

Women Succeed, America Succeeds" focused on economic opportunity for women, including good jobs and good pay.

She said, Dad, that's my agenda. I said, You have an agenda? She said, Yeah. She showed me her "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" book. At the top of one of the pages it says, When I am elected President, the laws I pass will be—and number one, she wrote, in penmanship we are going to work on, Women should get paid the same as men.

This shouldn't be hard, Madam Speaker. My 8-year-old gets it, and the American people are waiting for Congress to get it too.

So let's stand up for equal pay for equal work and bring the Paycheck Fairness Act up for a vote.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT TIMOTHY OWENS

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of United States Army Sergeant Timothy Owens, who lived in Rolla, Missouri, in the Eighth Congressional District.

Sergeant Owens was killed in senseless act of violence at Fort Hood, Texas, last week. Sergeant Owens deployed to Iraq with the 396th Transportation Company. During his military service, Sergeant Owens earned numerous awards, including the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and four Certificates of Achievement.

Additionally, Sergeant Owens served as a counselor to his fellow soldiers at Fort Hood. In addition to his service to our Nation, Sergeant Owens was a devoted husband and a loving father of three. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Billy, his children, and his numerous family and friends.

Madam Speaker, we honor the service and life of Sergeant Timothy Owens, and we lift his family in prayers.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, last week in the Natural Resources Committee one of my esteemed colleagues from across the aisle claimed that the scientific evidence regarding human contributions to climate change was inconclusive.

Well, Stanford researcher, Dr. James Powell, a geochemist, and a 12-year member of the non-partisan National Science Board, recently completed an update to his survey of peer-reviewed literature on climate change.

As it points out, in the year 2013, there were 10,885 peer-reviewed articles and only two rejected human contributions towards climate change. That is less than two hundredths of 1 percent.

Madam Speaker, this is not disagreement. This is not a divided scientific community, case closed. Congress must stop denying the science and take action. Future generations are depending upon us.

#### EASTER IN IRAN

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

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, Good Friday and Easter are right around the corner. For some Christians in the Middle East, specifically in Iran and Egypt, these holidays can only be observed and celebrated in fear.

Madam Speaker, Christians continue to be persecuted for their religious beliefs across the globe by intolerant, oppressive regimes and governments that seek to impose strict religious rule.

Many of these Christians, if they aren't killed, tortured to death, or imprisoned, must flee for their lives from places that they and their ancestors called home, for the simple and single reason that they are Christians.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Easter this year, let us not forget the plight and daily struggle of those who can't freely practice the religion of their own choosing. More importantly, Madam Speaker, let us continue to hold those regimes and governments accountable for their systematic targeting and continued oppression of Christians.

#### BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD ACT

(Mr. HECK of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HECK of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today in steadfast support of small business and H.R. 4383, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Small Business Advisory Board Act.

Within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau consumers have a voice. Credit unions have a voice. Community banks have a voice. And appropriately, men and women in uniform have a voice through the Office of Servicemember Affairs. These are all important contributors to include.

Yet, one group was left out, and that group was America's small businesses. While identified as "small," they are mighty when it comes to our local economy and job creation. As a small business owner, I know they have insight to offer during the development of new rules and regulations.

Under the leadership of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTEMBERG), I have cosponsored this

critical improvement to the CFPB. I ask that our colleagues now join us in this bipartisan effort to allow small businesses in the financial sector to be heard.

#### MEDICAL EVALUATION PARITY FOR SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, yesterday afternoon U.S. Senators ROB PORTMAN and JAY ROCKEFELLER introduced the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers, or MEPS, Act, companion legislation to the bill that I introduced with the Congressman from Ohio, Mr. TIM RYAN, on March 27 of this year.

Most are aware that incoming soldiers must pass a physical and medical evaluation, which is the case, but so many are shocked that there is no similar evaluation for mental health competency.

Madam Speaker, according to recent studies, nearly half of all soldiers who tried suicide first attempted it before enlisting. A large number of suicides in the military were individuals who had never been deployed in a combat role.

These studies give us insight into the mental well-being of our military, but what they also show is that we must know more.

The bipartisan MEPS Act would require a preliminary mental health assessment for military recruits prior to joining the service, which will dramatically improve the way the military identifies and assesses mental health issues.

The bill has no budget impact and has support from a large number of veterans groups. I thank my Senate colleagues for introducing this bill and encourage my colleagues in the House to join the support.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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

Mr. GARCIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 45th anniversary of the Minority Business Development Agency. Throughout its history, MBDA has spurred business development and worked tirelessly to advance the growth and global competitiveness of the minority business community.

These businesses fuel the economic engine of our country, revitalizing our communities by creating hundreds of new jobs. In my home State of Florida, this agency helped create 2,500 jobs in 2009, including over 800 new jobs in the past year alone.

At a time when many communities blighted by recession continue to struggle, the Minority Development