

As the 28th Amendment, the ERA would serve as a new tool for Congress, Federal Agencies, and in the courts to advance equality in the fields of workforce and pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment and violence, reproductive autonomy, and protection of the LGBTQ+ individuals. It is also a signal to the courts that they should apply a more rigorous level of review to laws and government policies that discriminate on the basis of sex.

That is what the ERA is all about: equality, the most fundamental of American values. I am disappointed by the outcome of the vote this May, but this is not the end. Just before the Senate vote on the measure, I led my colleagues in a vigorous floor debate in support of the ERA and our resolution to affirm the ratification.

Not one opponent showed up to debate the merits of the resolution or equal rights. No one. It tells me that we are on the right side of history, and they know it.

So make no mistake about it, this march towards equality on account of sex continues. We will not rest until the ERA is in the Constitution of the United States. The States have done their job. We will get the necessary votes to make that a reality.

My life of public service was inspired by my faith but also by the civil rights movement and elected leaders of the 1960s. I was first elected to Congress in 1986 and sworn into office in 1987, along with Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, who would become a lifelong friend and mentor.

Years earlier, John was one of the original Freedom Riders and served as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. He was one of the major organizers of the 1963 March on Washington.

For John, the movement for freedom, justice and equality—economically, socially, and all aspects of life—was not merely a movement; it was his life's work.

As times changed and as the struggle for equality took on new forms, his commitment never faltered. He marched on Washington through Selma and in the Halls of the U.S. Capitol with the same faith, courage, and conviction.

This past weekend, tens of thousands gathered on the National Mall to continue to march for freedom and justice, hearkening back to those who stood on the same ground six decades earlier. Dr. King's daughter-in-law, Arndrea Waters King, described to the crowd:

We are here to liberate the souls of the Nation, the soul of democracy from the forces who would have us all go backwards and perish rather than go forward as sisters and brothers.

As President Joe Biden said recently, recalling Dr. King's reference to a "promissory note" to every American, it is "a promise derived from the very idea of America, that we are all created equal and deserve to be treated equally throughout our entire lives. While

we've never fully lived up to that promise, we've never—thank God—fully walked away from it . . . for our administration and with your help, it means pushing back against voter suppression, election subversion, and hate-fueled violence."

So, Mr. President, my message to our colleagues is let us work together to do the work necessary to make sure that the moral arc of the universe moves toward justice. We must carry out that mission.

With that, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DOROTHY CALDWELL

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the life and advocacy of child nutrition champion Dorothy Caldwell who passed away on August 13, 2023.

From a young age, it was clear to her teachers and others around her that Dorothy would make a difference in Arkansas. She was a trailblazer.

Dorothy was active in 4-H and graduated high school at the age of 16. With help from her community, she was the first person in her family to attend college. At the University of Arkansas, she was involved in a number of activities. She served as vice president and chaplain of Phi Upsilon Omicron, the university's home economics sorority. As a senior, she traveled all over the State for her duties as president of the Arkansas Future Teachers of America.

She fostered a passion for helping students and went to work improving nutrition programs, first as director of food and nutrition for the Lee County School District and, from 1988–1997, as director of child nutrition for the Arkansas Department of Education. Her skills, experience and commitment to public service took her to Washington, DC, where she worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 4 years. Dorothy continued her leadership advancing child nutrition policy in numerous roles including as president of the School Nutrition Association. In this capacity she helped develop nationwide child nutrition standards. Her tireless advocacy on behalf of school-age children resulted in standardized lunch times, education initiatives about healthy eating and the launch of student breakfast programs. She earned the honor of "School Nutrition Hero" from the School Nutrition Foundation at its 50th anniversary celebration.

Dorothy dedicated her career to improving the lives of children and ensuring they receive the nutrition necessary to succeed. As we continue building on the groundwork she established and improve access to USDA school meal programs, we remember

and honor her tireless efforts and admirable example.

I offer my deepest condolences to her family, friends and those who had the privilege to work alongside such a wonderful person. I am hopeful they can find comfort knowing Dorothy's legacy will live on.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN BROWN

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Stephen Robert Brown, the Bradford County Teacher of the Year from Bradford High School in Starke, FL.

Stephen never predicted he would work as one of the most celebrated teachers in the school district. He developed his teaching philosophy as one that teaches from bell to bell and advocates for all students, not just those in his classes. He instills in his students the confidence to achieve their long-term goals and develops plans to help meet those goals.

Stephen's students grow academically and personally by the end of each school year. He welcomes his students to ask questions to better comprehend the assignments, and ultimately wants to see them thrive.

Stephen is the team lead for the Exceptional Student Education Department at Bradford High School. He also is the school's ACT testing coordinator.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Stephen for his commitment to his students. I look forward to hearing about his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO CARDOZA

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Francisco Cardoza, the Orange County Teacher of the Year from Village Park Elementary School in Orlando, FL.

Francisco helps his students gain confidence and seek excellence in their schoolwork. He often has fun lessons for his students, such as setting the classroom up to mimic a racetrack to demonstrate force and motion or going into a hospital room to teach how to measure volume and mass.

While Francisco considers his students his top priority, he also works to help everyone else on campus. He volunteers to tutor other students, mentor children, lead a committee, or plan a school event. His colleagues know he commits to teaching and leads others to be successful in any way he can.

Francisco is a fifth grade teacher at Village Park Elementary, where he has taught for nearly 2 years. He began the school's National Elementary Honor Society chapter and Safety Patrol and helped run its Amazing Shake initiative.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Francisco for his commitment to his students. I look forward to hearing about his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY CROWDER

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Kimberly Crowder, the Hamilton County Teacher of the Year from Hamilton County Elementary School in South Jasper, FL.

Kimberly works to help each student be their best and considers herself blessed to play an important part in their lives by shaping them for success. She designs her lesson plans to meet the needs of her students.

Kimberly is most proud of her recent contribution where she revised her school's intervention instructions. Their new plan for students implements prescriptive intervention tactics to improve their achievements in the classroom by focusing on their personal needs.

Kimberly serves as a pre-K through fifth grade reading interventionist and the curriculum coordinator at her school. She has been with the Hamilton County School District since 2007, teaching kindergarten, first, and second grade students.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Kimberly for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JANAN HODGES

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Janan Hodges, the Seminole County Teacher of the Year from Spring Lake Elementary School in Altamonte Springs, FL.

Janan holds high expectations for her students, in which she ensures her classroom represents achievement and belonging. She does this by cultivating class rules that are innovative and engaging.

Janan also develops resiliency skills to benefit student success from elementary school and beyond. She works tirelessly to know each student, finding their strengths and helping limit their weaknesses.

Janan teaches third grade and is a team leader at Spring Lake Elementary School, where she has taught for 4 of her 16-year educator career. She is her school's New Educator Support Team lead teacher, where she works with new instructors and dedicates time to mentor them.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Janan for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KAREN KEARNEY

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Karen Kearney, the Alachua County Teacher of the Year from Buchholz High School in Gainesville, FL.

Karen's lifelong passion has been to be a teacher. As a child, she would teach and pretend to grade the assignments of her stuffed animals. Today, she works to ensure her school is the

best in Florida and instills her belief that students are happiest and strongest when engaged in a lifelong pursuit of learning.

Karen's teaching philosophy relies on students having personal power and a positive outlook when it comes to fulfilling their dreams and reaching their full potential. She instills in her students that education is a major tool in that process and can be a helpful advantage when setting realistic dream expectations.

Karen is an alumna of Buchholz High School and spent 5 years working in chiropractic therapy before becoming a teacher. She earned her bachelor of science degree in nutrition and her doctor of chiropractic degree from Life University and her teaching certificate in broad field secondary science from the State University of West Georgia. In addition to her work in the classroom, she has been a teacher mentor since 2006 and has served as department chair since 2019.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Karen for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JUSTYN PHILIP KELLER

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Justyn Philip Keller, the Teacher of the Year for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in St. Johns County, FL.

For high school, Justyn attended the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind after losing his sight in a random incident. He credits his teachers and the staff members who helped him learn and get through that difficult period of his life.

Halfway through college, much of Justyn's vision returned. He then felt a calling to come home to teach and give back to the community that supported him during his time of need. He enjoys teaching visually impaired students not only because it is challenging, but because he relates to the struggles they are experiencing.

Justyn teaches math at the Blind Middle School and has taught for 5 years. He attended Flagler College and the Baptist College of Florida. He holds a Florida Visually Impaired K-12 Professional Educator's Certificate, is the boys' goalball team assistant coach, and is the Young Life Team coordinator.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Justyn for his commitment to his students. I look forward to hearing about his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JULIA MAYESHIBA

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Julia Mayeshiba, the Duval County Teacher of the Year from Andrew Jackson High School of Advanced Technology in Jacksonville, FL.

Julia initiated an afterschool tutoring system for math and physics students seeking extra help in these challenging subjects. She often meets with students one-on-one to address their concerns and to instill the importance of learning as they seek to further their educational goals.

Julia also develops schoolwide incentives to reward good student behaviors. She believes this further motivates a student to try their best throughout the school year. Julia believes that when her students leave her classroom, they should feel confident to ask for help to ensure success later in life.

Julia has been a math and physics teacher at Andrew Jackson High School of Advanced Technology for the past 4 years. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2015 with her bachelor's degree and from the University of North Florida in 2019 with her master's degree. She is a Robert Noyce National Science Foundation teaching fellow and is her school's senior class sponsor.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Julia for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SARA MESSER

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Sara Messer, the Columbia County Teacher of the Year from Pinemount Elementary School in Lake City, FL.

Sara's favorite aspect of being a teacher is that she works on building positive relationships and guides students to believe in themselves to become lifelong learners. She spends each day with her students by instilling the importance of reading and ensuring they work together throughout the school year to be successful.

Sara has been a second grade teacher at Pinemount Elementary School since 2018. She graduated from Florida Gateway College, Saint Leo University, and American College of Education. Sara enjoys spending time with her family and caring for farm animals in her spare time.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Sara for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER DAWN MILLER

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Heather Dawn Miller, the Clay County Teacher of the Year from Lake Asbury Elementary School in Green Cove Springs, FL.

Heather hopes to spark interest and passion in her students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Through her work, she spends each school day working to help her students interested in STEM.

Heather also works with her colleagues to facilitate collaborative