

I promised to rein in bureaucratic rulemaking and restore Article I authority to Congress.

I promised to end the ObamaCare loophole that is designed to benefit Members of Congress.

I promised to pass Grant's Law to protect innocent U.S. citizens from violent illegal immigrants.

I promised to ensure that Common Core never becomes a Federal mandate, and that States and local officials have authority over the teaching of our Nation's youth.

I promised to remove Arizona from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and place it into a newly established 12th circuit that can provide more equal access to justice.

I am pleased to inform and report to my constituents that I have cosponsored legislation to address all six of my promises. I am working every day to pass these bills through the United States Congress. My constituents expect me to keep every promise I made. I intend to do that just as long as I am in this body.

□ 1615

HONORING THE LIFE OF KAREN DELANEY SHIDELEFF IN HER FIGHT WITH ALS

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my constituent, Karen Delaney Shideleff of Ottsville, who passed away this January after a courageous fight with ALS.

During her 6 years with ALS, Karen did everything to make a difference and serve as an advocate for individuals and families living with ALS. She participated in the Ride to Defeat ALS; the Phillies Phestival benefiting research efforts; served as a board member for the Greater Philadelphia ALS Association Chapter; and she lobbied her representatives both in Washington and in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, all the while undergoing numerous drug and other research trials.

The strength, compassion, and zest for life exhibited by Karen is an inspiration for those dealing with the diagnosis of ALS and those individuals and community members committed to defeating this uncompromising disease. It is with Karen's legacy in our minds that the fight against ALS continues, and must continue.

Our thoughts and our prayers as a nation and in this Chamber go out to Karen's husband, Bob, and her family and friends.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to re-cite this prayer:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

JEANNETTE RANKIN AND 100 YEARS OF WOMEN IN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks, and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the first woman elected to Congress, Jeannette Rankin. 100 years ago this week, on April 2, 1917, Jeannette Rankin inspired millions of Americans when she became the first woman in the Nation's history to serve in the United States House of Representatives.

It is hard for me to believe, but Jeannette Rankin served in Congress before women had the national right to vote in this country. In fact, it was a driving force behind her decision to run for elected office. Upon her historic election in November 1916, she declared: "I may be the first woman Member of Congress, but I won't be the last."

The women who have joined me here, and are going to join me here on the floor this afternoon, are her living legacy, along with the more than 300 women who have served in Congress before us.

Representative Rankin, a Republican from Montana, served two terms in Congress; the first term from 1917 to 1918, and the second term from 1941 to 1942.

Because of Rankin's groundbreaking achievement 100 years ago, hundreds of women from across the country have made history in Congress, drawing attention to the pressing issues of their time and creating policies that have impacted generations of Americans. We are as diverse as the districts we represent, and I am pleased to be joined on the floor by my fellow women in Congress to celebrate this important milestone.

In recognition of her work and the rich history of women in Congress, Members of Congress from across the country, across party lines, will be ris-

ing to honor Representative Rankin and to share what 100 years of women in Congress means to them.

Mr. Speaker, with that said, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL), my friend and co-chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be with you today.

First of all, I want to celebrate Jeannette Rankin also as being the first woman in Congress.

Today I am going to talk about someone who was my role model, one of my favorites, Bella Abzug.

Bella Abzug was a leading liberal activist and politician. She lived from 1920 to 1998, and was especially known for her work with women's rights. After graduating from Columbia University Law School, she became involved in the antinuclear and peace movements. In the 1960s, she helped organize the Women Strike for Peace and the National Women's Political Caucus.

I just want to say that I feel like that is how I got my start in political activism, was in the antiwar marches in the 1960s at Boston University.

Mrs. Abzug won a seat in the United States House of Representatives, where she advocated for women's rights and withdrawal from the Vietnam War. And even after leaving office, she continued to work on many causes, including the establishment of the Women's Environment and Development Organization.

Incidentally, I know we have a lot of Harvard lawyers in this Congress, but she was rejected because of her gender. But kudos to Columbia because they got her.

She was known for her hats and her big voice, and she really left a mark for many of us.

Representative BROOKS, I am happy to be with you here today. I think there are a lot of women today who are feeling nervous or anxious because of political situations, but someone like Bella Abzug gives us inspiration that you can have a big voice, you can be a community activist, and you can make a difference in life.

I am going to leave you with her quote. She said of herself:

"I've been described as a tough and noisy woman, a prizefighter, a man-hater, you name it. There are some who say I'm impatient, uppity, rude, profane, brash and overbearing"—oh, my goodness, I think I am talking about the whole Women's Caucus here—"but whatever I am—and this ought to be made very clear at the outset—I am a very serious woman."

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank another very serious woman. It has been a pleasure to be with you and to honor the women who came before us and led the pathway.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman FRANKEL for her remarks and for reminding us that often while those of us in this arena might be called names, we are a strong voice. She was a very serious

legislator, as are you. I just want to thank you for your leadership in this body and thank you for being a part of honoring the 100 years of women in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS), my friend, our Republican Conference chair, the fourth highest Republican in the House, and also the highest ranking woman in Congress. I welcome her to discuss and honor Jeannette Rankin.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, a big “thank you” to SUSAN BROOKS and LOIS FRANKEL, co-chairs of the Women’s Caucus for this Congress, for bringing us all together to celebrate Jeannette Rankin.

This body, the people’s House, is the heart of representative government, and it functions best when everyone, no matter their background or their walk of life, has a voice. And 100 years ago, Jeannette Rankin gave women that voice. She shattered a glass ceiling here in Congress and paved the way for more than 300 women to lead and to serve.

As she famously said: “I may be the first woman Member of Congress, but I won’t be the last.”

And she was right. We now have 104 women serving the Halls of Congress, more than any other time in history. Today, women play key roles in all areas of policymaking. We are involved in the budget, tax reform, education, health care, and national security. Every day, women bring their unique perspectives, talents, and passions into the national debate, and remind us that all issues are women’s issues. Everything we have accomplished as women leaders: the first female speaker, the first female committee chairman, the first African-American woman; and Latinas; the first women to have children while serving in Congress. All of these advances and milestones were made possible by the bravery of women in the early 20th century.

Rankin had the courage to say: Why not me?

She had the courage to step up and be the first, and she couldn’t even vote in the election, but she won and stood in this very Chamber and spoke her mind. I find it incredibly moving. It is so powerful.

She was a trailblazer, and she really set the standard for women. She stood strong in her beliefs when everyone around her challenged her ideas, her methods, even her very presence.

This is the example everyone in the Chamber should be setting—is setting for the next generation of women leaders. Fortunately, we have a strong foundation. We are following in the footsteps of so many inspiring women: Jeannette Rankin, Edith Rogers, Clare Boothe Luce, Coya Knutson, Lindy Boggs, Jennifer Dunn, to name a few. The women in this room and the hundreds that came before us show the world that women have something unique, something special to offer the world.

I am reminded of this each time I look at my two young girls, Grace and Brynn; and I look at them and I see so much boundless potential. That is why I view this centennial, this milestone, so much bigger than Congress. It is not a date on the calendar. It is a celebration of the American spirit. Our country is the place where you can imagine what is possible, and then go out and make it happen.

Our government is where good ideas, no matter their source, can be debated, considered, and crafted into law, and where our ideas and values can have real and positive impact on millions of lives.

I want my daughters to know that not only should they take a seat at the table, but that there is a seat reserved for them. I want them to know that when they speak, the world should listen; that when they act, it is with purpose; and when they lead, they can change the world.

After 100 years, we stand on the shoulders of giants, but we stand there to lift up the next generation higher than ourselves. We stand there so that every woman has a voice and has an opportunity to be legendary, and so that women can keep making history for many years to come.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman so very much, and I am so inspired by the fact that the gentlewoman is the first woman to have given birth to three children while serving in Congress, also her service in her State legislature before and her role in leadership in this body. I just want to thank her very much for being a part of this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), my friend from the State to the north of Indiana, and would turn it over to her for any thoughts she might have celebrating 100 years of women in Congress.

□ 1630

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for being co-chair of the Women’s Caucus and for being an amazing mother.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to illustrate the importance of 100 years of women in Congress.

On April 2, 1917, Jeannette Rankin from Montana was sworn in as the first woman ever to serve in Congress. Her life was filled with extraordinary achievements, and she was one of the few suffragists elected to Congress and the only Member of Congress to vote against the U.S. participation in both World War I and World War II.

She has said that “I may be the first woman,” but we all know she said “I won’t be the last,” holding the door open for all of us to follow behind her.

While we have a long way to go for women representing Congress, in 2017, we are in the company of 104 amazing women in Congress. We are 19 percent of the 535 Members who serve. Thirty-eight of the 104 women in Congress are

women of color: 18 African Americans, 10 Latinos, nine Asian Pacific Islanders, and one multiracial Member.

In 1951, Ruth Thompson, a longtime lawyer and judge, became the first woman to represent my home State of Michigan in Congress. She was the first woman to serve on the House Judiciary Committee.

Since then, we have had nine more female Members from Michigan, including myself. I am proud to be in the 115th Congress to stand alongside Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL and Senator DEBBIE STABENOW. We work together for the Michigan delegation and the Congressional delegation to advance the concerns of women and issues in our great State.

I also want to recognize a woman that truly I stand on her shoulders, and that was the first African-American woman to serve in Congress, Shirley Chisholm.

So we have, in our history of Congress, so many women who paved the way, opened doors, and have been role models not only for us standing here today but for women all over the country.

I will work with my colleagues across the aisle to see that the concerns of women are addressed and to continue increasing our representation in local government.

In the words of Representative Rankin, we are half of the people, and we should be half of Congress.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for her work as vice chair of the bipartisan Women’s Caucus. I also want to thank her so much for partnering with me and visiting a school in Detroit where my son was a student teacher. I will forever remember our partnership visiting with those kids at Davison Elementary and want to thank her for that.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is a great example of how we work together. I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for her leadership.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. I now yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS), the other vice chair of the Women’s Caucus, my friend.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my fellow female Members of the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives 100 years ago.

A mere 4 years after Congresswoman Rankin’s landmark election, three more women were elected to Congress, including Mae Ella Nolan.

Congresswoman Nolan was not only the first woman from California to be elected to Congress, she was also the first woman to chair a congressional committee.

Mr. Speaker, now a century after Jeannette Rankin was sworn into Congress, it is not enough to simply recognize the significant contributions

women have made throughout history, we must also look to the future.

We have made significant strides in this country, but more are needed. Women represent over 50 percent of the population, yet we still face significant obstacles in the workplace, academia, and elsewhere. That is why we must work together to expand opportunities, remove barriers, and empower the next generation of women.

We must always remember that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and fought for equality—equality of opportunity, not quality of outcome.

As we strive to make our country stronger for the next generation, we must continue to fight so that each woman has an equal opportunity to compete and to excel based on her abilities and accomplishments.

I want to thank the co-chairs of the Congressional Women's Caucus, Congresswoman BROOKS, and Congresswoman FRANKEL, for sponsoring this Special Order.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for spending time with us and talking about the women who came before us who fought for equality, who fought for us, and women like Jeannette Rankin who actually fought so hard that she fought her way here before women had the right to vote in this country.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from California, too, has served in her State legislature, and I want to commend her for her service and being a role model for so many people in her State.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to another gentlewoman from the State of California (Ms. SPEIER), who, in my time here in Congress, I have observed has fought on behalf of women and girls and has fought, in particular, with respect to issues involving sexual violence and other violence against women. I want to commend her for that work.

Mr. Speaker, I would love to hear her thoughts on the 100 years of women in Congress.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for creating this opportunity for us to celebrate 100 years of women serving in Congress.

It is remarkable that we are still trying to see our numbers inch upwards and continue to be at something like 19 percent when women represent over 50 percent of the voting population.

I thought it would be interesting to highlight one of these women in Congress, a great woman, and one that I have long admired. Her name is Helen Gahagan Douglas. She was the first California woman elected to Congress in her own right—in that case, not succeeding a deceased husband.

Helen Gahagan was an actress and an opera singer who did not consider herself political until a chance conversation she had over coffee while performing in Vienna, Austria, in 1938. The man was a Nazi sympathizer, and

the things she heard truly sickened her.

She returned to the United States intent on destroying Nazism. She and her husband, Oscar-winning actor Melvyn Douglas, joined the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League and called for a boycott of products made in Nazi Germany.

The release of John Steinbeck's seminal novel, "The Grapes of Wrath," consumed her. She began studying the plight of migrant farmworkers coming to California from the Dust Bowl States.

After meeting the author, Helen was named president of the John Steinbeck Committee and became the national spokesperson for the rights of migrants.

That work attracted the attention of President and First Lady Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and Eleanor became a mentor to Helen.

Helen Gahagan Douglas won the open congressional seat in California's 14th District in 1944. She was in the Hollywood area, and that was her district.

She served three terms in Congress, earning a reputation as a deep thinker, voice for the downtrodden, and skilled orator.

In 1950, she ran for the United States Senate, facing fellow southern California Congressman Richard Nixon.

In the campaign, Nixon conflated her anti-Nazi views and work for migrant workers with being a communist fellow traveler.

He also employed anti-Semitic surrogates who attacked her for marrying a Jewish man.

These and other low-campaign tactics spurred Douglas to call Nixon "Tricky Dicky," a moniker that stuck with him his entire career.

During the Watergate scandal, more than two decades after the 1950 Senate race, a popular bumper sticker in California read, "Don't blame me, I voted for Helen Gahagan Douglas."

After her death in 1980, California State Senator Alan Cranston delivered a stirring eulogy on the Senate floor. He said: "I believe Helen Gahagan Douglas was one of the grandest, most eloquent, and deepest-thinking people we have had in American politics. She stands among the best of our 20th century leaders, rivaling even Eleanor Roosevelt in stature, compassion, and simple greatness."

But it is Congresswoman Gahagan Douglas' own words that speak best for her legacy. As we celebrate 100 years of women in Congress, I can think of few quotes more fitting than Helen's: "I knew men never would share power with women willingly. If we wanted it, we would have to take it."

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for sharing the trials and tribulations of a woman who came before us. As she said, as I look throughout our Chamber, the descriptions of her as grand and eloquent and deep-thinking really remind me of so many of the women who we serve with currently today.

She certainly went through difficult elections and put herself in the arena which can be very difficult.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for sharing that story, and I thank her for being here.

I would like to welcome the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), my good friend, and actually the chair of the Budget Committee. I have long admired her career since joining the conference, and I just want to thank her for being here and look forward to anything she might share with us about her thoughts about women serving for 100 years here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for yielding to me and for hosting this very important Special Order where we recognize women and, in particular, Jeannette Rankin.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise today to honor Jeannette Rankin and to celebrate 100 years of women in Congress.

Jeannette inspired millions of Americans when she became the first woman in the Nation's history to serve in the House of Representatives.

A Republican and a former schoolteacher from Montana, Jeannette declared "I may be the first woman Member of Congress, but I won't be the last," as is seen on the poster that the gentlewoman from Indiana has right there in front of the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, while we may not agree on all the issues, Jeannette and I share a vision to preserve and protect the American Dream for future generations.

We do so with the hope that young girls, like my two granddaughters, would be able to live a life they choose for themselves, not that someone else chooses for them.

For me, this topic is deeply personal. I spent the first years of my life in public housing, the daughter of parents with no more than a ninth-grade education.

I came from a background where people didn't always know how to dream, and, as a result, I was prepared to settle for a life of unfulfilled potential. I had started to believe that, as a young woman growing up in the fifties and the sixties, who literally lived on the other side of the tracks, maybe the American Dream wasn't for me.

But in time, doors of opportunity were opened that helped me to realize a plan for my life that was greater than I could ever imagine.

I became the first person in my family to earn a college degree. I fulfilled my desire of becoming a nurse, and I became privileged to serve in the Tennessee General Assembly, and now in Congress.

I have traveled far corners of the world, and I have seen the struggle that women endure for access to education, a paycheck, and for real independence. I am keenly aware that only here in this country is my story even possible.

Only here could someone like me go from living in the halls of public housing to serving in the halls of the United States Capitol—that is why we call this the American Dream.

Jeannette Rankin reminds us that the people's House represents Americans from all walks of life. Today in Congress, we have 104 women serving, and I am honored to be the first female chairman of the Budget Committee.

As we celebrate 100 years of women in Congress, we must resolve to ensure that stories like ours are not unique. The work we have done here in Congress must reach today's young women with the truth that they have God-given talents waiting to be used, and that the American Dream is theirs to share as well.

I again thank the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL) for bringing us together to celebrate this monumental anniversary.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for spending her time with us today. I think her story coming from, as she said, public housing, and I think over time because of education and because of opportunities in this country, and she started the business, she got her nursing degree, she started a business before coming here to Congress, served in her State Legislature as well, I know she is a mom, she is a grandmother, she has been an incredible voice here in the House, and she really does show that everything is possible in this country. Yet I really appreciate her acknowledging that we are standing on the shoulders of the women who came before us.

□ 1645

I just want to thank the gentlewoman, and I know other women in Tennessee serve as well. The chair of my subcommittee, Congresswoman MARSHA BLACKBURN, is serving as chair of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and there have just been terrific folks that have come from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACK. It is really just such a wonder when we look at this country and, having traveled, as I know that you have, throughout the world, see the struggles of women in many, many other countries. I know we are not quite where we want to be, and I know we have still a ways to go, but I am so proud of what we do here in the United States to lift up our women and to recognize that they have talents that we need in every sector of our society.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Absolutely. As Congresswoman McMORRIS RODGERS mentioned, there needs to be a seat re-served at the table here in the House. And I certainly know that women on both sides of the aisle, like yourselves, are mentors to other women in other legislative bodies and in other elected offices, encouraging them to come to this body, and so I just want to thank you for that.

We come from all parts of this country to talk about women here serving in the House over the last 100 years. While I come from the Midwest, we heard from the West Coast, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS. We heard from the other Midwest Member, BRENDA LAWRENCE from Michigan, the great State of California, but I don't think anyone comes as far to serve in the House of Representatives as the next Member I am about to introduce.

Congresswoman AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN joins us from American Samoa, so she represents a territory and travels tremendous distances to be here in this body each and every week that we are in session.

I have really enjoyed getting to know you as a Member. With the beautiful reminder of the flower that you wear regularly here in this body, you remind us of the incredibly beautiful place from which you come and the proud people that you represent. I look forward to hearing your remarks.

I yield to the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN).

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the swearing in of the first woman to serve in Congress, Jeannette Rankin of Montana.

As the first woman to represent American Samoa, I could not be more honored and humbled to be here today to salute this great woman who paved the way for each and every one of us serving in Congress today.

Imagine the difficulties she had to deal with as the first woman in Congress—in 1917, no less—a woman who stood by her convictions no matter the cost. It must have been extremely harrowing for her at times, but she soldiered on as one would expect from the first female in what was at the time, and in many ways still is, a male-dominated world.

The Congresswoman was a woman of rock-solid principles which she absolutely would not budge from, as evidenced by her being the only Member of Congress to vote against involvement in both world wars, a position that was very unpopular at the time. But she stood by her beliefs and could not be swayed, an example for all of us.

While Congresswoman Rankin served only two terms in Congress, her legacy lives on in all of the women who have served since and those who will in the future. She famously once said, and we have all said it several times because it is worth saying and repeating:

“I may be the first woman Member of Congress, but I won’t be the last.”

She was absolutely correct, and I am grateful for her determination to ensure that the women of this great Nation have a voice in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in saluting this remarkable woman and the lasting legacy she has left behind as an example to all women.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I just want to commend the gentle-

woman as well for being an incredible role model, not only for the young women of American Samoa, but for the young men of American Samoa because, as I have often said, we need to also bring along the young men to support young women who choose to run for office. I assume the gentlewoman had many of them in her election getting involved and helping her come to this place and be a voice for American Samoa.

I know the gentlewoman's work on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, that she has continued to be a strong voice for the men and women of our armed services and veterans, and I want to thank her for that fine work.

At this time, I welcome a new friend and a new colleague to talk about the women in Congress, someone whom I have just recently met, Congressman RASKIN from the great State of Maryland. I welcome him to this body and to the Chamber and any thoughts that he might want to share. I know that he comes from the academic world prior to coming here, as a professor. And for anything the gentleman might want to share with us on his thoughts on women serving in Congress, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman so much for convening this superb discussion of Jeannette Rankin and a century of women in Congress. She, of course, was part of the great generation of suffragettes who transformed America by winning the right for women to vote, first in a lot of the State legislatures and by way of State constitutional amendment, and then by way of the 19th Amendment. So it is a fitting tribute that the gentlewoman brought everybody together to do this.

I was reflecting today, when I heard that this was going to happen, about the fact that we have, in Congress, I think it is 85 women now, which is about one-fifth of the Chamber, and I think there are 20 U.S. Senators, which is also one-fifth on the Senate side. Obviously, those numbers are not proportionate to women's place in the population.

I hope that we could use the anniversary of Jeannette Rankin's election to reflect on things that could be done to improve these numbers today. One of the things that I would love to be able to pursue with the gentlewoman and other interested Members is the use of multi-Member districts, which were much more common at the time that she first served than they are today.

A lot of our States have multi-Member districts for election to State house or State senate. When you use multi-Member districts, the proportion of women rises considerably because what happens is people form tickets, they form slates, and it would be very unusual today to form a slate that is not balanced according to gender and some kind of racial, ethnic diversity. When we have single-Member districts, it is

much tougher to accomplish that. So that is one of the things that we could discuss, in addition to making this Chamber and other chambers much more work-family friendly, especially for people who are in the young parenting years.

I thank the gentlewoman for what she has done and salute her on this project.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. I thank the gentleman for speaking out and for being here today.

I think that we do have a long way to go. There are many initiatives that are being undertaken around the country. The gentleman's offer or suggestion of a multi-Member district is certainly not one that I am familiar with. I know that often our party organizations require it to have gender balance, certainly in political organizations many times. But that is certainly a concept that I am not familiar with.

But I will say that, as a new Member of Congress, I think and am hopeful that, as you work in your committee work, you will meet the incredible women in the body who serve currently. We, both sides of the aisle, are constantly recruiting and asking more women to consider serving.

Often, our State legislatures or city councils and other places are wonderful places to seek out women to continue to serve in office, and it is because of terrific colleagues like the gentleman who add so much. I know he is already adding to this body in a significant way, and I want to thank him for honoring Jeannette Rankin.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk a little bit more, because it was 97 years ago that the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote. I want you to think about this once again.

Jeannette Rankin was elected to Congress before she could even vote, before women had the right to vote. And can you imagine being elected before women across the country could really cast a ballot? That is pretty incredible and pretty historic.

She had a vision that women in Congress would one day be equal to the number of men, their male colleagues. Now, unfortunately, 100 years later, we are still far short of that goal. The reality is that many women today are still making history by just running for elected office, just like Congresswoman Rankin did 100 years ago.

As you may or may not know, I am the Congresswoman from the Fifth Congressional District of Indiana. I represent Hoosier communities in eight urban, suburban, and rural counties in central Indiana.

What you may not know is that, when I was elected in 2012 along with my colleague Congresswoman JACKIE WALORSKI, we were the first Republican women to represent the State of Indiana in Congress in more than 50 years. By running and winning, Jackie and I were making history for the Indiana Republican Party, and we joined a proud tradition of Hoosier women

across both sides of the aisle who served our State in government roles at every level since our State's founding 200 years ago.

It was in 1851 that women in Indiana, in response to the failure of an amendment to our State constitution to give married women equal rights to property, formed the Women's Rights Association of Indiana. This group worked for the next 70 years to achieve women's suffrage.

It is important that women recognize the success of other women, because we didn't get here on our own, and encourage and support each other to break through those barriers. The women that have come before us have set the groundwork for us to continue building upon.

Since winning the right to vote, seven women from Indiana have represented Indiana in Congress. That is only seven, and that includes me. I would like to highlight just some of the accomplishments of the Hoosier women who came before me.

Virginia Ellis Jenckes was a widow who managed her late husband's farm on the Wabash River. Serving as her own campaign manager, and with her 19-year-old daughter as her driver, Jenckes logged 15,000 miles on a districtwide speaking tour before her election in 1933, unseating a 16-year veteran Congressman to become the first female to represent Indiana in Washington. In Congress, she advocated for stronger flood control measures, as well as for American farmers, veterans, and workers.

In 1949, Representative Cecil Murray Harden became the first Republican woman elected to represent Indiana. She believed that women had an important role to play in politics. She famously said earlier in her career: "The more interest you take in politics, the more you meet your responsibilities as a citizen." She served for five terms and pushed for more women to become engaged in and consider running for public office. And, in fact, I was pleased that her great-granddaughter was involved in my first run for office.

In 1982, Representative Katie Hall became the first African-American woman from Indiana to be elected to Congress. Democratic Representative Hall supported measures to reduce unemployment, to address crime, family debt and bankruptcy, and alcohol and drug abuse. She is best remembered for introducing and working to enact legislation to make Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a Federal holiday.

The fourth female elected to represent our State in Congress, Representative Jill Long Thompson, earned the nickname "Jill Longshot" when she became the first woman to earn the nomination of a major party for a U.S. Senate seat in Indiana in 1986. Although her bid was unsuccessful, she went on to win a seat in the House in 1989. She served three terms in Congress, focusing on efforts to help Hoosier farmers.

She continued this work first as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development under President Clinton and then as Board Chair and CEO of the Farm Credit Administration under President Obama.

After nearly 20 years in the Indiana Legislature and as Center Township trustee, where she erased the city's welfare agency debt, Democratic Representative Julia Carson, the grandmother of our own colleague now, Congressman ANDRÉ CARSON, was elected to represent our State capital city of Indianapolis. She was the first African American and first woman to represent the city in Congress, and she served for 12 years. A staunch and passionate advocate for the poor, she focused on helping people achieve financial literacy and supported working families.

□ 1700

In 2013, Indiana sent two Republican women to Congress for the first time in more than 50 years. I am proud to be serving in Congress alongside my good friend, Representative JACKIE WALORSKI. Born in South Bend, JACKIE served our State as a member of the Indiana State House of Representatives and in Congress. She has been an advocate for commonsense solutions to growing our economy and strengthening our national security from the beginning.

Hoosier women have certainly left their marks in America's history book, but as I stand here today, I am struck by, quite frankly, how much work we still have to do. Indiana is one of only 22 States that hasn't yet sent a female United States Senator to Washington. As you have heard today, 19.4 percent of the seats in the House and Senate are held by women.

A lot has been accomplished by women like Representative Jeannette Rankin—four women in the past 100 years—and, today, I want to encourage all of us to consider how much further we can go in the next 100 years.

I am pleased that another colleague, a freshman from the great State of Washington, is joining a previous Congresswoman, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, from the State of Washington, who was here earlier. I was pleased to meet Representative JAYAPAL at our first Women's Caucus meeting. I want to welcome the gentlewoman. The gentlewoman has been an incredibly strong advocate on behalf of women in her career prior to coming to Congress, representing Seattle and the surrounding area, and I would welcome a discussion.

I want to welcome the gentlewoman as a new member in the freshman class. Many women have joined the gentlewoman in this freshman class. I want to welcome the gentlewoman to our celebration of 100 years of women in Congress.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman so much for her leadership and for her work on all of these issues.

I was listening to the gentlewoman as I came in and thinking that I couldn't agree with the gentlewoman more on, first of all, the need for us to do a lot of work to continue to increase our presence and our ability to really effect policy decisions in the best ways, but also to celebrate the accomplishments of Jeannette Rankin as well as all of the Congress Members that are here.

I am so proud to represent the Seventh District in Seattle. When I ran for the State senate, it was my first run for elective office. I became the only woman of color in the State senate. But our State has traditionally been very strong with women's leadership. We are fortunate to have two women Senators. We have had a woman Governor and a woman mayor of the city of Seattle. So we have, I think, made some strides that have been very important to the well-being and the welfare of our State.

Unfortunately, we have taken some steps backwards in the last couple of years. The numbers of women in legislative office at the State level have gone down, but I do believe that Republican and Democratic women, together, have put together a strong agenda for the things that we care about around families.

I am very pleased to have already worked with one of the members of your caucus across the aisle, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, on a letter around domestic violence victims and the immigration system. I am very pleased about the work that the gentlewoman has championed and that we intend to, together, lead around making sure that families have security for themselves and for their children.

I rise to congratulate the gentlewoman for what the gentlewoman is speaking about today, for the work that the gentlewoman has done, and to say that I remain very committed to trying to find all of the areas where we women, together, can put forward priorities that are important to us.

We do joke that, if they would just turn the keys of all elective office over to women, I think we would get a lot of things done—and no disrespect to our incredible male colleagues who have been right there with us every step of the way. So I am looking forward to this time here in the House of Representatives.

I am proud to also be the first Indian-American woman ever elected to the House of Representatives. I think that as we think about getting women into office, we also should continue our work on making sure that women of color enter elective office and that the representation of people here in this great Chamber that we are so honored to serve in reflects the representation that we have across the country of women, of people of color, of African Americans—as the gentlewoman mentioned in her speech—of immigrants, and, actually, of people who have been born outside of the United States. I

think I am one of just about a dozen Members of Congress who were not born in the United States but have the great honor and privilege of becoming a United States citizen and now serving in this great body where only 11,000 or so people have served before in the history of our country.

So I thank the gentlewoman again for her leadership. I look forward to working with the gentlewoman. I appreciate her yielding in her Special Order hour. Hopefully, it is a great symbol of the things we can do together.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. I thank the gentlewoman so very much for coming here today.

I think the gentlewoman has reminded us that we are a body that reflects the country, and the gentlewoman, indicating that she was not born in this country, yet she is an incredible role model for so many young men and women. As I have said previously, I think it is important for the young men of this country, regardless of where they were born, who now live in this country, to see that women like the gentlewoman are a strong voice in this body.

While the gentlewoman mentioned that there have been about 11,000 people who have served in this body, there have only been about 300 women. We have a long way to go.

I also want to thank the gentlewoman for sharing her work with ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, who has been in Congress serving this body, a female who has been here longer than any other female in this body. She does tremendous work. She has been chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Committee and continues to be a strong—I assume the gentlewoman is serving with her on that committee.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Not on Foreign Affairs, unfortunately, but we work on immigration issues together.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. I think the gentlewoman helps demonstrate that very often we find colleagues, female colleagues across the aisle, to work on issues together, whether it is on legislation, cosponsoring legislation or co-leading legislation, whether it is leading discussion groups here in the House, or whether it is leading letters to the agency heads in the executive branch and letting them know that we stand together on those issues.

So I look forward to working with the gentlewoman here in this body, and I want to thank the gentlewoman for her time and her thoughts.

At this time, I would like to wrap up by sharing that we see that women have taken on leadership roles like all of the women who have spoken here during this past hour. In many ways, these women have all made history in their own rights in their communities, in their States, in their districts, and in this body. We should celebrate each of their accomplishments.

As CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS from the great State of Washington said, we

want to ensure that our daughters and our granddaughters have seats reserved at the tables, have seats here in this body in the future, and that eventually this body better reflects the composition of our country where, actually, more than 50 percent of our population is women. We need to do what we can to encourage women to continue to seek out leadership opportunities at all levels, whether it is working in student government in their schools, whether it is working in student government in their colleges and universities, whether it is having a leadership role in their church group, or whether it is having a leadership role in their neighborhood group or in their 4-H.

All of these things can help give them the skills to then go on, whether it is in their local communities, in city halls or in their local city councils or county councils, or in their neighborhood associations, or in State legislatures and then, really, coming to this body, because women do have strong, serious, and thoughtful voices. The women before us certainly had that. It was proud pioneers like Jeannette Rankin who came to this body before women had the right to vote. I want to continue to celebrate their accomplishments. The fact that women are still making history by participating in politics is a sign that we still have far to go.

I want to thank all of the women and the gentleman from Maryland who participated in celebrating Jeannette Rankin.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Women's Caucus Chairs: SUSAN BROOKS and LOIS FRANKEL, for hosting this bipartisan special order focused on the Achievements and Importance of Women in Congress.

I am proud to be a Woman Member of Congress representing the great state of Texas.

And, as a member of the Women's Caucus, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of Congresswoman BROOKS' commemorative resolution which honors the life and legacy of the first woman to serve in the United States Congress, Jeannette Pickering Rankin, on the 100th anniversary of her swearing-in to Congress, who famously said "I may be the first woman in Congress, but I won't be the last."

It is critical today that we take pause to highlight the importance and contributions of women Members in Congress; as well as:

1. Recognize the importance of the Suffragette Movement in achieving opportunities for women;
2. Emphasize the imperative of promoting education for women in STEM; and
3. Affirm our nation's commitment to expanding opportunities for women in my home state of Texas and across the country.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first woman being elected to Congress, Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana.

This resolution is a fitting way to honor Representative Rankin's legacy, and to celebrate the many contributions of the female lawmakers who have succeeded her in this institution.

Jeannette Rankin was a trailblazer who broke barriers throughout her lifetime and whose example continues to inspire women the world over.

She graduated from the University of Montana with a biology degree in 1902.

She later became active in the women's suffrage movement, organizing the New York Women's Suffrage Party and working for the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

In 1916, Representative Rankin became the first woman elected to Congress, even before the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed the right to vote to women.

For all of her contributions to women's rights, to political activism, and to this institution, it is only fitting to pay tribute to her achievements.

This year also marks the 45th anniversary of the first woman in her own right to represent Texas in the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan.

In 1972, Congresswoman Jordan, was the first African American elected to the Texas Senate after Reconstruction, and the first Southern African-American woman elected to the United States House of Representatives.

Congresswoman Barbara Jordan was a lawyer, educator, an American politician, and a leader of the Civil Rights Movement.

Today, it is with great honor that I serve in my mentor and friend's former seat, continuing to carry the torch she elevated for so many and for so many years, representing the outstanding constituents of Houston, Texas.

We tend to think that before the Women's and Civil Rights Movements minority Americans had no ability to represent themselves in government.

Despite the tremendous obstacles of intimidation and harassment that was faced by these brave Americans, they sought and won election to political office.

Prior to her election to Congress, Jordan taught political science at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama for a year before passing the Texas State bar in 1960 and starting a private law practice by which she served her community with pride.

In 1994, President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom and The NAACP presented her with the Springarn Medal.

She was honored many times and was given over 20 honorary degrees from institutions across the country, including Harvard and Princeton, and was elected to the Texas and National Women's Halls of Fame.

Congresswomen Jordan and Rankin both dedicated their lives to the pursuit of unfettered democracy so that we all could have a voice and use it freely.

Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman elected to Congress, when she was elected to represent the New York's Twelfth Congressional District in 1968 running on the slogan, "Fighting Shirley Chisholm—Unbought and Unbossed."

She reflected that spirit well during her 14 years in Congress.

During her first term she spoke out for civil rights, women's rights, the poor and against the Vietnam War.

Her first term in Congress was set against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement and the women's movement for equal rights.

Shirley Chisolm had an understanding that during those turbulent times the nation re-

quired a determined leader to represent the voice of so many Americans who felt dismay at their treatment.

She took an extremely active role in changing the way women were to be judged from that point on.

She remarked that, "Women in this country must become revolutionaries. We must refuse to accept the old, the traditional roles and stereotypes."

This is a sentiment that I myself take to heart, women in this nation are now told they have a right to determine the kind of life they want to lead; Shirley Chisholm was at the core of this movement.

On January 25, 1972, Chisholm announced her candidacy for president.

She stood before the cameras and in the beginning of her speech she said:

"I stand before you today as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency of the United States.

I am not the candidate of black America, although I am black and proud.

I am not the candidate of the women's movement of this country, although I am a woman, and I am equally proud of that. I am not the candidate of any political bosses or special interests.

I am the candidate of the people."

Shirley Chisholm did not win the nomination; but she went on to the Democratic Convention in Miami and received 151 delegates' votes.

More than that, she demonstrated the will and determination of so many Americans who had previously felt forgotten, she had lighted a fire under so many who had felt disenfranchised.

I am glad to walk in their footsteps and will continue to encourage women to uphold the principles they taught us to fight for and cherish.

Because Representative Rankin is a graduate of the sciences from a rural area, encouraging participation in programs such as the Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program is the perfect way to honor her legacy as a woman of the sciences and the first woman elected to Congress, and to inspire the next generation of women and minorities from rural areas to take up STEM fields.

Following in the footsteps of so many astounding role models, we must continue to encourage women, particularly those from underserved communities across the country, to participate in research and projects in all academic fields, and specifically in the sciences.

Women and minorities have been and continue to be underrepresented in STEM fields.

Although women make up 47% of the total U.S. labor force, they comprise only 36% of the computing workforce, 24% of the engineering workforce, and 18% of the advanced manufacturing workforce.

Indeed, minority representation in STEM fields is even lower, with African-American and Latino workers comprising 29% of the general workforce, but only 15% of the computing workforce, 12% of the engineering workforce, and 6% of the advanced manufacturing workforce.

The Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program is one way that we can address these glaring disparities.

The program awards grants to universities and institutions of higher learning to distribute to eligible applicants, and they prioritize

projects and programs of particular relevance to USDA.

Recipient institutions have used these grants for worthy endeavors, such as:

1. establishing a Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program fellowship program for women and minority high school students in rural areas;

2. providing mentorship and hands-on, service-based learning to high school students and undergraduates in particular STEM fields; and

3. offering mentoring services to current undergraduates to help them successfully complete STEM-based degrees.

These women were in positions of great responsibility during times when this nation was under a great burden.

The true greatness of their story is not just that they overcame the oppression they faced, but that they had the courage to help remedy a nation that in many ways had spited them.

They refused to bend their principles to the hatred they faced; they were true pioneers in leadership.

They are my role models in Congress because they represent the kind of leaders that America has always needed at times of adversity, they had a spirit and a courage that could not be broken, they had a vision of America that exceeded that of most of their peers.

I am very proud to be a Member of Congress and to follow in the footsteps of giants like Jeannette Rankin, Barbara Jordan, and Shirley Chisolm.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Jeannette Rankin, whose groundbreaking career in Congress a century ago paved the way for all of my female colleagues standing here today.

Jeannette Rankin was persistent, driven, and fearless.

She came to the House of Representatives before women even had the right to vote in this country.

Jeannette Rankin's voice in Congress was instrumental for women's suffrage. She knew how to get things done, opening the first House floor debate on women's right to vote in 1918.

And she stayed true to her convictions throughout her life, advocating for peace.

Today my fellow female Members of Congress and I stand together to honor trailblazers like Jeannette Rankin, whose bravery and determination opened the doors for women in the United States and throughout the world.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

MARCH 30, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: Pursuant to Section 4(a) of House Resolution 5, 115th Congress, I am writing to appoint the following members to the House Democracy Partnership:

The Honorable David Price of North Carolina, Ranking Member

The Honorable Keith Ellison of Minnesota

The Honorable Susan Davis of California

The Honorable Gwen Moore of Wisconsin

The Honorable Dina Titus of Nevada