

I urge all my colleagues to join me in pursuing policies to secure our energy independence.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I am so grateful the gentlewoman came to participate. We know she is very busy. It has been a long day in the Education and Labor Committee. We are grateful she is doing that great work.

Madam Speaker, I know that the time is winding up for our Special Order hour. There was a lot going on on Capitol Hill today. I am grateful to my Republican colleagues for coming in and participating and helping to share this very, very important message with the American people.

There is a lot of spin going on in the country right now, from TikTok influencers, to media types who are engaging in the spin for the White House at their request, and the American people see through it. They are making and being made to make difficult choices for their families.

Hardworking Americans are suffering right now because of these policy choices. There is crisis after crisis after crisis everywhere we look because of, frankly put, poor leadership in the White House.

I believe that we will have a change in all of this come November in the next election cycle, and with the presidential election that will follow 2 years later. And it can't happen soon enough because the White House has shown no intention, no indication that they will reverse policies, as they should, as we mentioned a moment ago could be easily done to alleviate the pain for all these Americans. But for whatever reason, they will not do it.

Madam Speaker, I will wind down this evening. I want to thank my colleagues for being here, participating in this really important Special Order hour, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, this month is Women's History Month. I think you are making history, Madam Speaker,

today, one of the youngest women ever to be elected from California and, actually, in the country. Women are making history.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be here. Hopefully, we are going to have a few more speakers here today, but I do want to start.

I am going to take a page out of the book of our great First Lady, Jill Biden. I attended a ceremony over at the White House where she and the President celebrated Women's History Month. And she started out with a salute, I think, to—if you could think of anybody who you want to give a shout out to, she gave it to her own mother. And I am going to start with that too because, you know, most of our mothers, they are not very famous, and it is not like they made history.

But the fact of the matter is, moms are probably the most influential people in the world. In fact, if you ever go to an event where someone is being honored, who is the first person they thank? It is their mother.

So I am going to start this Women's History Month with my remarks by thanking my mother, Dorothy Frankel—and let me just say this—who has inspired me in every way, and now, at 96 years old, with—I would say with a mind better than mine—maybe that is not saying much, but with her full faculties and the energy to live.

I want to say thank you, mom, like all the other moms who give us the unconditional love and the support, whether the sun is shining or the rain is raining.

So today, I think we have some other people here. Before I continue my remarks, I want to yield to a very special friend.

We talk about making history. I am going to yield to one of the most dynamic Members of the House of Representatives. She is from Texas. She has got her hands full. I mean, I will tell you what: I don't know whether it is more difficult today being from Texas or from Florida, I think our Governors are in some kind of contest with each other. But I am going to yield to the amazing gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from Florida for, first of all, all of her leadership in leading the Women's Caucus for a very sizable period of time; and to give us the opportunity to speak about women today; and to remind us that we really started out with a very important woman, and that is, of course, our mothers.

So why don't I, as well, acknowledge, Ivalita Jackson, who served her community; but, more importantly, her profession, and she was proud of that, in nursing. And at the time, she was a vocational nurse, and she wore the uniform with pride.

She was a mother with pride. She was a wife with pride. She was really our rock, and she did things that showed her sacrifice. She loved her pro-

fession. She loved nursing. She was our at-home doctor, probably the doctor for the neighborhood.

But in order to ensure that she was home during the day, she made sure she took the night shift. And the night shift in a hospital is a challenging shift.

We can see all of the great and wonderful things that nursing has generated, the heroes of today, the heroes of today, as we went through 2 years of the pandemic. But my mother was a shero many, many decades ago.

And I came to love the uniform, came to love those white sparking shoes that she wore so proudly, came to love and honor her sacrifice; and how much she gave to her family, her job, her profession, her church.

Ivalita Jackson is one to be honored; along with her mother, my grandmother, Vannie Bennett; my other grandmother, Olive Jackson; and then my aunt, Valerie Bennett, Vickie and Audrey, all wonderful women, and Sybil.

So today, I come to join my colleagues to be able to talk about women and to celebrate, as the President did in Women's History Month, just 24 hours ago; but then to celebrate again, as I mentioned, now, in law, now the law, and that is the Violence Against Women Act, that almost a decade, it seems—even though we went back as far as 2013, that would have been 8 years—it seems that I have been doing this for a decade.

But I remember standing next to Vice President Joe Biden on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which was in 1996. I call the image, me in short stature and Joe Biden, tall stature, but yet, one of great compassion.

And I loved hearing him speak today, how culturally out of step men were, or the community was, or the Nation was, in trying to understand why he would be engaged in fighting against domestic violence. I remember him today saying, they asked me whether or not he had come from a family of domestic violence, or he had abused his wife or he had known someone in his family who had experienced that. And he looked at them incredulously and said no.

It is something to care about. Domestic violence kills. Sexual assault can kill. Rape kills, and it destroys lives. From very little girls and very little children, boys or girls, to adulthood.

We loved him for saying that. And out of that passion came the first Violence Against Women Act centered around domestic violence. Then it grew to focus on the wide breadth of sexual assault in this Nation.

In speaking to the head of the major chiefs at the White House, she reaffirmed the fact, as a chief of police of a major city, that domestic violence calls are the most deadly for law enforcement officers, and don't end well, in many instances, for our families.

It is appropriate in this month of women's history, that we also have a

curative response by putting into law, after so many years of trying, introducing over and over again this legislation, and finally, H.R. 1620 became law as the Senate passed that bill with an enhancement of what we had included, which was the work dealing with Native Americans, the work dealing with providing for housing, the amount of money, \$1 billion, to cover the many new issues dealing with women, dealing with cultural organizations, different women from different ethnicities, language; we were responding to the needs that they have, religious groups. We have cultural training for young men and boys.

We wanted to make sure that we did not, in any way, undermine what the President had dreamed about when he first introduced this legislation, I believe, in 1994.

So I wanted this to be part of Women's History Month because it was a long journey. And let me thank all of the advocates who, year after year, month after month, day after day, second after second, minute after minute, hour after hour, met with all of us to try to work to enhance and to be assured of the best kind of legislation that we could secure.

Today was a celebratory day. But I really focus on it for saving lives. And I just imagine, somewhere in America today is a woman being abused, a woman suffering. And we now have a law that her State and Federal Government law enforcement can maybe intervene, and her days of being abused will be ended.

□ 1815

I do want to also acknowledge, as I move toward the historic women, the kind of work women do. I want to make sure that we talk about daycare owners.

This is The Gingerbread School, and I thank the owner for taking the children of mothers who work day-in and day-out, hourly wages, night shifts. I remember my mom, as I said, working night shifts.

She is there for them. These are the kind of women in Women's History Month that deserve honor and respect, and I thank her for it.

Madam Speaker, then I acknowledge the fact that women are in the medical profession. We used to take them for granted. There are a rising number of women becoming doctors. We did not take them for granted in the horrors of the pandemic of COVID-19 because we were desperate for those who were testing when the vaccines came or vaccinating. But most importantly, it was those nurses at our bedside, for those on ventilators, those in hallways, those who were suffering.

COVID-19 was devastating and deadly, and it was the nurses and the medical professionals, the many women who provided the kind of support that maybe got us through.

I thank those late-night shifts. I thank those tears, those collapsing on

sidewalks outside of hospitals saying, "How much more can I take?" They took more, and they kept going on and on and on.

I pay tribute to the millions of medical professionals who are women. I support all of them, but I particularly support those who are women.

Madam Speaker, today, we had a hearing in the Budget Committee on the question of how the pandemic impacted women, and I want to make one point about that. It was unanimity. Certainly, it was recognized by one of our witnesses that the idea of childcare being only 7 percent of your income under the Build Back Better Act would be transformative; that childcare keeps women out of the workforce, but most importantly, it takes 25 or 50 percent, even, of their income. Remember, they still are the lowest paid.

We realize, in this Women's History Month, there are many things that we need to do to improve the lives of women. With that in mind, I now cite some of the women who should be honored who have done great things.

First, I do acknowledge the paycheck fairness bill that we did this year; the child tax credit, driven by women, joined by great men, but driven by women and really saving the lives of families all over America.

Madam Speaker, I acknowledge Vice President KAMALA HARRIS—historically, the first woman of color to serve in the highest offices of the land as Vice President of the United States, a woman of Indian descent and African descent.

It is important to take note of the fact that an estimated 10 million people in this country, as I spoke earlier, experienced domestic violence, and that is why, again, we celebrate this month with the passing of that bill.

But I just want to give a roll call of the many pioneering women who should be recognized today:

Shirley Chisholm; Barbara Jordan; and as well those early pioneers, Harriet Tubman, who led the Underground Railroad and slaves to freedom; Sojourner Truth, an abolitionist as well as a suffragette who said the words, "Ain't I a Woman"; Rosa Parks, who refused to get up so that she could sit so that others might walk and others might run toward justice.

Astronaut Mae C. Jemison, my dear friend, a Houston resident, the first African-American woman to go into space.

Mathematicians like Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, those mathematicians who helped NASA in the early days by pencil and hand, calculating major calculations needed for space exploration.

Authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks, all enormous authors with enormous missions and all fighters for justice.

All of these persons, in their own way, provided a pathway for women.

I am very pleased to have brought the first African-American statue into

the United States Congress—designed and sculpted by a woman, and as well raised the dollars to bring her here. She now sits in Emancipation Hall, and her next journey is going to be in the rotunda or Statuary Hall, where she belongs with the other suffragettes.

We know that Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman to ever serve in the United States House of Representatives and the first woman to ever run for President of the United States.

Madam Speaker, I want to take note of my hometown heroes, such as Nellye Joyce Punch, Ramona Toliver, Beulah Shepard, Christia Adair. These are women who have since gone on, but they were pioneers in their time, fighting for what was right.

I remember Beulah Shepard saying, "It just takes one vote."

Nellye Joyce Punch led on hunger and trying to stamp out hunger, as she was a great teacher.

Ramona Toliver was an activist in Frenchtown in the Fifth Ward and always fought to ensure that the people of that community were responded to and not ignored.

Madam Speaker, I think it is important to realize that as we honor women, we must recognize they find themselves in many different careers. Coming from Houston, I want to acknowledge Sally Christian Ride, the first woman sent into space; Eileen Marie Collin, the first space shuttle pilot; and, of course, numbers of other unsung heroes in the space program.

I mentioned Vice President KAMALA D. HARRIS, and I want to emphasize, as I close my remarks, that we have yet another journey to take. That is the final confirmation after hearings of the next person to ascend to the Supreme Court, and that is a Justice Brown Jackson, who by all accounts is an outstanding—without question—legal scholar and jurist. I hope for her, in this time of newness and difference, that she will be greeted by those who will look to her credentials, her firstness, and, of course, the constant excellence that she has shown.

Women have always been challenged as to whether or not they could do the job. I leave you with the names of Golda Meir of Israel, Indira Gandhi of India, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, Angela Merkel of Germany, and Portia Simpson-Miller of Jamaica, among many others.

I know that there are millions of women who we have left out, but today, we come to celebrate under the leadership of LOIS FRANKEL, as well as the Democratic Women's Caucus, to be able to once and for all put a mark in this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to say that we paused to say thank you to women, that we paused to say thank you to the new and many Members of the United States House of Representatives who have grown and grown, Members who happen to be women.

The few women who were here when I came in 1995, we have exponentially

grown in excellence, and we have brought a new face, a new perspective. I remember those days, sitting lonely on the Committee on the Judiciary with Pat Schroeder as, day after day, our friends on the other side of the aisle brought up partial-birth abortion. Over and over again, Pat and I tried to explain that these are decisions that are health decisions that should be left to the mother, her faith leader, and her doctor.

It is sad that the State of Texas has failed to remember such and continues to abuse women in that State as it relates to choice and the ability to seek a lawful abortion as they may desire with their church, their doctor, and themselves.

Madam Speaker, the last point that I want to make, that mothers have to deal with, are the horrible actions of Governor Abbott dealing with transgender children. I want to say on this floor today that this is part of women's history because it was the parents but the mothers leading to protect their children from the abuse of this governmental agency, suggesting that you could not have trans medical care, trans-affirming medical care; that you, as a mother, could not protect your child.

Thank you to the mothers who have stood up. Thank you to the court that indicated that you, Governor Abbott, are wrong yesterday, wrong today, and wrong tomorrow.

These are our precious children. These are precious lives. These are precious families. These are precious mothers.

My tribute to women today includes my tribute to the fighters that have always stood up for what is right, what is conscience, and what is just, either in fighting for democracy; fighting against the terror of January 6; fighting for women's rights in the Violence Against Women Act; fighting against abuse; fighting to stamp out hunger; fighting to stamp out anger; and fighting in Ukraine to be able to stand against a despot called Putin, who is violent and is a war criminal killing children.

The mothers in my State who are standing for their trans children, I offer them my greatest respect and dignity as we salute Women's History Month.

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Speaker, this Representative is going to go down in history as one of the most articulate fighters for justice we have ever seen. I give her a special congratulations for all the work she did on the Violence Against Women Act that was celebrated today.

Madam Speaker, I recognize another historic woman who is very prolific. I will highlight just a couple of things.

She brought to this venue the #MeToo movement. She has been the champion in changing military law to protect people from sexual violence. And she is my co-chair of the Women's Caucus. And I could go on and on.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the State of California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida and my friend and co-lead on the Democratic Women's Caucus. I must say, she is always the shining light when it comes to finding purpose and the opportunity for women to succeed. She has proven herself over and over again as we have seen our numbers of women grow here in the Congress of the United States.

To my good friend Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, today was a great day of celebration as VAWA was reauthorized. I know you concurred with me when President Biden said, Why don't we make this permanent? That is precisely what we should be doing. But somehow, it is a law that has to be reauthorized every 5 years. It used to be almost something that we did in a bipartisan fashion, and reauthorization was almost automatic. But recently, that wasn't the case.

So to Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, thank you for the very complete and comprehensive review of women in America that you just provided us.

As we celebrate national Women's History Month, we were all asked to talk about someone that we wanted to pay special attention to. I decided that I was going to speak about a particular group of women who represent what the essence of womanhood is, which is that they are tenacious, that they are courageous, that they are gritty, and that they will go wherever they need to go to achieve their goal.

There was what was called the Night of Terror in November 1917. During that whole period of time, women would march every day here in Washington, D.C., thousands of them. For the first time, they went and picketed outside the White House. It had never been done before. They chained themselves to the cyclone fence at the White House.

On this night in November 1917, there were 35 of these women who were arrested. They were beaten, and they were spat upon. They had rotten eggs thrown in their faces. The food they were given in jail was so bad that many of them went on a hunger strike, and then they had tubes put in their noses to force-feed them. One woman was struck between the eyes and lost one of her eyes.

What were they doing this for? So women could get the right to vote in the United States.

□ 1830

Because up until that time women were, for all intents and purposes, chattel. There were people like George Bernard Shaw who said: If women got the right to vote there would be a crushing tax on bachelors in America. Another one from the Seneca Falls Review that said: If women got the right to vote they would become thin-lipped, fat-handed, and flat-chested. Oh, my God.

Those were the kinds of thoughts that somehow women did not have the mental capacity to vote because in their skull they only had puppies and chocolate and babies that were in their brains; that somehow that was the kind of political cartoon that was represented.

Certainly, women who were menopausal couldn't vote because they were near extinction. Women who were pregnant or having children couldn't vote because they were lactating. You name it, they came up with it. Having said all that, there were true heroes of that generation.

Madam Speaker, I want to speak tonight about a different group of women who are fighting for the lives of their countrymen and -women, and that is the strength of the Ukrainian women.

Here is a Ukrainian woman. Here is someone bloodied by Putin's weapon systems: she is still standing; she is still alive. We can't say that about all the women in Ukraine. The world looked on in absolute horror as images of injured and murdered Ukrainian women and children have spread around the globe.

When the hospital in Mariupol was bombed, we saw pregnant women holding their bellies, climbing down stairs. Then we saw a stretcher of a woman on a towel—it looked like it was a colorful towel that she brought with her to the hospital. The photo of this pregnant woman who was rushed out of the maternity hospital in Mariupol last week made my blood run cold. The news yesterday that she and her baby had died outraged me.

She was taken to another hospital in Mariupol and when she realized she was losing her baby, medics said that she cried out: Kill me now. Her pelvis was crushed. Her hip detached. The baby was delivered by C-section, but showed no signs of life. She died shortly thereafter.

That is an imprint on my mind that will never leave me and should never leave any of us because what is happening to women in Ukraine is sinful, it is immoral. It is in fact a crime against humanity.

Putin's forces also killed Tetiana, her son Mykyta, 18, and her daughter Alisa, 9, as they tried to flee Kyiv with a church volunteer. She worked for a Silicon Valley software company and was married to her husband of 23 years. He said, "I have lost everyone and lost the meaning of life."

Women in Russia are suffering, too, and they are showing lots of guts. They are speaking out against Putin. Here you see a woman, her name is Marina Ovsyannikova. She ran on to the live TV set on a Russian TV station, the most-watched news program in all of Russia, to protest the war. Her sign, which is written both in English and in Russian, reads: No war. Stop the war. Don't believe the propaganda, they are lying to you.

After she was taken into custody, she was questioned for 14 hours. She wasn't

allowed to sleep, to access her family, her lawyers, and she refused to recant her message. Somewhere in Russia right now is Marina, another courageous woman who is speaking truth to power. Russian mothers are angrily demanding Putin to be held accountable for using their sons, as many as 6,000 of whom have already been killed in Ukraine, using them as cannon fodder for his egotistical legacy project.

I am also in awe of the brave Ukrainian women literally leading the fight to protect their country. Nearly 22 percent of Ukraine's armed forces are female—22 percent. Here you see them in their camouflage. The 22 percent is one of the highest percentages of females serving in the military in the world. In the United States it is only something like 18 percent. And more women are joining the fight every day.

Even women members of Ukraine's parliament have taken up arms to defend their homeland. I think about that and I think how many of us women parliamentarians in Congress would do the same? It is a good opportunity for us to do some soul-searching.

We must have the backs of all Ukrainian women. I am proud that the United States has imposed unprecedented sanctions and export controls on the Russian economy. Just last week we stood on this floor and passed the bipartisan \$13 billion aid package for Ukraine to assist the military and provide for the humanitarian needs.

Today, the President announced another package of weapons that are going to be sent to Ukraine, including Javelins and switchblades and body armor and helmets and drones, all in an effort to try and provide more protection for the people of Ukraine.

We must hold Putin accountable for the immeasurable death and suffering he has wrought. In doing so, I hope we can show a fraction of the grit and perseverance of the Ukrainian people, and especially the women of Ukraine.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative SPEIER. I will tell you what, it is really hard to follow those remarks. I think all of us—all Americans—really all people around the world who have been following the brutality of Putin's war, our hearts are breaking. I thank the gentlewoman for highlighting the special plight of the women.

As I said, it is almost hard to talk about anything after that, but I do want to say this. For about 200 years women have been fighting for rights, for rights that White men and then eventually Black men had, but we are still fighting for them.

I was just thinking back to my own childhood—and probably your childhood, too. They had limits on how many girls could get into law school or medical school; there were no sport scholarships available. If you were a married woman, you could only get credit in your husband's name. Abortion was illegal. Equal pay was not

even a concept. We did finally get the right to vote after women were arrested and chained themselves to the White House.

So if you look back in history, we have been fighting very hard to get our rights. I want to thank Representative JACKSON LEE, she has highlighted some of the victories over the years and some of the women who led the way, whether it was with Title IX or *Roe v. Wade*, or the bill that was just celebrated today by the President, the Equal Pay Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act. A lot has been done, but, wait, they are all in jeopardy.

It is just shocking that after all these years of fighting, every one of these rights are in jeopardy, including the right to vote, which is why—and I know my colleagues here would agree—we must have an equal rights amendment. We must have inscribed in the U.S. Constitution equality for men and women that cannot be changed at the whim of a political body.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, allow me to again express my appreciation to the growth and bounty of the Women's Democratic Caucus. It is amazing, the coming together of now generational women, freshmen classes, sophomore classes, and some of us who have had the privilege of serving for a period of time. What an amazing power base that you and we have created.

Madam Speaker, I thank LOIS FRANKEL for her leadership. I thank BRENDA LAWRENCE and JACKIE SPEIER for the way they have guarded and guided this privilege with this power. I do think it is important to put in the RECORD her singular work. She will not say singular work, but we were all glad to join her.

Obviously, this particular young soldier came out of the breadth and depth of Houston and out of Texas—but to be able to honor the life of a young woman that simply wanted all her life to join the United States Army. JACKIE SPEIER had been working on the issue of sexual assault in the military, along with our good friend, Senator GILLIBRAND, and the lack of justice that we were seeing all the time. This had been going on for a very long time.

It is important in this Women's History Month to say that we together made history with your legislation that responded to the heinous crime of the killing of Officer Guillen, a precious young woman, who, growing up as a little girl wanted to be in the United States military.

I think this is the point that should be made. Only in this recent time can young girls want to grow up to be generals, astronauts, presidents, scientists, and others. As Ms. FRANKEL and Ms. SPEIER indicated, the abuse that was laid upon women for even thinking about equality or justice or voting. And then, of course, I must say that African American women found

themselves at the lowest wrung of the ladder and suffered the continuing lingering history of slavery, the rape that was put upon them, the tending to whatever child was born, and then, of course, tending to the fields.

Here we are today with a little bright light—and I am going to say little bright light because Ms. FRANKEL laid out all the things we need to do: the ERA, and we hope to get this new Justice.

I wanted to take a moment just to respond and build upon this vile war criminal who seems to have Ukraine—God bless the soldiers, the men, the men that stayed behind to fight, but the toll has been so brutal on the women of Ukraine.

Even in the last 24 hours, women are leaving safe places in Poland and Romania and they are coming back to Ukraine demanding that they fight, that they stand with the people of Ukraine for the democracy that they love. The death toll is brutal. The way they are dying is brutal. To be running with your child thinking you are protecting them. And to have the greatest moment of your life, the birth of a new baby, and you die and the baby dies, and your whole innards are crushed.

Besides the women that are left behind in pools of blood—then the women who are escaping with their children who have nothing. This has been found around the world in Sudan when we were fighting against genocide. The victims were women who were trying to hold on to families in Rwanda. Places in South and Central America; the missing Mexican women that we have been working on for years.

□ 1845

My previous Member from California had led us in this fight, and we are still fighting. In the United States missing girls and human trafficking is a scourge today, and the dominant population of human trafficking are girls and girls who were tending to their daily duties of going to high school and, all of a sudden, they walked away, and they are in human trafficking, or they are being trafficked.

So we have a lot to fight. We have a lot to put on the RECORD today and this month. We have got a lot of grandmothers to thank, a lot of moms to thank, and a lot of firsts to thank. We have got a lot of poets who have described our lives and a lot of writers who have described our lives. We have got a lot of children who simply say thank you.

I guess I don't want to leave the podium.

I must thank the teachers because if ever people were elevated to know how much you appreciate women, this 2-year, 3-year period of the pandemic really laid it out. You were either sacrificing as a mother because you were wearing 25 hats, Madam Speaker, and a lot of them dealing with homeschooling and trying to make do. You were a nurse; you were a teacher. You were simply in the fight.

Madam Speaker, you were a doctor, you were a hospital administrator, you were an EMS, you were a fire person, a police person, and you were in here dealing with just the pit of COVID-19 and what it was doing to our families. You could have been in the funeral home business as a woman, and you were dealing with these circumstances.

So let me just give a big thank you in this month, and I hope that if I have not called your name, I am giving a big, overall thank you to all of you women. We recognize all of our gentlemen. But today, all of you have stood in the gap during a time in America's history that no one ever expected.

So I say thank you to Congresswoman FRANKEL, to Congresswoman SPEIER, and to all the women. We count them as being on the floor today to be able to honor Women's History Month and then, of course, International Women's History Month to be able to say thank you to all of them.

I must say thank you to the Pakistani women. I was at the Pakistani Embassy last night. I don't want to leave the floor without saying I met a lot of Pakistani Americans who were there celebrating Women's History Month and to honor Pakistani-American women.

First, I would like to thank the Democratic Women's Caucus for hosting this Special Order to celebrate Women's History Month.

During Women's History Month, we celebrate the generations of trailblazing women who, in the face of daily hardship and systemic discrimination, have paved a path toward gender justice.

It also serves as a global call to action, calling on us to advance the rights and dignities of women at home, at work and in all aspects of life.

Women have always led the effort to create a more fair, more resilient, more prosperous, and more equal America.

It brings me great pride that in 2022, women are not only working tirelessly to meet the needs of this unique moment, women are taking the lead.

With Vice President KAMALA HARRIS making history for our nation, with more women than ever before serving in Congress and taking on leadership roles in the President's cabinet, with the first Black woman nominated to the Supreme Court, with women leading some of America's largest and most innovative businesses, and with women continuing to break ground as scientists and researchers, America is stronger because of women.

I am proud that House Democrats are leading efforts to expand on opportunities for women and to combat gender discrimination.

In addition to our work to close the gender wage gap by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, a major part of that effort includes addressing the challenges posed to American women by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is important to recognize that the burden of caring for children, the elderly, and the sick still falls to women unevenly in our society, and the pandemic forced many women to sacrifice their careers to care for loved ones.

Last year, Democrats and President Biden enacted the American Rescue Plan, which extended the expanded Child Tax Credit to help

families make ends meet and help women stay in the workforce and return to their jobs.

It is now year 3 of the Coronavirus pandemic, which means that women have been leading the COVID-19 response, combatting the virus in America and around the world.

During Women's History Month, we honor the female frontline health care workers.

From health care to home care, restaurants to grocery stores, women workers, low-paid workers, and women of color are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics survey, nearly 80% of healthcare workers and 83% of workers who provide social assistance, including child care and emergency services, are women.

Additionally, women-dominated occupations, such as nurses, flight attendants, and personal care aides, are among the most vulnerable to getting sick and spreading it to others.

Women are also in the position to suffer the most in an economic recession.

Women are the most economically vulnerable, comprising nearly 60% of workers in low-wage occupations.

Low-paid women workers have very little in the way of savings, which means it is much harder for them to weather economic shocks, especially when they are likely to be supporting a number of dependents.

Just this week, my bill, VAWA, was reauthorized as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, which President Joe Biden signed into law.

We must continue to do more to ensure that law enforcement has all the tools it needs to protect Americans from domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault and that survivors have the resources to heal.

VAWA is life-saving legislation.

This legislation was enacted in response to the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence, and the significant impact of such violence on the lives of women.

Statistics have revealed that these forms of violence impact us all.

In the United States, an estimated 10 million people experience domestic violence every year, and more than 15 million children are exposed to this violence annually.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, about 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner.

About 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, sexual violence, and/or partner stalking with injury.

Today, in Texas, 35.10 percent of women and 34.5 percent of men are subjected to domestic violence.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us reflect on the women who shaped our history and on those today who are leading our nation forward.

We must work toward a future with equal access to economic opportunities, health care, and safety for all Americans.

It brings me great pride to say that more than 120 women House Members proudly follow in her footsteps—including a record number of committee and subcommittee chairs, myself included.

Driven by these women's devoted service and guided by their leadership, the Democratic House continues to lead the way in building a more just future—whether strengthening the

rights of women in the workplace through the Paycheck Fairness Act and Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, defending reproductive health freedoms with the Women's Health Protection Act or advancing the Build Back Better Act's historic investments in maternal care, paid family and medical leave, childcare and more.

Last month we celebrated the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great nation, and paid tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland; Mae C. Jemison; activists, intellectuals, authors, and artists like Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks, to name just a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our nation become a more perfect union.

The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a Member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose struggles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Women's History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; mathematicians like Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural or intellectual contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

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.

Before Shirley Chisholm, no black woman had ever served in the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate but following in her footsteps are 51 black women Members of Congress, two black women U.S. Senators, including the president of that body and Vice-President of the United States; 23 Hispanic members; and 15 Asian-Pacific members, along with the first woman Speaker of the House, and mayors of several of the largest cities in the nation, including the District of Columbia, Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta, New Orleans, Baltimore, Hartford, Minneapolis, San Antonio, and St. Louis.

Shirley Chisholm had an understanding that during those turbulent times the nation required 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.

This past August 26, 2021, we commemorated the 101st anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which granted women the right to vote.

This momentous achievement did not come easy or without struggle, for as the great abolitionist and orator, Fredrick Douglass stated: "If there is no struggle, there is no progress . . . Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

The fight for women's suffrage was waged over a 72-year period, beginning in Seneca Falls, New York at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, and exemplifies the prophetic and timeless saying of Margaret Mead that one should:

"Never doubt the ability of handful of committed persons to change the world. It is the only thing that ever has."

The Seneca Falls Conference was organized by Lucretia Mott, with others including Mary McClintock and Sojourner Truth, who went on to establish herself not only as a great advocate for women's suffrage but also as a great abolitionist.

Among the courageous suffragists who spearheaded the movement were Alice Paul, who fearlessly executed the National Women's Party picketing protests, and conceived the hunger-strike in prison; Carrie Chapman Catt, who devised the "winning plan" at the Atlantic City Convention; and Ida B. Wells-Barnett, whose political activism and criticism of the suffrage leadership for excluding black women led to a more inclusive and effective movement.

In 1916, four years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment, Jeannette Rankin was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Montana, the first woman elected to federal office in American history.

A little over a century later, a record number of women serve in the House of Representatives, comprising 23.4% of the chamber's voting members, and presided over by NANCY PELOSI, the first and only woman elected Speaker of the House.

In the 117th Congress, about 37% of women are women of color, and since 1964, more than 70 women of color have been elected to Congress.

Although there remains much work to do to ensure that women enjoy full blessings of liberty and equality, that should not detract from the achievements and contributions to the greatness of our country made by American women, including Sally Kristen Ride, the first woman sent into space; Eileen Marie Collins, the first woman space shuttle pilot; Grace Murray Hopper, an American computer scientist and United States Navy rear admiral; and Katherine Johnson, one of the unsung heroes of the NASA Space Program, whose mathematical calculations helped the United States win the Space Race.

Nor should we forget that the current Vice-President of the United States is KAMALA D. HARRIS, Vice President HARRIS is the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected as Vice President.

Similarly, we should remember that just five short years ago, Hillary Clinton shattered one

glass ceiling when she became the first woman nominated as the presidential candidate of a major political party and came within 80,000 votes of winning the presidency and thus shattering the ultimate glass ceiling.

American women will break this ceiling in the not distant future, drawing inspiration from trailblazers in other nations such as Golda Meir of Israel, Indira Ghandi of India, Ellen Sirleaf of Liberia, Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, Angela Merkel of Germany, and Portia Simpson-Miller of Jamaica, among many others.

In my home city of Houston, there are numerous men and women who are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said:

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

One barrier left to fall, however, is one of the most important, and that is membership on the Supreme Court of the United States.

For most of our national history, presidents and senators have turned a deaf ear to Abigail Adams' plea to her husband "to remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors."

Since Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's 1981 appointment, only a small handful of women have been nominated to the High Court during this time, despite the fact that women constitute a majority of the general population, 37% of all attorneys in America, a number that will soon exceed the majority since a substantial majority (54%) of all law students in America are women.

With Associate Justice Stephen Breyer's retirement announcement, President Biden and the U.S. Senate, now have been presented and should move quickly to capitalize on this opportunity to begin to rectify the High Court's gender and racial imbalance and to diversify its composition by confirming a member of the most underrepresented, disadvantaged, marginalized, longest suffering, and most patient demographic in America: black women.

Longer than any other racial or ethnic group, black women have been subjected to the coercive powers of the law while being excluded from the opportunities to make the laws citizens are to live under.

President Biden has made a nomination for the ages in selecting U.S. Circuit Court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice.

Not only does Judge Jackson possess one of the finest legal minds of her generation, her commitment to equal justice, the rule of law, and Constitution is unsurpassed.

Judge Jackson will be a great Justice and a role model to women and girls everywhere, especially little black girls, that in America all things are possible with hard work and determination.

With this nomination, we are taking a massive step towards having a government whose institutions, including and especially the Supreme Court, are comprised of persons that look like the American people.

I applaud President Biden for making this historic nomination and urge the Senate to conduct a fair, impartial, and expeditious confirmation proceeding and confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson—who has already been confirmed on a bipartisan basis three times.

As we celebrated Black History Month and now Women's History Month, let us pay tribute

to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of equal opportunity for all.

And it is crucial that as we reflect on how far women have come, we also not lose sight of how far we have to go and what must be done to achieve true gender and racial equality so every girl everywhere can pursue her dreams and realize her potential.

As we progress through Women's History Month, let us summon the extraordinary courage and resilience of the many women who came before us.

Democrats will never relent as we carry on the fight for full equality—not only for our nation's daughters, but for women and girls all over the world.

As the legendary Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm said, "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."

Ms. JACKSON LEE, Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary, on Homeland Security, and on the Budget, and the Congressional Women's Caucus, I am pleased to join this Women's Caucus Special Order with my colleagues, to discuss the bravery of Ukrainian women and girls in the face of Russia's war against Ukraine.

I thank the Co-Chairs of the CWC, Representatives DEAN and GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, for their leadership of the Bipartisan Congressional Women's Caucus.

Firstly, I would like to commend all Ukrainians for their outstanding bravery. It is truly inspirational for Americans, and for people around the world. America stands with you.

Russia's launch of a premeditated war against Ukraine is an attack on democracy and a grave violation of international law, global peace, and security.

The fighting has sparked massive displacement and has forced over two million Ukrainians to flee their homes to neighboring states and has put women and girls at heightened risk of violence.

Although many people have fled, millions have stayed behind to help fight the Russian invaders and defend Ukrainian sovereignty.

Thousands of Ukrainian women have taken up arms and are playing a vital role in Ukraine's national defense. Today they make up 22.8% of the Ukrainian army, not including the thousands who have volunteered as civilian soldiers.

Life in the military is not easy for women. While women have been serving in the Ukrainian military since the annexation of Crimea in 2014, they did not win the right to officially fight alongside their male counterparts until 2017.

When Russian-backed forces seized part of the Donbas region and conflict ensued in 2014, thousands of women volunteered to help the Ukrainian military. They served as assault troops, medics, and snipers.

But the sacrifices made by these women went largely unrecognized. Official documents issued by the Ukrainian military, listed these soldiers as seamstresses, cooks, and janitors.

The women who volunteered "often found themselves outside legal protection," according to the Invisible Battalion, an advocacy group for Ukrainian servicewomen, that studied women's roles in the war against Russia.

Although these women have not always been adequately supported by their government because of soviet era laws forbidding them from enlisting, they have persisted.

In 2017 a group of women veterans got together and lobbied for their rights, which brought about a much-needed change in the culture in the Ukrainian military.

Just last year the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense determined that female soldiers marching in a military parade celebrating independence from the Soviet Union would wear high heels, not boots.

Regardless of the numerous hurdles and mockeries Ukrainian women have faced and continue to face today, there are thousands who are putting their lives at risk to protect and defend their homeland.

Among them have been a 79-year-old woman who recently learned how to fire a gun, a former beauty queen Anastasia Lenna, who represented Ukraine at the 2015 Miss Grand International pageant—and Kristina, a former wedding singer.

Kristina was living in Italy last summer when tensions between Ukraine and Russia rose. While knowing the security risks, Kristina returned to her country to become a soldier.

She told a VICE news reporter that “The risk of saying goodbye to life is always there, [and she is] not afraid of death; [she] is afraid to [become a slave].” Words that will forever stick with me.

Women’s History Month is a celebration of women’s contributions to history, culture and society, and there is no better example of this than those women fighting in Ukraine today.

So, on this day, March 9, 2022, I would like to publicly commend the women fighting in Ukraine for their boundless courage and bravery. The world stands with you and will continue to fight alongside you to put an end to Putin’s cruel parade.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would just say that it is a joy to be on the floor with Representative JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman very, very much. She makes my job very easy.

Madam Speaker, I yield again to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the leader of our caucus, Ms. FRANKEL.

Madam Speaker, I am just going to close with some expectations. I am leaving Congress this year, and I want to convey to you, Madam Speaker, to the leadership of the Democratic Women’s Caucus, and to all of my colleagues how important I think that you are as guardians of womanhood. Our job is never done.

So while we may celebrate these small victories from time to time, the ERA is not part of our Constitution. Of the 193 countries in the world, 165 have the ERA in their Constitutions. The United States does not. It is 24 little words. Thirty-eight States have passed it. We have this deadline that we have struck from the legislation in the House. The Senate has not taken it up.

Femicide is a huge problem in Latin America. The Democratic Women’s Caucus will have a presentation this Friday on that. The 5,000 missing Na-

tive-American women in this country that really we had no cognizance of until we had a Native-American woman in the Congress to talk about it.

Finally, a new issue—probably not a new issue—is one that has just percolated to the surface, and that is female inmates in Federal prisons who are raped by the wardens, the chaplains, and the guards. Congresswoman BASS, Congressman SWALWELL, and I went to the Federal correctional institution in Dublin this week.

Now, at that one prison, the warden had raped inmates, the chaplain had raped inmates, and two of the guards that we know of had raped inmates.

It is profound that we change the culture in these prisons to prevent that from happening and from the training of guards and leadership at those facilities to treat these women with a certain amount of dignity that you would just provide to another human being.

What we heard about the kinds of things that are said about them—they are called hos and called just horrible things that make us realize that we still have a lot of work to do.

So as I conclude, let me just say, Madam Speaker, that we are the guardians of womanhood for the future, and I will look on with fondness and great appreciation.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership. She will be missed. I know she will go on to bigger and better things. She has made her mark in the history of this country for sure.

I want to thank my colleagues, SHEILA JACKSON LEE and JACKIE SPEIER, for coming to the floor. They gave us a great education tonight, and I appreciate that.

I will conclude, Madam Speaker, the way I started, which is I thank all those millions and millions of unknown women who lift us up every day, who dry our tears, and who share our happiness with that unconditional love, and those are our mothers who are probably, as I said, the most influential part of the history of the world.

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

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 55. An act to amend section 249 of title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a hate crime act.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, March 17, 2022, for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 6 o’clock and 52 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the

House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

EC-3643. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Kenneth F. McKenzie, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3644. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board’s semiannual Monetary Policy Report, pursuant to Public Law 106-569; to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-3645. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3646. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities that was declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3647. A letter from the Secretary and Treasury, Resolution Funding Corporation, transmitting the Corporation’s 2021 management reports and financial statements, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3648. A letter from the Senior Congressional Official, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s 2021 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3649. A letter from the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department’s Fiscal Year 2021 Ginnie Mae Annual Management Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3650. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a notification of an action on nomination and discontinuation of service in an acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-3651. A letter from the National Adjutant and Chief Executive Officer, Disabled American Veterans, transmitting the reports and proceedings of the 2021 National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, held