

commitment to excellence, innovative programs and services, and dedication to the community.

Nashville Public Library is awesome, and unlike any other in America. It is also the location of my district office, perhaps the only congressional office in America located in a public library.

The Library partnered with Metro Nashville Public Schools to create the Limitless Libraries initiative, which allows students and teachers to order and borrow books, movies, laptops, iPads, and more. The Limitless Libraries program is a national model for getting library materials into students' hands every day, and this partnership has also helped turn several school libraries into exciting, interactive hubs for students.

Nashville Public Library reaches students outside the classroom, too.

Teenagers can work with professional mentors to create art or new inventions, work with robotics, and produce music and podcasts through the Library's unique Studio NPL program. The Library also engages children through its Bringing Books to Life! program, putting on productions at the Library's Children's Theater, and its well-known Puppet Truck. Puppeteers perform 20 shows a week at the theater, but also use the Puppet Truck to reach children and adults throughout Davidson County.

Most importantly is Nashville Public Library's Civil Rights Room. This chronicles Nashville's place in the Civil Rights movement, telling the stories of the heroes who fought against segregation and for equal rights. Last year the Library and the Nashville Public Library Foundation named our friend and colleague JOHN LEWIS their Literary Award Honoree. Congressman LEWIS' book, *March*, was also this year's selection in Nashville Reads, the Library's city-wide reading campaign, where everyone is invited to read a book and discuss it at libraries in the community.

Mr. Speaker, the writer and poet Jorge Luis Borges said, "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library." I agree.

Nashville Public Library is more than books inside a beautiful building. It is even more than Paradise. It is the heart of our community.

RECOGNIZING BLACK WOMEN'S EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, Monday, July 31, 2017 marks Black Women's Equal Pay Day, which observes the amount of time it takes the average Black woman to earn the same pay that the average White man earns in one calendar year. In other words, Black women have to work all of 2016 and up to July 31, 2017 to earn what their white male counterparts made in 2016. This is shameful, and it is time for Congress to act to eradicate pay inequities once and for all.

Black women earn 60 percent of what their white male counterparts do, which is why it takes approximately eight additional months for them to reach pay parity with white men. The unfortunate reality of this wage gap is that this reality sets up Black women to fail. The

40 cents they fail to earn accumulates and limits them from fully participating in the U.S. economy. This money could be used to help pay down student loan debt, buy their first home, or purchase a car. It could help them pay for quality child care, start a business, or help care for elderly family members.

But earning 40 percent less does not just affect Black women's current economic situation, it also affects their ability to plan for their future. Being underpaid for equal work contributes to a wealth gap, retirement gap, and inheritance gap, which hinders upward mobility for future generations. According to the Pew Research Center, 54 percent of Black children live with a single parent, and Black families have 13 times less wealth than white families. A lack of wealth and savings means Black families have less to pass down to their children.

If Congress fails to act to ensure wage equality, then all women will lag behind in pay equity until 2059. This is unacceptable. Years of progress has resulted in Black women working across all fields and reaching high levels of academic achievement and it is time for these advancements to result in equal pay for equal work. I call on Republican Leadership to bring to the House floor, the Paycheck Fairness Act, H.R. 1869, and the Raise the Wage Act, H.R. 15. As a proud cosponsor of both of these two pieces of legislation, I urge immediate consideration of these bills so that pay equity can be achieved once and for all.

RECOGNIZING MS. KATHERINE B. WHITMAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Ms. Katherine B. Whitman for her dedicated service as a detailee to the House Armed Services Committee over the past six months. Katie is completing her Capitol Hill detail next month, and it is my hope that she has benefited as much from this experience as have we from her service on the subcommittee staff. Katie joined the committee during a year when the Department of Defense is struggling to recover from years of readiness account shortfalls. Katie's experience as a former surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy along with her expertise as a budget analyst within the Office of Management and Budget proved critical in our successful effort to markup and adopt one of the broadest reaching National Defense Authorization Acts in recent memory. Her analytical prowess and tenacious appetite for data enabled an historic increase in fiscal year 2018 NDAA authorization of additional resourcing for the Department's facility readiness accounts by over 2 billion dollars.

I am grateful to Katie for enduring many late nights at work. Her "can-do" attitude and tireless work ethic have been infectious. Her willingness to tackle new issues, and to embrace the goals I have set for the staff, were truly commendable. I have no doubt that as Katie continues her career she will achieve great things for the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Defense, and her country. I appreciate her dedicated staff work

and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 1

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program.

SD-406

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine America's affordable housing crisis, focusing on challenges and solutions.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lance Allen Robertson, of Oklahoma, to be Assistant Secretary for Aging, Brett Giroir, of Texas, and Robert P. Kadlec, of New York, both to be a Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, and Elinore F. McCance-Katz, of Rhode Island, to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, all of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Jerome M. Adams, of Indiana, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.

SD-430

AUGUST 2

Time to be announced

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider S. 154, to amend the Small Business Act to ensure small businesses affected by the onset of transmissible diseases are eligible for disaster relief, S. 650, to amend the Small Business Act to expand tax credit education and training

for small businesses that engage in research and development, S. 690, to extend the eligibility of redesignated areas as HUBZones from 3 years to 7 years, S. 929, to improve the HUBZone program, S. 1038, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to submit to Congress a report on the utilization of small businesses with respect to certain Federal contracts, and S. 1428, to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors.

TBA

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH-216

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Water and Power

To hold hearings to examine increasing water security and drought preparedness through infrastructure, management, and innovation.

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters consolidation project.

SD-406

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on the Authorizations for the Use of Military Force, focusing on Administration perspectives.

SVC-217