a Harvard scientist, decided to use cheese as a model to research how small microbial communities interact; she focused on the composition of cheese rinds.

Her first career in the cheese business was Mateo Kehler, who taught her to make cheese and then helped her reach out to more than a dozen dairies for samples. "To me, the response was overwhelming. 'I don't think she realized how excited the artisan cheese industry was going to be,'" Mr. Kehler said.

In the fall of 2014, she published her findings in the journal Cell. Working with Benjamin Wolfe, a postdoctoral researcher, she reported that the environment cows, cheese cultures (yeasts and bacteria), and methods (washing, managing acidity) were as important to the development of cheese rinds, if not more so, than the ingredients.

This was a revelation. With this new scientific proof in hand, the Kehlers stopped adding starter cultures to Winnimere, one of the most popular raw-milk cheeses. "What we were adding wasn't growing, and when we stopped adding that, the cheese ripened more gracefully and deliciously," Mateo Kehler said.

These pasteurized cheeses, though still needed starters because pasteurization kills bacteria, also make for good and good for cheese. So they begun to create cultures from bacteria in their own milk supply.

Besides ending their reliance on big business, Wolfe’s genomic data, the team can track the microbes through the entire cheese-making process. "With Dr. Wolfe's data, we can then help our customers understand microbiology, Jasper Hill Farm has become a magnet for researchers near and far. Now working there are an engineer, a microbiologist; and Panos C. Lekkas, a food microbiologist who has investigated the best ways to feed, tend and milk a cow for cheese production.

Dr. Lekkas, who was hired in November to work full time at Jasper Hill, collaborates with Dr. Dutton, now at the University of California, San Diego, and with Dr. Wolfe, who leads a microbiology laboratory at Tufts University.

In addition to helping improve food safety procedures at the 85-person Jasper Hill Farm, Dr. Lekkas is overseeing the development of a new cheese—a French Camembert made from Jasper Hill’s own 250 cows.

The development of cheese rinds, if not more lasting relationships with their Montenegrin counterparts.

Just 2 years later, in 1944, Grace Hopper made her own kind of history, becoming what many consider to be one of the world’s first computer scientists. She invented the compiler that translates written language into computer code and coined the terms “buy” and “debugging.” Fifteen years later, she led the team that developed COBOL, one of the very first programming languages.

More recently, in 1965, Stephanie Kwolek invented Kevlar. We know Kevlar best as the material used to manufacture bulletproof vests, protecting our police officers and first responders in their greatest moments of crisis, but Kevlar is widely considered to be one of the strongest, most durable materials ever invented and has become a critical component in the manufacturing of airplanes, boats, cars, and bridge cables.

I pause to honor these great inventors and scientists because their names should be familiar, but they aren’t. As long as toxic, gender-role stereotypes persist, these women serve as important examples that such stereotypes are only as prevalent as we allow. Women have been serving on the frontlines of war, science, and invention since long before men “allowed” them.
These women and others are part of our untold history. You will rarely hear them discussed in American classrooms, and you will seldom find their stories printed in textbooks. Most people wouldn’t even recognize their names, yet changes and fortunes have been shaped by them. Every day, men go to work protected by Kevlar vests, live their daily lives with the benefit of eyeglasses, or boot up their laptop computer using the devices and tools women gave them. That is both the majesty and tragedy of women’s history: it is inextricable and powerful and entirely undervalued.

This Women’s History Month should not pass without each and every one of us at the very least taking the time to acknowledge and appreciate the women of history who helped to invent modern society, who fought alongside men in every war, who gave us more complete rights and equality, who endured the habitual and everyday scorn of sexism, and who did so generation after generation, without accolade or recognition.

Perhaps the best way to honor the past is to secure the future. The denizens of women’s history didn’t endure systematic oppression or work so hard to change our world so that we would peer backward and applaud. They did so with the hope we would look forward and make progress.

We still have a long way to go, but we have made progress. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, being a woman is no longer considered a “preexisting condition” that warrants higher premiums and deductibles. Also thanks to the Affordable Care Act, preventative services for women—like mammograms, cervical cancer screenings, and prenatal care—are covered by insurance companies. Today more than 48 million American women take advantage of that.

There is the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, women have extended protection in cases of wage discrimination. The Lilly Ledbetter Act finally recognized that, when pay discrimination occurs, it is not a single event, but a chronic and repeated offense that in- flicts ongoing damage with each and every substandard paycheck. This simple and commonsense recognition has allowed women to seek justice against the kind of economic disenfranchisement that has plagued generations.

Progress, however, does not have its own autopilot button. We must be its stewards and its champions. We must be its agents. We must protect it actively, each and every day, or else we will be complicit in its loss.

I am talking about women’s reproductive rights. A woman’s right to make her own decisions is under threat today. Her body is her body. It is not ours, and it certainly is not the government’s. Roe v. Wade decided that in 1973, yet 44 years later the Federal Government is run by a party that uses every tool at its disposal to chip away at reproductive rights. Whether it is State policies to limit the types of buildings abortions can be performed in or the threat to defund Planned Parenthood, women’s rights are under at- tack.

Let’s be clear that Federal funding for abortion services is already banned under the Hyde Amendment. Today’s witch hunt against Planned Parenthood is not substantive in nature; it is a thinly-veiled attempt to prolong a culture war of assuage war with the far-right voters. Women’s reproductive rights deserve more than to be treated as a political punchline. Reproductive rights were hard-won by centuries of activism and pain, and we—all Mem- bers of this Chamber—must vow this month and every month to honor that with our votes and with our voices. We must vow not to let women’s reproductive rights be diminished on our watch.

It is 2017, and still, women are ex- pected to be everything simultane- ously, all while they are refused the tools and the freedom to balance such difficult demands. It is 2017, and still, families—mothers most of all—are too often forced to choose between parent- hood and equality, between recovering from childbirth and their career. No woman, no matter what her line of work or Zip Code may be, should be forced to make such an impossible decision. It is our job to pass legisla- tion to ensure that can happen.

Even with the Lilly Ledbetter legislation, women today are paid, on average, just 77 cents for every dollar men receive for performing the same work. That gap is wider for women of color: African-American women only earn 64 cents to the dollar, while Latina women earn only 55 cents. That is a problem begging to be solved by Congress. That is a problem for all of us. Women are powerful economic en- gines in this country, and if we con- tinue to stand idly by while their work is undervalued, we will all suffer. We will all have to explain to our daughters and granddaughters why we didn’t fight harder for them.

Critically, there is also the issue of violence against women. It is a moral outrage that women experience about 4.8 million intimate partner related physical and sexual assaults every single year. When women stand up and tell us the stories behind this number, we must sit down and listen. We must stop speaking over them with advice on how to protect themselves or avoid cer- tain social situations. They shouldn’t have to endure this; it is insulting to presume they require lectures on personal safety, but that men don’t require lectures on con- sent. This problem demands a cultural shift, and we must be its purveyors.

There is a college affordability. A related issue is access to and participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM, programs and—of equal importance—encouragement to join them. Women need to be better represented in posi- tions of power.

These and other issues are what is at stake. These and other issues are why we recognize Women’s History Month: to remind ourselves and each other that women helped build this Nation and this world. We need to remind our- selves that women are therefore enti- tled to equal representation in it and equal access to it. We need to remind ourselves that women deserve equal respect and equal protec- tion under the law and that women’s rights are human rights. We all prosper when we fight to protect them.

This Women’s History Month should not pass without each and every one of us doing our part. I urge each of you to use the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect 8 years after the date of ratification.

It is that simple, and it is both neces- sary and past time to adopt it.

When Congress passed the ERA in 1972, it provided that the measure had to be ratified by three-fourths of the States, 38 States, within 7 years. The original deadline was later extended to 10 years by a joint resolution enacted by Congress. Ultimately, 35 States rati- fied the ERA by the time the revised deadline expired, leaving advocates a line short.

Article V of the Constitution con- tains no time limits for ratification of constitutional amendments. In fact, in 1992, the 27th Amendment to the Con- stitution prohibiting immediate con- gressional pay raises was ratified after 203 years. The Senate could pass my legislation removing the 10-year dead- line right now. I strongly encourage the majority leader to bring S.J. Res. 5 up for a vote as soon as possible. Amer- ican women deserve to have their most fundamental rights are explicitly protected by our nation’s most vener- ated document.

I have often said that how a nation treats its women is a good barometer of that nation’s potential for success as a whole. I hold the United States of America to that standard. Every day, I weigh the successes and failures we have had along the path toward fair treatment and gender equality, and I assess ways Congress can facilitate that progress. I believe we can determine how best to fight for the Equal Rights Amendment, how best to protect repro- ductive rights, how best to fight for
paid family leave and affordable higher education and greater representation in this very Chamber.

I invite every Senator to do the same, both because those are the right battles and because fighting them protects gender equality progress that has been hard-won by the women of this Nation. We must not allow those victories to be reversed. We must keep progressing.

This Women's History Month, I am reminded of what the poet G.D. Armstrong once said: “Feminism is not about making women strong. Women are already strong. It’s about changing the way the world perceives that strength.” Let us remember it is precisely that strength that has propelled our world forward. It is precisely that strength that serves as the foundation of so many of this country’s successes, and it is precisely that strength we must remember and meet with our own, when women’s rights are under siege.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 25TH AMENDMENT AND TRIBUTE TO BIRCH BAYH

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the 25th Amendment and recognize one of my predecessors from Indiana in the U.S. Senate, Birch Bayh. Birch Bayh represented Indiana for three terms in the Senate, from 1963 to 1981. Senator Bayh was an accomplished lawyer, legislator, and the only non-Founding Father to draft two amendments to the U.S. Constitution that were enacted.

February 2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the 25th Amendment to the Constitution. The 25th Amendment created an orderly transition of power in the case of death or disability of the President and a method of selecting a Vice President when a vacancy occurs in that office. Before its passage, our Nation experienced several occasions when the President was unable to perform his powers and duties, with no constitutional provision for temporary transfer of these powers to the Vice President. The amendment was first relied upon following the resignations of Vice President Spiro Agnew and President Richard Nixon. It also provided the basis for President Reagan to temporarily pass his duties to Vice President George H. Bush when President Reagan underwent surgery.

While we all hope not to have to use the 25th Amendment, having established procedures that continues to guide administrative actions with unprecedented events is essential for any functional democracy. Senator Bayh played a key leadership role in the Senate by drafting this constitutional amendment and ensuring all necessary steps were taken for it to become law.

Senator Bayh also drafted the 26th Amendment, which changed the voting age from 21 to 18. Its impetus was the passage of amendments to the Voting Rights Act in 1970 that set 18 as the minimum voting age for both Federal and State elections. When the Supreme Court ruled in Oregon v. Mitchell that the law applied only to Federal, not State elections, Congress adopted the 26th Amendment over 3 months later, on July 1, 1971, three-fourths of the States had ratified the amendment, making it the quickest amendment ever to be adopted.

In addition to these two constitutional amendments, Senator Bayh wrote the landmark title IX to the Higher Education Act, which mandates equal opportunities for women students and faculty. Senator Bayh was also an architect of the Juvenile Justice Act of 1974, which requires the separation of juvenile offenders from adult prison populations, and he played a vital role in the drafting and passage of the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Since leaving the Senate in 1980, Senator Bayh has committed himself to leadership in civic policy. He has served as chairman of the University of Virginia’s Miller Center Commission on Presidential Disability and the 25th Amendment and as a member of the center’s Commission on Federal Judicial Selection. He is also founding chairman of the National Institute Against Prejudice and Violence, a non-profit, first-of-its-kind organization dedicated to studying prejudice and hate crimes.

Senator Bayh, as you and your wife, Kitty, enjoy your retirement, the contributions you have made to our country endure. The indelible mark you have made on the orderly transition of power and preservation of justice is still celebrated with pride today as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 25th Amendment. Recently, the American Bar Association honored you with a Presidential citation for exhibiting the highest standards of public service as a lawyer and for extraordinary leadership in public issues of law and justice, including the 25th Amendment.

You are richly deserving of these accolades, as well as the gratitude of this Senate and the American people, for your lifetime of service.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL HERBERT “HAWK” CARLISLE

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to offer my congratulations to Gen. Herbert “Hawk” Carlisle on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Air Force this month.

Over four decades of distinguished service, from the Air Force Academy to the Pentagon to leadership in two four-star commands, General Carlisle has been instrumental in advancing the capabilities of our Air Force and improving the lives of its most precious asset—itsirmen.

As commander of Pacific Air Forces, General Carlisle was responsible for Air Force activities spanning more than half the globe, leading 45,000 airmen across the Pacific from Hawaii and Alaska to Japan and Korea. He provided critical strategic leadership as the United States worked to strengthen its commitment to peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region at the time of increasing challenges.

Under General Carlisle’s leadership, the airmen of Air Combat Command pressed the fight against America’s adversaries, delivering devastating effects against violent extremism in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. General Carlisle’s determination and hard work were essential to bringing the Air Force’s F-35A Joint Strike Fighter to initial operational capability—no small achievement for a long-delayed and troubled program, yet one that is so critical for sustaining America’s military dominance into the future.

I had the pleasure of getting to know General Carlisle when he served as director of the Air Force’s Legislative Liaison Office. It was then that I came to appreciate his hard work. Those of us tasked with the oversight of the Department of Defense and our Armed Forces rely upon the candor of our senior military leaders. In my interactions with General Carlisle in various positions throughout the years, whether in private meetings or in public testimony, I could always count on General Carlisle to provide his best military advice on critical defense matters affecting the Air Force and nation. I hope that I will follow in that same spirit of transparency and collaboration. I also hope that my colleagues and I will continue to benefit from General Carlisle’s wise counsel.

Once again, I want to express my sincere thanks to General Carlisle for his distinguished service to our country and congratulate him on a well-earned retirement. I wish General Carlisle and his family all the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:15 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H.R. 584. An act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a plan for the purchase and installation of an earthquake warning system within the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1117. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a plan for the purchase and installation of an earthquake warning system to provide critical early warning in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1224. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a program to use simplified procedures to issue public assistance for certain projects for the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes.