

equality and gender equality as we continue to honor the lives and legacies of so many African-American women who truly are hidden figures but who have done so much to make this a better country.

A TRIBUTE FOR ROBERT "BOB" RAWLINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Robert "Bob" Rawlings of Pueblo, Colorado. Bob passed away at the age of 92, on March 24, 2017.

Born in 1924, Bob graduated from Bent High School in 1942. He immediately pursued a college education at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, but, ultimately, he decided to enlist in the Navy that same year.

Bob received a commission from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1943 and served honorably as the executive officer of subchaser 648 in the Pacific campaign of World War II. Bob was part of an effort to liberate over 100 British and Dutch prisoners of war during his time in service.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1946, Bob returned to school at Colorado College and earned his bachelor's degree in economics in 1947. Bob took a job as a reporter at the Pueblo Chieftain, the place he would work for the next seven decades, ultimately climbing the ladder to serve as chairman and as editor of the paper.

Bob always championed his hometown and used his career with the Chieftain as a platform to advocate his passion for Pueblo and for the surrounding region. A vocal supporter of protecting Pueblo's resources, Bob spent 70 years delivering news to the people of southern Colorado. His character and his life's work represent the very best of Pueblo and the entire State of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Rawlings served his community as a philanthropist, a journalist, a sailor, and as a family man. Although Bob referred to himself as the world's worst golfer, Bob will be remembered by so many in his hometown as one of its best citizens.

While I am saddened by his death, I am honored to have known Bob. His presence will be missed by so many, but his impact in the community, however, will be remembered forever.

SPEAKING FOR EQUAL PAY DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of women and men of New York's Ninth Congressional District on this, the anniversary of the signing of the Equal Pay Act by President John F. Kennedy.

It has been 54 years since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law, yet

women in the United States who work full-time, year-round, on average still only earn 80 cents for every dollar earned by men. This amounts to a yearly gap of \$10,470 between full-time working men and women.

For African-American women like myself, the pay gap is even larger. African-American women working full-time, year-round, on average still only earn 63 cents for every dollar earned by White, non-Hispanic men.

In my own district, in Brooklyn, men earn \$49,691, while women earn only \$42,487. Mr. Speaker, that is just not acceptable.

On Equal Pay Day 2017, we are calling upon Congressional Republicans to work with Democrats in getting the long overdue Paycheck Fairness Act enacted into law.

Pay inequity not only affects women, it affects children and families and our national economy as a whole. That is because so many women in our country are the sole or co-bread winner in two-thirds of families with children. Families increasingly rely on women's wages to help make ends meet, and with less take-home pay, women have less for the everyday needs of their families: groceries, mortgages, rent, child care, and doctor visits.

President Barack Obama signed several orders to address gaps in Federal equal pay protections, protecting segments of the civilian workforce from pay discrimination, despite congressional gridlock. Rather than working with Democrats to promote equal pay, House Republicans have voted nine times since 2013 to block the Paycheck Fairness Act from being considered on the House floor.

So let's see whether Donald Trump, who claims he respects women more than anyone else, demonstrates through his deeds in real and substantive plans to do more to help working women and their families.

Mr. Trump, it is time to put the money where your mouth is.

THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF EDNA YODER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of a Kansas pioneer woman. Last week I joined my family in Yoder, Kansas, to celebrate the life and legacy of my grandma, Edna Yoder, who recently passed at the age of 105 years old.

I was very close to my grandma, as many of us are to our grandparents. She was a sweet and kind woman who could tell a good story, never met a stranger, and had an infectious laugh. I spent much of my childhood listening to her hum church hymns while cooking a country meal or quilting another masterpiece.

As one of 14 children, born in 1911, she grew up in another era, attending

school in a one-room schoolhouse, a time without cell phones or television or even electricity and the other modern conveniences we take for granted today. Yet somehow she survived and had a remarkable life. She saw hard times from the Dust Bowl to the Great Depression to countless world events over the past century.

When she was born, women didn't have the right to vote in America; but even well past turning 100 years old, she was voting in local elections, even for President of the United States. She saw a lot of Presidents come and go—19, as a matter of fact.

She saw America progress from a country really still recovering from the deep wounds of our Civil War to the world's most indispensable, vital, and vibrant nation. She saw us defeat Hitler in Nazi Germany. She saw us bring freedom and peace around the globe to men, women, and children who had never experienced it before.

She was born less than 10 years after Orville and Wilbur Wright took off on their first flight at Kitty Hawk, and yet she would watch Neil Armstrong set foot on the Moon while she was just in her fifties. But as the world changed around her, she quietly lived her entire life near Yoder, Kansas, where she raised her children on the same farm that I grew up on.

She worked tirelessly on that farm, milking cows at dawn and bringing in the Kansas wheat harvest in the hot sun. She didn't ask for much: food on the table, a roof over her head, and a better life for her children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we like to call them the Greatest Generation. She was a living embodiment of the values that help make America the greatest country in the world. She was guided every day by her faith in God, and she was truly blessed with more than a century of good health and good spirits in return. She loved her family and deeply believed in hard work and self-determination.

She and her husband, Orie, were married for 49 years, and together they raised their four children and nine grandchildren, and they even watched one of them make it all the way from that farm in Yoder, Kansas, to the United States House of Representatives here in Washington, D.C. Family always came first for her.

In her later years, she passed the time reading her Bible, playing in the bell choir, and, of course, quilting and playing lots of games. In fact, the last time I saw her recently, we played bingo together, and we wiped out the competition at her retirement home one last time. She was sharp into her final hours.

She was born into a home that did not have a telephone, but in her final days, we were also able to communicate from Kansas to Washington via FaceTime so I would have a chance to speak with her.

We recently had her services at the Yoder Mennonite Church, built just

after she born. This was the church she was raised in, was baptized in, was married in, and the church in which we laid her to eternal rest.

From 1911 to 2017, what a ride, what a remarkable life and unforgettable woman. Through it all, she stayed true to what was important to her and what makes America such a strong nation: her faith, her family, and her Kansas prairie values.

Grandma, we were so blessed to have so many years with you. You lived an amazing 105 years. I think if we look closely and we listen closely, you gave us a roadmap for a long and happy life. As you pass on to eternal life, please know that you are an inspiration to all of us every day. May you rest in peace, Grandma.

Mr. Speaker, may you and my colleagues in this body join me in keeping her in your prayers.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless abundantly the Members of this people's House. During this season of new growth, may Your redemptive power help them to see new ways to productive service, fresh approaches to understanding each other, especially those across the aisle, and renewed commitment to solving the problems facing our Nation.

The disagreements on the Hill are profound. Send Your spirit of hope and goodwill upon those who are struggling through current, contentious issues.

May all Members, and may we all, be transformed by Your grace and better reflect the sense of wonder, even joy at the opportunities to serve that are ever before us.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ADAMS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

DENY TERRORISTS THE RECRUITS OF THE NEXT GENERATION

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

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, we woke up this morning to yet more horrific images of dozens of people killed by another chemical weapons attack in Syria.

Mr. Speaker, this included children who were gasping for their last breath as they perished because of the brutal, murderous dictator Bashar al-Assad, who decided that chemical weapons would be used to extinguish their life.

Mr. Speaker, for 6 years, we have failed in the Western world to address this horrific act. In fact, for the first time since World War II, we are accepting the use of chemical weapons as just a normal part of everyday life.

Mr. Speaker, the Western world, the free world, needs to stand up, needs to make clear that Assad needs to go, and needs to stand up for humanity, lest we see these images again.

We wonder how to defeat terrorism. Mr. Speaker, you do it by denying terrorists the recruits of the next generation, of which Bashar al-Assad is creating many.

HAWAII'S PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHERS AND RADIO TECHNICIANS

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend a warm mahalo to Hawaii's public safety dispatchers and radio technicians who provide an essential service to our community.

These hardworking men and women process more than 1.4 million 911 calls each year in Hawaii and are literally the first line of response in an emergency situation. Their ability to relay accurate and up-to-date information is essential to the success of our police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and to the safety of those in desperate need of help.

Last year, Hawaii's public safety telecommunicators helped our State

become one of the very first in the Nation to implement a text-to-911 program that is helping to close the gap in emergency response. This program addresses a very real need for situations where you may have a home invasion or domestic violence scenario where making a phone call to 911 safely is simply not possible.

Mahalo to our telecommunicators for leading the way on this initiative and for your work every single day on behalf of Hawaii's people.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING DONALD BURGETT

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of World War II veteran, noted author, and longtime Eighth Congressional District resident Donald Burgett, who recently passed away at the age of 81.

Don was an Army paratrooper, and he participated in the opening operations of the Normandy invasion with A Company, 506th Parachute Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division.

After his service, Mr. Burgett published four books, including "Currahee!" published in 1967 and endorsed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Mr. Burgett used his photographic memory to paint vivid scenes during the chaos of war.

In addition to his writing, he also was an active member of several veterans organizations, including the VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the Military Order of the Cooties. He was a local builder and loved spending time outdoors.

Don is survived by his wife, Twyla, his 5 children, 12 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren. A memorial is being held for him this week in his honor in his hometown of Howell, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence for this great American patriot.

May God bless Don and his family.

OUR DEMOCRACY UNDER ATTACK

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it pains me to come to this Chamber this morning to say that nothing was done as our democracy came under attack.

We know Russia intervened in our Presidential election. This was not done in the interest of the people, by the people, or for the people of America. It was done to make America a vehicle for Russian interests.

You know that, in 2016, President Trump said he hoped Russia would hack our former Secretary of State's emails. You know General Michael Flynn was forced to resign due to his