

their loans. The university's student loan default rate is only 3 percent—again, well below the national average.

Dr. Bowman's first career was working as a speech pathologist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Danville, IL.

He joined the ISU faculty in 1978 as a professor in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology. He was appointed department chairperson in 1994 and served in that position for 8 years. Even as department chair, Dr. Bowman continued to teach and to serve as director of ISU's Down Syndrome Speech-Language Clinic.

During Dr. Bowman's tenure as director, the department flourished. He doubled the faculty and the scholarly production of the staff. The department won accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association and its master's program was ranked for the first time as the top speech and audiology master's program in Illinois.

In 2002, Dr. Bowman was promoted to Illinois State's interim provost where he served until he was named president in 2004.

As president, Dr. Bowman was a driving force behind Illinois State University's first comprehensive campaign, which raised more than \$96 million. He also helped secure \$49 million for a new student fitness and recreation center and \$17.5 million for the renovation of Schroeder Hall, the university's home to the Criminal Justice Sciences, History, Politics and Government, Social Work and Sociology-Anthropology departments.

I congratulate Dr. Al Bowman on his many accomplishments throughout his long and distinguished career.

I thank him for his service and wish him all the best.

REMEMBERING FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I was greatly saddened to learn about the passing of Senator Lautenberg on Monday. I was fortunate to serve with Senator Lautenberg on the Commerce Committee. His life was about public service, plain and simple.

Frank was a great example of the American Dream. Over the past few days we have all heard Frank's story of being born into a Russian and Polish immigrant family, and working his way from humble beginnings to a prosperous career as a chief executive in the private sector. But Frank's true calling was public service and giving back to his community, his State, and our Nation throughout his life. As a young man, he served our country in the U.S. Army in WWII and went to Columbia University on the GI bill.

In Congress, Frank fought to create economic opportunity for all Americans by supporting our public infrastructure. He was a staunch advocate for passenger rail and Amtrak. Frank's

achievements on transportation issues were not only concerned with promoting commerce, but also public safety. His work to ban smoking on domestic flights and combat drunk driving has saved countless lives.

Frank also fought side-by-side with me on the Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee to make sure that critical NASA safety research was being shared with the commercial aviation industry to help protect members of the flying public.

Florida and New Jersey are very different States, but they share a coastline. After the Deepwater Horizon spill devastated the Gulf, I worked with him to stop offshore drilling until more was known about what caused that tragedy. Frank was also a trusted ally in securing essential funding to keep our beaches clean and water safe for people to enjoy.

Frank was a crucial supporter of many other important environmental causes. He fought to keep our oceans clean by pushing for a "double-hull" standard for oil tankers, banning ocean dumping, and taking other steps to promote better water quality. He also sponsored legislation to crackdown on companies that release dangerous toxins into the air and water, and make polluters pay for their toxic mess. Frank was a great champion for the environment.

As the last WW II veteran in the Senate, we lost a true hero on Monday and one of this body's last members of the Greatest Generation.

CONFIRMATION OF WILLIAM H. PRYOR, JR.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I would like to take a brief moment to commend the Senate on the confirmation of Judge William H. Pryor, Jr., to the United States Sentencing Commission. Judge Pryor is superbly qualified and has the requisite background and experience to serve and contribute greatly to the U.S. Sentencing Commission. I am grateful to the President for acknowledging Judge Pryor's qualifications and nominating him to this important position.

Judge Pryor succeeded me as Attorney General of Alabama. I was proud of him then and I was also proud when he was confirmed to serve on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Pryor is a man of character and his actions both on and off the bench reflect that. He is committed to equal justice, without prejudice. As Bill Baxley, a mutual friend, a Democrat, and another former attorney general of Alabama said, "In every difficult decision he has made, Judge Pryor's actions were supported by his interpretation of the law, without race, gender, age, political power, wealth, community standing, or any other competing interest affecting his judgment."

That was certainly the case when he carried the banner for sentencing re-

form in Alabama. Judge Pryor insisted that the legislature address critical problems in Alabama's system of sentencing. He has always been in favor of "truth in sentencing." Advocates of sentencing reform have applauded Judge Pryor's efforts in Alabama, as before we had a sentencing commission and sentencing guidelines, criminal defendants often received different sentences for the same crime based on their race, their sex, or where they lived. Judge Pryor was instrumental in changing that.

Advocates of stricter law enforcement also supported Judge Pryor in his efforts to effect reform in Alabama, because "truth in sentencing" also meant that a convicted criminal would be more likely to serve the sentence imposed by the judge rather than just a fraction of the sentence based on the discretion of a parole officer. He has stated that when a court enters a sentence of imprisonment, there should be a reliable expectation that the offender will serve a substantial majority of that term of imprisonment. Judge Pryor is reasonable and rational, acknowledging the Nation's overburdened and overcrowded correctional facilities and the need for more community-based programs for first-time or non-violent offenders.

Although the Federal guidelines themselves have been completed for many years now, the members of the commission are tasked with ensuring that the guidelines do not result in the same disparity or injustice that they were designed to prevent. The guidelines perform an invaluable function, one which I think Judge Pryor's background and experience have made him uniquely well-suited to oversee.

Judge Pryor is a life-long public servant who will certainly be an asset to the U.S. Sentencing Commission as he represents the highest quality of leadership. I appreciate the support of my colleagues in Judge Pryor's confirmation.

EQUAL PAY ACT ANNIVERSARY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I come to the floor today to recognize an important anniversary. Fifty years ago Congress passed the Equal Pay Act, a law that was to ensure pay equity for women in the workplace. This landmark legislation was signed into law by President Kennedy on June 10, 1963, and prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex in the payment of wages by employers. The goals of the legislation were groundbreaking. It was the first time Congress acted on this issue, addressing a real and growing problem as more women entered the workforce. Congress stepped up to the plate and took the first attempt at fixing outright discrimination that was bound to have an impact on working families across America.

Today we find ourselves in a similar place, in need of a solution because the Equal Pay Act is in need of fixing. It

recently made big headlines when a Pew research study was released saying that women are the primary earner in 4 of 10 households today, many of these women being the sole earners. But what was missed in this discussion is the impact that the pay gap is continuing to have on these households who are dependent on the salaries of women.

The pay gap results in \$4,000 less per year for working families and \$434,000 less over a lifetime. Think of what these families could accomplish if they got simply what they were owed. With rising costs for childcare, medical care, and filling up the family car, these families are held down by unfair and unjust pay policies.

While these are the day to day impacts, there are also real consequences to the pay gap over a lifetime. The pay gap affects your income, affects your pension, and affects your Social Security. Women's Social Security benefits are 71 percent of men's benefits. The average income from private pension based on women's earnings was only 48 percent of men's earnings. The consequences of our inaction on pay equity are following women out of the workplace, further impacting their lives down the line. For years I have fought a solution to this.

Under the Paycheck Fairness Act, no longer will employers be able to retaliate against workers for sharing information about wages. Right now, if you ask someone what they get paid you can get fired. For years, Lilly Ledbetter was humiliated and harassed because she tried to find out what she was making.

No longer will women be able to seek only back pay when they are discriminated against. Under this pay they can seek punitive damages. No longer will employers be able to use almost any reason to justify paying a woman less than a man. Excuses such as "oh, they do harder jobs," "oh, they do dangerous jobs," or "oh, they have a better education than you" will no longer be tolerated. Women do hard and dangerous jobs. Ask anyone who runs a daycare center or is a firefighter. No longer will women be on their own in fighting for equal pay for equal work or education and training.

In this country, they say work hard, play by the rules, and you will get ahead. We work hard every day, but we find the rules are different for women and men. In 1963 women made 59 cents for every dollar made by men. Almost 49 years later we have made an 18-cent gain. Women now make 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. Forty-nine years and 18 cents. That is not rewarding hard work, and it is certainly not playing by the rules.

In March, during the Budget debate, the Senate agreed with us and unanimously voted that it was time to do something about the pay gap. Well, now it is time to step up to the plate on this 50th anniversary. Let's end pay inequity and end the policies that keep

women uneducated and unequipped to fight for their fair share. It is not just for our pocketbooks. It is about the family checkbooks and getting it right in the law books. And it is also about the generations of women to come. Let's not make it another 50 years without giving the Equal Pay Act the tools it needs to finally fulfill its promise.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MEDIC SPECIALIST CODY TOWSE

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to one of Utah's great soldiers, Army Medic Cody Towse who was killed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan on May 14, 2013. He was coming to the aid of a fellow soldier when he was hit by one of four blasts that day.

Specialist Towse was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division from Fort Bliss, TX. He was deployed to the Kandahar region of Afghanistan in December 2012 and has served courageously there. While in Afghanistan, Towse was instrumental in training Afghan medics in emergency procedures; and became known as the candy doctor because he loved to give candy to the Afghan children. In fact, I think it speaks volumes about the character and love of this young man when, for his 21st birthday, he asked his parents to send him candy that he could give the children.

Specialist Towse's love for service began at an early age as he trained and worked as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for Elk Ridge City. He took great pride in his work and in helping others.

Sadly Specialist Towse's body returned home to Elk Ridge, UT last week encased in a silver, flag-draped coffin met by family and hundreds of admirers and friends wanting to pay tribute to this fallen soldier. Neighbors and friends lined the streets and quietly waved flags of respect, giving a special tribute to one of Utah's own.

Our Founding Fathers declared the United States a freedom-loving people—a declaration on which they risked everything—their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. Throughout our Nation's history, our liberty and our freedoms have been protected and cherished by our military. And so as we lay to rest this courageous hero, I pay tribute to Specialist Towse who has helped pave the road to freedom.

I love the following passage that so poignantly describes the peace and comfort I take from the examples and lives of our nation's soldiers. It states:

They died for liberty—they died for us. They are at rest. They sleep in the land they made free, under the flag they rendered stainless, under the solemn pines, the sad hemlocks, the tearful willows, the embracing vines. They sleep beneath the shadow of the clouds, careless alike of sunshine or storm, each in the windowless palace of rest . . . they are at peace.

I am humbled by this young man's life and sacrifice. May God bless his

family and all those he left behind with peace and comfort from their memories of this wonderful man and soldier.

REMEMBERING BEVERLEY TAYLOR SORENSON

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to a wonderful woman, generous philanthropist, and tireless advocate for arts and education—Beverley Taylor Sorenson. Sadly, Utah and our Nation lost a truly delightful and influential woman this past week as she quietly passed away at the age of 89 surrounded by her loved ones.

I have known and worked closely with Beverley and her late husband James "Jim" Sorenson for many years and have always admired her work ethic, her commitment to serving others, and of course her love for and appreciation of the arts and the influence it can have in the lives of many.

Her love of the arts began at an early age as she fondly remembers music always playing in her childhood home. She grew into an accomplished dancer and pianist; in fact she would later earn money accompanying dance classes in Salt Lake City to help put herself through college.

Perhaps it was her own childhood experiences of personal arts education that later led to her passion for providing generations of children with the opportunity to learn and grow through the study of art and the many disciplines it entails. She witnessed firsthand the positive effects of arts education in many young lives and schools throughout the valley and set about trying to bring it to every corner of our State.

She was the driving impetus in the creation of Art Works for Kids, a program integrating arts based concepts into traditional core education subjects with wonderful results. She believed in this program greatly and felt that children would learn and retain more knowledge when coupled with art activities.

Because of her tireless efforts, the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program, BTS Program, will serve tens of thousands of students during the upcoming school year at approximately 130 Utah elementary schools.

Beverley and Jim also created the Sorenson Legacy Foundation to support programs and projects that would benefit the lives of people throughout the world, giving generously and supporting vigorously. Together they built a lasting legacy of humanitarian service and philanthropy that has benefitted thousands and will continue to help generations to come.

Not only did Beverley dedicate herself to community efforts, she was a wonderful wife and mother, raising 2 sons, 6 daughters, and loving and mentoring 49 grandchildren and 65 great-grandchildren. She truly leaves behind a wonderful posterity who can build upon their mother and grandmother's example of a life well lived.