

IN SUPPORT OF COMMEMORATING EQUAL PAY DAY AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Equal Pay Day, a day in which President John F. Kennedy, on June 10, 1963, proclaimed the simple principle that women deserve equal pay for equal work.

The symbolism of this day is expressed in that, as we are more than three months into the year, women's wages are only now beginning to catch up to what men were paid the previous year.

Today, women on average make 78 cents for every dollar earned by men, amounting to an annual disparity of more than \$10,876 dollars between full-time working men and women.

It is important to understand what 78 cents to ever dollar means to a family: \$10,876 could purchase 86 more weeks of food; \$10,876 could afford more than 3,200 additional gallons of gasoline; \$10,876 could support families in incredible ways, and yet, even today, \$10,876 annually is exactly what women currently do without simply because of being women.

For African American women and Latina women, the wage gap is even higher. African American women on average earn only 64 cents, while Latina women earn 54 cents to every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men.

In my home state of Texas, however, the average wage gap for African American women is 59 cents to the dollar. For Latina women, it is an abysmal 45 cents to the dollar.

This is why I support H.R. 1869, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which addresses loopholes in the 1963 Equal Pay Act.

H.R. 1869 would protect employees who voluntarily share their own salary information at work from retaliation by an employer and remove obstacles in the Equal Pay Act to facilitate plaintiffs' participation in class action lawsuits that challenge discrimination.

H.R. 1869 would also better align key Equal Pay Act defenses with those in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, requiring employers to prove that pay disparities exist for legitimate, job-related reasons.

On this Equal Pay Day, I call upon House Republicans, all of whom have so far refused to co-sponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act, to answer this simple question: why are you opposed to woman earning the same amount as men?

I ask House Republicans to stop wasting the time of this Congress with attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act and focus on legislation that would actually help the American people.

Let us call this opposition to the Paycheck Fairness Act, and opposition to all acts of Congress dating back to the 1960's that have attempted to ameliorate the glaring disparities in wages between women and men, for what it is: deliberately and blatantly sexist.

I ask all my colleagues to make the Paycheck Fairness Act a reality.

We should remember: equal pay is not simply a women's issue—it is a family issue.

It is time now to update antiquated pay equality laws and to eliminate the wage gap entirely between men and women.

It is time for equal pay for equal work.

RECOGNIZING THE BURKE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department on the occasion of its 69th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, and to thank its volunteers for filling an essential role in keeping our community safe.

The Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was founded in January 1948, and for more than six decades it has provided life-saving fire suppression, fire prevention, and emergency medical and rescue services to the residents of Burke and the surrounding communities. It also provides, houses, and maintains firefighting and emergency medical equipment, provides opportunities for professional growth and development for the membership, and maintains and fosters a strong viable organization.

As one of the county's most active volunteer fire and rescue departments, the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department works in cooperation with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to serve the community. I am honored to recognize the dedicated men and women of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department who have volunteered for extra duty as Officers or as members of the Board of Directors and include in the RECORD.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Tonya McCreary
Vice-President Joe Shields
Secretary Matt Bryant
Treasurer Ian Dickinson
Larry Bockneck
Becky Dobbs
Rich Guarrasi

OFFICERS

Chief Tom Warnock
Deputy Chief Tina Godfrey
Deputy Chief John Hudak
Administrative Member Manager Cathy Owens

Captain II Melissa Ashby
Captain II Larry Bockneck
Captain II Keith O'Connor
Lieutenant Emily Fincher
Lieutenant Kevin Grottle
Sergeant Shaun Kurry
Sergeant Jennifer Babic
Sergeant Peter Hamilton
Team Leader Paul Stracke

Team Leader and Chaplain Harry Chelpon
In addition to the men and women who have generously assumed the responsibilities of serving as an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors, the Burke Volunteer Fire Department is also presenting awards to the following individuals in recognition of their exemplary service during the last year:

Founder's Award: Patrick Owens
Rookie of the Year: Earl Roberts
Firefighter of the Year: Ian Dickinson
EMS Provider of the Year: Barry Brown

Officer of the Year: CPT II Keith O'Connor
Administrative Member of the Year: Chuck Fry
Career Member of the Year: MT George Hahn

Chief's Award: SGT Shaun Kurry
President's Award: Becky Dobbs
Special Recognition: Harry Chelpon/Kevin Grottle

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the department for 69 years of service and in thanking all of the brave volunteers who do not hesitate to drop everything when the community calls in need of help. To all of these men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect our residents I say: "Stay safe."

RECOGNIZING HUGH MAHR

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hugh Mahr, a West Point cadet from my district who displayed profound courage in saving the lives of two motorists last fall.

Last November, Hugh and his parents encountered a traffic accident on the interstate while on their way to their home in Mt. Auburn. Hugh spared no time in approaching the vehicles, checking both the driver of the car and the driver of the tractor trailer.

He quickly took control of the scene and determined that the driver of the car had a serious head injury. Hugh administered first aid, applied pressure to her wound, and successfully kept her conscious until first responders could arrive. Hugh also kept the tractor trailer driver from being removed from his vehicle until emergency personnel had evaluated the extent of his injuries, possibly saving his life.

Without a doubt, Hugh showed true bravery in helping the individuals involved in the accident. He was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for his actions which, "are in keeping with the finest traditions of military services and reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Corps of Cadets, the United States Military Academy, and the United States Army."

I am immensely proud of Hugh for the selflessness he displayed in offering his assistance to civilians in need. I am glad he will soon join the finest men and women in our Armed Forces upon his completion at West Point.

I thank Hugh for his courage. It is an honor to serve him in the United States Congress.

JESUS NAVARRETE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jesus Navarrete for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jesus Navarrete is a 12th grader at North Valley School for Young Adults and received