

IN SUPPORT OF COMMEMORATING EQUAL PAY DAY AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Equal Pay Day, a day in which President John F. Kennedy, on June 10, 1963, proclaimed the simple principle that women deserve equal pay for equal work.

The symbolism of this day is expressed in that, as we are more than three months into the year, women's wages are only now beginning to catch up to what men were paid the previous year.

Today, women on average make 78 cents for every dollar earned by men, amounting to an annual disparity of more than \$10,876 dollars between full-time working men and women.

It is important to understand what 78 cents to ever dollar means to a family: \$10,876 could purchase 86 more weeks of food; \$10,876 could afford more than 3,200 additional gallons of gasoline; \$10,876 could support families in incredible ways, and yet, even today, \$10,876 annually is exactly what women currently do without simply because of being women.

For African American women and Latina women, the wage gap is even higher. African American women on average earn only 64 cents, while Latina women earn 54 cents to every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men.

In my home state of Texas, however, the average wage gap for African American women is 59 cents to the dollar. For Latina women, it is an abysmal 45 cents to the dollar.

This is why I support H.R. 1869, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which addresses loopholes in the 1963 Equal Pay Act.

H.R. 1869 would protect employees who voluntarily share their own salary information at work from retaliation by an employer and remove obstacles in the Equal Pay Act to facilitate plaintiffs' participation in class action lawsuits that challenge discrimination.

H.R. 1869 would also better align key Equal Pay Act defenses with those in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, requiring employers to prove that pay disparities exist for legitimate, job-related reasons.

On this Equal Pay Day, I call upon House Republicans, all of whom have so far refused to co-sponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act, to answer this simple question: why are you opposed to women earning the same amount as men?

I ask House Republicans to stop wasting the time of this Congress with attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act and focus on legislation that would actually help the American people.

Let us call this opposition to the Paycheck Fairness Act, and opposition to all acts of Congress dating back to the 1960's that have attempted to ameliorate the glaring disparities in wages between women and men, for what it is: deliberately and blatantly sexist.

I ask all my colleagues to make the Paycheck Fairness Act a reality.

We should remember: equal pay is not simply a women's issue—it is a family issue.

It is time now to update antiquated pay equality laws and to eliminate the wage gap entirely between men and women.

It is time for equal pay for equal work.

RECOGNIZING THE BURKE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department on the occasion of its 69th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, and to thank its volunteers for filling an essential role in keeping our community safe.

The Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was founded in January 1948, and for more than six decades it has provided life-saving fire suppression, fire prevention, and emergency medical and rescue services to the residents of Burke and the surrounding communities. It also provides, houses, and maintains firefighting and emergency medical equipment, provides opportunities for professional growth and development for the membership, and maintains and fosters a strong viable organization.

As one of the county's most active volunteer fire and rescue departments, the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department works in cooperation with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to serve the community. I am honored to recognize the dedicated men and women of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department who have volunteered for extra duty as Officers or as members of the Board of Directors and include in the RECORD.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Tonya McCreary  
Vice-President Joe Shields  
Secretary Matt Bryant  
Treasurer Ian Dickinson  
Larry Bockneck  
Becky Dobbs  
Rich Guerrasi

OFFICERS

Chief Tom Warnock  
Deputy Chief Tina Godfrey  
Deputy Chief John Hudak  
Administrative Member Manager Cathy Owens

Captain II Melissa Ashby  
Captain II Larry Bockneck  
Captain II Keith O'Connor  
Lieutenant Emily Ficher  
Lieutenant Kevin Grotelle  
Sergeant Shaun Kurry  
Sergeant Jennifer Babic  
Sergeant Peter Hamilton

Team Leader Paul Stracke

Team Leader and Chaplain Harry Chelpon

In addition to the men and women who have generously assumed the responsibilities of serving as an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors, the Burke Volunteer Fire Department is also presenting awards to the following individuals in recognition of their exemplary service during the last year:

Founder's Award: Patrick Owens

Rookie of the Year: Earl Roberts

Firefighter of the Year: Ian Dickinson

EMS Provider of the Year: Barry Brown

Officer of the Year: CPT II Keith O'Connor  
Administrative Member of the Year: Chuck

Fry

Career Member of the Year: MT George Hahn

Chief's Award: SGT Shaun Kurry

President's Award: Becky Dobbs

Special Recognition: Harry Chelpon/Kevin Grotelle

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the department for 69 years of service and in thanking all of the brave volunteers who do not hesitate to drop everything when the community calls in need of help. To all of these men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect our residents I say: "Stay safe."

RECOGNIZING HUGH MAHR

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hugh Mahr, a West Point cadet from my district who displayed profound courage in saving the lives of two motorists last fall.

Last November, Hugh and his parents encountered a traffic accident on the interstate while on their way to their home in Mt. Auburn. Hugh spared no time in approaching the vehicles, checking both the driver of the car and the driver of the tractor trailer.

He quickly took control of the scene and determined that the driver of the car had a serious head injury. Hugh administered first aid, applied pressure to her wound, and successfully kept her conscious until first responders could arrive. Hugh also kept the tractor trailer driver from being removed from his vehicle until emergency personnel had evaluated the extent of his injuries, possibly saving his life.

Without a doubt, Hugh showed true bravery in helping the individuals involved in the accident. He was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for his actions which, "are in keeping with the finest traditions of military services and reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Corps of Cadets, the United States Military Academy, and the United States Army."

I am immensely proud of Hugh for the selflessness he displayed in offering his assistance to civilians in need. I am glad he will soon join the finest men and women in our Armed Forces upon his completion at West Point.

I thank Hugh for his courage. It is an honor to serve him in the United States Congress.

JESUS NAVARRETE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jesus Navarrete for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jesus Navarrete is a 12th grader at North Valley School for Young Adults and received

this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jesus Navarrete 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 Jesus Navarrete for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

**HONORING PERCY NORWOOD, JR.**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Percy Norwood, Jr., who is a retired Captain, Commanding Officer, and Executive Officer of the United States Coast Guard.

Mr. Norwood and his wife, Marie, have 36½ years of marriage and live in Carrollton, Mississippi. They are the proud parents of four adult children: Angelia, Kelvin, Lindsey Marie and Matthew, grandparents of five children: Devon, Shynell, Nathaniel II, Alexis and Camerin; and great-grandparents of one child, Alexander.

Percy Norwood, Jr. retired from the United States Coast Guard in 2000 with the rank of Captain after almost 30 years of outstanding and dedicated service to our nation. At the time of his retirement, he held three key positions: Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Headquarters Support Command, Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Headquarters Staff, and Executive Officer of Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC. Mr. Norwood also served as the first Director of the Coast Guard Recruiting Center from July 1995 to May 1998, where he was responsible for recruiting the best men and women to meet the Coast Guard's military personnel needs. During this assignment, Mr. Norwood led recruiters in creating the most diverse Coast Guard in our nation's history.

In 1993, Mr. Norwood served as team leader for the Vice President of the United States' National Performance Review Task Force where his team explored ways to improve Coast Guard fisheries law enforcement outcomes. As a result of his team's efforts, the Coast Guard maximized the use of technology to drastically reduce illegal fishing in U.S. territorial waters. While pursuing his Coast Guard career, Norwood performed numerous other jobs that included search and rescue; oil and hazardous material cleanup; conducting investigations, evaluations and training; planning, logistics, budgeting and personnel support; and teaching Chemistry courses at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Mr. Norwood's education and training includes: graduating from Marshall High School in North Carrollton, MS in 1964 as class Valedictorian; a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Alcorn State University in 1968; a Master of Science Degree in Analytical Chemistry

from Tuskegee University in 1970, and a Master of Science Degree in Human Resource Management from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA in 1980. His thesis entitled, "A Comparison of the Fit Between the Organization Climate of the Coast Guard, the Job/Career Expectations of Black College Graduates and their Perceptions about the Coast Guard" provided the basis for several initiatives that would ultimately change the racial and gender makeup of the Coast Guard. Mr. Norwood is a 1977 graduate of the Defense Race Relations Institute. He is a 1992 through 1993 Department of Transportation and Council for Excellence in Government Fellow and a past member of the Senior Fellows Group whose focus is improving government.

Mr. Norwood received numerous personal military awards that included the Legion of Merit, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal. His non-military awards include the National Image Incorporated Award (1993), the National Naval Officers Association's (NNOA) Dorie Miller Award (1993), the National Association For Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) Distinguished Alumni Award (1995), and the NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award (1995). Mr. Norwood was inducted into the Alcorn State University Hall of Honor in 2006 for his outstanding leadership and service and elected by his fellow alumni as Alcornite of the Year in 2008 as Alcorn State University's most distinguished Alumnus. Three of his four siblings (Laura, Willie and James) are also graduates of Alcorn State University.

Mr. Norwood is a past president of the Metropolitan Washington, DC Area and the St. Louis, MO Alcorn Alumni Chapters, and the Immediate Past National President of the Alcorn State University National Alumni Association. He is a past Vice President for Membership, Eastern Region Vice President, and National President of the National Naval Officers Association. He is a member of Rho Gamma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. where he chairs their Project Alpha Mentoring Program and serves as Chairman of the Greenwood Alphas Foundation. He also serves as President of the Board of Directors for Leflore-Carroll-Montgomery Counties Memorial Garden Cemetery, Recording Steward of Helm Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and President of the Montgomery-Carroll-Grenada County Alcorn Alumni Chapter. He was recently appointed by the Carroll County Board of Supervisors as the Veterans Service Officer for Carroll County where he is helping veterans get the services and support they have earned and need. He also mentors two young men who are students at J.Z. George High School and tutors two Middle School students and one elementary school student.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Percy Norwood, Jr., a Captain, Leader and Educator for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

HONORING THE 175 INVENTORS INDUCED AS THE 2016 FELLOWS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 175 inventors who will soon be recognized at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum and inducted as the 2016 Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) in an induction ceremony that will feature a keynote address by U.S. Commissioner for Patents Andrew Hirshfeld. In order to be named as a Fellow, these men and women were nominated by their peers and have undergone the scrutiny of the NAI Selection Committee, having had their innovations deemed as making significant impact on quality of life, economic development, and welfare of society. Collectively, this elite group holds nearly 5,500 patents.

The individuals making up this year's class of Fellows include individuals from 135 research universities and non-profit research institutes spanning the United States and the world. The now 757-member group of Fellows is composed of more than 90 presidents and senior leaders of research universities and non-profit research institutes, 376 members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; 28 inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, 45 recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Technology and Innovation and U.S. National Medal of Science, 28 Nobel Laureates, 216 AAAS Fellows, 126 IEEE Fellows, and 116 Fellows of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, among other awards and distinctions.

The NAI was founded in 2010 to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued from the United States Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society.

We are greatly indebted to innovators such as these for contributions to society through their inventions. I commend these individuals, and the organizations and taxpayers that support them, for the work they do to revolutionize the world we live in. As the following inventors are inducted, may it encourage future generations to strive to meet this high honor and continue the spirit of discovery and innovation.

The 2016 NAI Fellows include:

David Akopian, The University of Texas at San Antonio; Kamal S. Ali, Jackson State University; A. Paul Alivisatos, University of California, Berkeley; Carl R. Alving, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research; Hamid Arastoopour, Illinois Institute of Technology; Peter Arsenault, Tufts University; B. Jayant Baliga, North Carolina State University; Zhenan Bao, Stanford University; Richard G. Baraniuk, Rice University; Francis Barany, Cornell University; Jean-Marie Basset, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology; Paula J. Bates, University of Louisville; Craig C. Beeson, Medical University of South Carolina; K. Darrell Berlin, Oklahoma State University; Sarit B. Bhaduri, The University of Toledo; Pallab K. Bhattacharya, University of