

Unfortunately, equal opportunity is not yet a reality for women. This is why I join my Democratic colleagues in supporting the The Paycheck Fairness Act, which strengthens the equality provisions within the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and eliminates the loopholes not seen in the past. For example, it increases penalties on employers who violate federal law and allows women to pursue legal matters if they are treated unjustly. The legislation also ensures equality in the tax code so that everyone—male and female, high-income earners and those living in poverty—pays their respective tax rate. Fairness should be applicable to all, in wages and in taxes. The Paycheck Fairness Act provides effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for equal work, and Congress should pass the bill as soon as possible.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HORACE NARVEL BROOKS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Horace "Chief" Narvel Brooks. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the good and long life of Mr. Brooks, who passed away on Sunday, January 20, 2013.

Horace joined the United States Navy at the age of 17 and served in both World War II and the Korean War. Horace, having faithfully served, retired from the military as a Chief Gunner's Mate. Horace far exceeded his duty in serving both his country, family and the 24th District of Texas. Each year around Veterans Day, Horace would share stories of his military duties with high school students, imparting wisdom and firsthand experiences.

Mr. Speaker, Horace "Chief" Brooks was a great father and family man, and a true American patriot. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating his life, and honoring the many people whose lives are better for having crossed his path.

RECOGNIZING THE TURNING POINT MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, as the nation's capital hosts a weekend celebration of women's suffrage on March 2 and 3, I want to share with my colleagues a little-known, national landmark in my—the Turning Point Memorial at the former Occoquan Workhouse, in Lorton.

From 1917 to 1919, more than 200 women from 26 states were arrested for "obstructing traffic" and "holding a meeting on public grounds." Around 70 of those women, suffragists who were called "Silent Sentinels," were imprisoned for picketing with signs and banners on the White House sidewalk demanding their right to vote. Police hauled them to the then Occoquan Workhouse, later called the Lorton Prison, in Fairfax County, where they were jailed.

Their incarceration was one of the most significant but least known events of the women's suffrage movement and a true turning point in the ultimately successful struggle. The gutsy women—labeled by some as "unpatriotic"—held firm to their goals. Choosing jail over paying a \$25 fine, one protested, "Not a dollar of your fine shall we pay. To pay a fine would be an admission of guilt. We are innocent!"

Winning the right to vote took 72 years when Tennessee ratified the 19th Amendment in 1920, the largest extension of democratic rights in the nation's history. The suffragists' nonviolent actions pioneered civil rights tactics later used in other civic movements and their refusal to back down became a model for activists.

To recognize their struggle, the all-volunteer Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association is building the memorial in the shadow of the nation's capital in Fairfax County. It will feature a waterfall and 19 stations (for the 19th Amendment) along a winding garden path to relate the history of the movement and the story of empowerment and perseverance. More information can be found online at www.suffragistmemorial.org.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the members and supporters of the Association and wishing them continued success with the memorial.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 47, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 11, the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Over the last 18 years, VAWA has provided life-saving assistance to hundreds of thousands of women, men, and children. Originally passed by Congress in 1994 as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, this landmark, bipartisan legislation was enacted in response to the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence and the significant impact that such violence has on the lives of women.

Just last month a co-ed at the venerable University of Virginia, my alma mater was convicted of murdering his girlfriend. This hits close to home. As well as Yvette Cade, who had acid poured over her face by an irate ex-husband. As well as the murder of Annie Le at Harvard University. And unfortunately, I could go on and on. These women were white, black, and Asian, living in different cities under different circumstances. They had one common denominator: victims of abject and perverse violence. Lives destroyed because of men-at-large.

With each reauthorization, VAWA has been improved in meaningful ways to reflect a growing understanding of how best to meet the varied and changing needs of survivors.

VAWA is working, while rates of domestic violence have dropped by over 50 percent in the past 18 years, there remains a lot of work to be done still have a lot of work ahead of us.

In December, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the first National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), which found:

1 in 5 women have been raped in their lifetime and 1 in 4 women have been the victim of severe physical violence by a partner;

Over 80% of women who were victimized experienced significant short-term and long-term impacts related to the violence and were more likely to experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and long-term chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes.

Every nine seconds a woman in the United States is assaulted or beaten by stalkers or her partner.

Every year in the United States, 1,000 to 1,600 women die at the hands of their male partners, often after a long, escalating pattern of battering.

In 2009, 111 women were killed by their former or current husband, intimate partner or boyfriend in the State of Texas.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF INJURY
FOR WOMEN IN AMERICA

According to a study, there are more victims of domestic violence than victims of rape, mugging and automobile accidents combined. VAWA was designed to address these gruesome statistics.

VAWA established the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which receives over 22,000 calls each month. VAWA funds train over 500,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and other personnel each year.

This landmark legislation sent the message that violence against women is a crime and will not be tolerated.

States are taking violence against women more seriously and all states now have stalking laws, criminal sanctions for violation of civil protection orders, and reforms that make date or spousal rape as serious of a crime as stranger rape.

H.R. 11

The bipartisan Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. 78 out of 22 U.S. Senators supported this important bipartisan legislation.

The VAWA Reauthorization bill significantly strengthens the ability of the Federal Government, the States, law enforcement, and service providers to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. As with the previous reauthorizations of VAWA in 2000 and 2005, this bill responds to the realities and needs reported by those who work with victims every day to make VAWA work better for all victims.

The Republican leadership announced they will bring their version of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorization to the House Floor. As opposed to the bipartisan Senate bill, the House Republican version of VAWA omits protections for the LGBT, Native women, and immigrant communities. It also excludes provisions that combat sex trafficking, and that would have helped law enforcement address the backlog in DNA evidence kits. The GOP version is being brought to the House Floor in the complete absence of committee action and without the consultation of House Democrats.

As my colleague, Congressman JOHN CONYERS stated "The House Republican version of VAWA is evidence that the Majority continues to pick and choose which victims of domestic