our veterans and ensure that they live decent lives.

This happens, because the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) considers a variety of sources of revenue to determine a veteran's annual income, when assessing a veteran's eligibility for a pension, including medical expenses reimbursements/pain and suffering reimbursements. If a veteran's income exceeds the limit set by the VA, then the veteran does not qualify for a pension or loses his/or her benefits.

For this reason, the bill is being reintroduced to include language from the original bill that addresses the issue of medical expense/pain and suffering reimbursements.

The majority of the original bill, H.R. 923, was passed into legislation in the form of PL 112–154. However, while the law addresses veterans' eligibility for pensions (and surviving spouse/children) in regard to their reimbursements (for any accident, theft or loss, or casualty loss), it does not specify medical expenses or pain and suffering reimbursements.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will ensure that pensions are issued to veterans who legitimately meet the income criteria and rely on such benefits to survive. We must enact regulations that help veterans live better lives, not hurt them. At a time when our nation's servicemen and women are fighting two wars abroad, we have a duty to our past, present, and future veterans to provide them with the very best services and benefits. We owe our veterans an enormous debt, and cannot thank them enough for their service. On behalf of the unfortunate veterans who have slipped through the cracks due his punitive law, such as my aforementioned constituent, I ask for your support of this important legislation.

FRANK CURIEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Frank Curiel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Frank Curiel is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Frank Curiel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Frank Curiel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as they celebrate a century of sisterhood and service. Over the past one-hundred years, the members of Delta Sigma Theta have guided many young women through the transition to adulthood, instilling values that have allowed them to reach their potential as publicly active members in their communities.

This enduring fellowship began on January 13, 1913, when twenty-two young women at Howard University in Washington, D.C. founded the sorority. Brought together in their shared life experiences, these young students envisioned an organization of women brought together in pursuit of promoting academic excellence, providing support to the underserved, and cultivating an interest and active involvement in public policy debates, with the goal of creating solutions to issues affecting their communities. As a testament to their dedication and leadership, Delta Sigma Theta continues its mission, serving communities and individuals all over the world.

As a central tenant of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a deep passion for fighting for equity and equality is an ideal shared by its members. In keeping with this commitment, the sorority's first public act was to organize and march in support women's suffrage in Washington, DC. Many prominent community leaders have been proud to call themselves Deltas, including Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, a pioneer for women and African Americans in elected office. Following in Chisholm's success, Delta Sigma Theta member Congresswoman Barbara Jordan became the first woman to represent Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. Both of these Deltas, in keeping to their ideals and beliefs, used their public office to give a voice to those who were unable to be heard.

As a Member of Congress from the Greater Detroit region, I have the pleasure to represent so many Delta Sigma Theta members in the Detroit Alumnae, Southfield Alumnae and Pontiac Alumnae chapters. Each of these chapters has a long and distinguished history of members doing their part to nurture future generations, shape the leaders of tomorrow and engage their communities in renewal and reaffirmation of citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the members of three dedicated chapters of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and I wish them another hundred years of success in fulfillment of their mission to create a more just world that allows our youth to realize their full potential.

SUPPORT OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, the day in April recognized annually to signify the point into a year that a woman must work to earn what a man made the previous year.

This means that on average, a woman needed to work from January 1, 2012 until April 9, 2013 to earn the same salary that a comparable man earned in 2012 alone.

More than 50 years after Congress made it illegal for employers to discriminate on the basis of sex, it is shameful that hard working American women are paid so much less than their male counterparts for the same work.

Today, women make up nearly half the workforce, but their paychecks still lag far behind men's. Today the typical American woman who works full time, year round is paid only 77 cents for every dollar paid to her male counterpart.

The wage gap occurs at all education levels, after work experience is taken into account, and it gets worse as women's careers progress.

Women are paid less than men in nearly every occupation. One study examining wage gaps within occupations found that out of 265 major occupations, men's median salary exceeded women's in all but a few lower paid service sector jobs.

The six jobs with the largest gender gap in pay and at least 10,000 men and 10,000 women were in the Wall Street-heavy financial sector: insurance agents, managers, clerks, securities sales agents, personal advisers, and other specialists.

Advanced-degree professions proved no better predictors of equality. Female doctors made 63 cents for every \$1 earned by male physicians and surgeons. Female chief executives earned 74 cents for every \$1 made by male counterparts.

Women only constitute 3.7 percent of Fortune 500 chief executives and 18.3 percent of corporate-board directors.

The wage gap impacts women as soon as they enter the labor force, expands over time, and leaves older women with a gap in retirement income.

The wage gap is smaller for younger women than older women, but it begins right when women enter the labor force. The typical 15–24 year old woman working full time, year round, earns 92.2 percent of what her male counterpart is paid.

Among older women, the gap is even larger. The typical 45–64 year old woman working full time, year round is paid just 72.8 percent of what her male counterpart is paid. For women still working at age 65 and older the figure is 72.1 percent.

A typical woman who worked full time, year round would lose \$443,360 over the course of a 40-year working life due to the wage gap. This woman would have to work almost twelve years longer to make up this gap. A typical woman working full time, year round who starts, but who does not finish high school would lose \$372,400 over a 40-year period, an enormous amount of money for women who are typically paid \$21,113 a year. This woman

would have to work over seventeen years longer to make up this gap.

As a result of lower lifetime earnings and different work patterns, the average Social Security benefit for women 65 and older was about \$12,700 per year, compared to \$16,700 for men of the same age in 2011.

In 2010, women 50 and older received only 56 cents for every dollar received by men in income from pensions and annuities. One study found that the typical woman worker near retirement with a defined contribution plan or individual retirement account had accumulated \$34,000 in savings, while her male counterpart held \$70,000—more than twice as much. Reasons for the Wage Gap

REASONS FOR THE WAGE GAP

Several important factors contribute to the wage gap. Among them are discrimination, racial disparities, occupational segregation, which involve structural factors which operate to concentrate women in low-wage jobs and limit their access to higher paying jobs in non-traditional occupations. Also playing a part is the devaluation of women's work and women's greater responsibility for care giving.

A study by labor economists Francine Blau and Lawrence Kahn found that even controlling for the combined effects of occupation, industry, work experience, union status, race and educational attainment, 41% of the wage gap remains unexplained. This indicates that discrimination plays a sizable role in the gender wage gap.

Some of this discrimination seems to be directed against mothers. A study by sociologists Shelley Correll, Stephan Benard, and Ian Paik found that, when comparing equally qualified women job candidates, women who were mothers were recommended for significantly lower starting salaries, perceived as less competent, and less likely to be recommended for hire than non-mothers.

The effects for fathers in the study were the opposite: fathers were actually recommended for significantly higher pay and were perceived as more committed to their jobs than non-fathers.

But it is not only mothers who are discriminated against in the workplace. Study after study shows that when companies are reviewing resumes, they are more likely to hire men, and more likely to offer those men a higher salary. These studies are done by submitting identical resumes, but changing the name of the applicant. This means that even with the exact same resume and qualifications, Roberta is offered a lower salary than Robert. Joanna is offered a lower salary than Joe. Women are offered a lower salary than men just because they are women.

THE WAGE GAP IS EVEN GREATER FOR WOMEN OF COLOR

Women of color experience a far greater wage gap than their white, non-Hispanic counterparts.

The typical African-American woman who works full time, year round makes only 64 cents, and the typical Hispanic woman who works full time, year round only 55 cents, for every dollar paid to their white, non-Hispanic male counterparts. For the typical white, non-Hispanic woman, this figure is 77 cents.

The wage gap for African-American and Hispanic women working full time, year round persists when the effect of race is examined alone. The typical African-American woman working full-time year round is paid