

commitment to selflessly serving others in need. During her tenure as the Program Management Officer of the federal Title X program, she helped low-income citizens receive family planning assistance, among other healthcare services, at an affordable cost.

Mrs. Lee has also pioneered the way for future African American nurses to be successful in the healthcare field. She holds the distinction of being the first African American to be admitted into the University of Washington's prestigious Bachelors of Science nursing program. She was also the first African American to receive the Washington State School Nurse of the Year Award, serve as a registered nurse at Seattle's VA Hospital, and be hired by the U.S. Public Health Service. Through these notable accomplishments, Mrs. Lee broke historic ground and her example serves as an inspiration to many in our region.

Outside of her impressive record in the healthcare field, Mrs. Lee is actively engaged in important community issues including civil rights, child nutrition, and women's issues. She has shown her passion for women's health by serving as the inaugural leader of the first Federal Regional Office on Women's Health, which has grown to 144 clinics nationwide that focus on women's reproductive health research and national women's health policy. Mrs. Lee has shown her passion for educating and mentoring students by serving on the UW Alumni Board of Trustees, co-founding the UW Multicultural Alumni Partnership, and chairing the UWAA Diversity Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Vivian Lee for her admirable achievements in the healthcare and nursing industries. Through her many accomplishments she has continued to improve the quality of healthcare that many people receive in the greater Seattle area.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, which symbolizes how many additional days since the beginning of this year a woman had to work full-time to earn the same amount a man earned last year. The sad truth is that equal pay for American women remains a goal, not a reality.

It is unacceptable that in the 21st century, women still earn just 79 cents for each dollar a man earns. For women of color, the facts are even worse: African American women earn just 60 cents, and Latinas just 55 cents, for each dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men.

These pay gaps are appalling, and cannot be justified. Today, mothers are the breadwinners or co-breadwinners in more than half of U.S. households. Like men, their families depend on their salaries to pay for shelter, food, their children's education, and health care.

Women merit and deserve equal pay for equal work. Congress must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. This will strengthen America's families and our national economy as well. Let us reaffirm the simple truth that when women succeed, America succeeds.

HONORING CAROL KUNZE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative GARAMENDI and Representative HUFFMAN, rise to recognize and honor Ms. Kunze for her great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates like Ms. Kunze. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Ms. Kunze to further our mutual goal of preserving our nation's great open spaces, and we look forward to collaborating in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SIKH COMMUNITY OF CONNECTICUT ON VAISAKHI

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sikh Community of Connecticut, and their dedicated leaders who are working hard to challenge the misconceptions and stereotypes the Sikh community faces in Connecticut, and the nation as a whole. Many American Sikhs face misunderstanding in their schools and workplaces, despite the over 100-year history of the faith in America. I thank the Sikh Community of Connecticut for their work to bring greater understanding of Sikh values to all Americans. In particular, Mr. Swaranjit

Singh Khalsa and the Sikh Sivak Society, who organized an awareness campaign in my district to educate eastern Connecticut residents about Sikhism through public service advertisements seen around town. I was fortunate to meet Mr. Singh in my office recently to discuss the project and the challenges the community is facing.

Sikhism originated in the Punjab region of South Asia, founded on the ideals of devotion to God, service to others, social justice, and equality of all people. Twenty-five million people practice Sikhism all over the world, including 250,000 Sikhs in the United States, making Sikhism the fifth largest religion in the world. Immigration of Sikhs to the United States primarily began in the 1960s, as many came in search of higher education, and stayed to raise families. Indeed, Sikhs have made great contributions to the culture, economy, and society of the United States.

This month, Sikhs all over the world will be celebrating Vaisakhi. This holiday commemorates the founding of the Khalsa, or the collective body of committed Sikhs.

Vaisakhi is a time to acknowledge the values of Sikhism, and the growth of the Sikh community. This year, the Sikh Community of America organized the Freedom March for Sikh Nation on April 9th in Washington, D.C. This event is a time for all Americans to come together to learn about and celebrate Vaisakhi, and bring attention to issues surrounding Sikh identity in the United States.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sikh community for their many contributions to American culture, Mr. Singh for his efforts to bring understanding about Sikhism to my region, and to wish all a joyous Vaisakhi.

TRIBUTE TO ANNIE BRANDT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Annie Brandt for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As the Community Engagement Leader at Thrivent Financial Annie works tirelessly to facilitate generosity across the state of Iowa. She is reminded on a daily basis that the greatest thing a human can do is dedicate themselves to helping and giving to others. Annie exemplifies that professionally and personally. She dedicates her time and talents to a number of organizations in the community including Oakridge Neighborhoods, Des Moines Community Playhouse, Young Women's Resource Center, Habitat for Humanity,