

Black women have played a critical role in this Nation's history and evolution, often with little thanks or recognition. Harriet Tubman escaped slavery and bravely returned to the enslaved South over a dozen times to herald her people to freedom on the Underground Railroad. She served in the Union army as a spy, a medic, and the first woman ever to lead an armed expedition; yet despite this immense service to our country, we are still debating her recognition on our currency. A century later, Rosa Parks resisted the continued oppression and marginalization of her people. Before she was the face and organizational leader of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, she led campaigns against the sexual harassment and assault of Black women. The Week on the Status of Black Women offers us a chance to honor and uplift the sacrifices of Black women such as Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks, who gave us so much and received so little in return.

It gives us an opportunity to add new names to celebrate to this list, for contributions that build the future as much as they ground the past. This week of recognition honors so many of whom we are proud, an infinite list at which we can only hint. It includes those hidden figures who did the math to get us to the stars—Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden—and the interstellar figures who have actually been there, like Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman astronaut to travel in space; those consciousness raisers who provoked thought and progress in a country that needed to catch up with them, like Pauli Murray, who graduated first in her class from Howard Law and offered up the visionary arguments that won *Brown v. Board of Education*, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who has issued an international invitation to embrace feminism; those courageous testifiers who spoke out with such foresight, from Anita Hill's willingness to speak her own truth to power, to Tarana Burke, whose compassionate decision to say "Me Too" inspired and named a movement that is changing the world; those athletes and artists who inspire us with their unprecedented feats and the lyricism of their movement, from American Ballet Theater's principal dancer Misty Copeland to America's swiftest young icon on ice, Maame Biney; and those who hold and disseminate knowledge, expanding our horizons and our minds, like Monica Drake, who last year became the first African-American woman on the *New York Times*' print masthead, and Carla Hayden, a visionary librarian who is the first woman and first African American to lead the Library of Congress, the largest library in the world.

We celebrate that this momentous week gives us an opportunity to both enrich the historical record, and to enliven our future possibilities. We know

that raising the stories of Black women in every walk of life teaches little girls to see themselves in all their full and powerful potential.

As we anticipate the future, we must also stand to recognize that, while Black women have dedicated themselves to bettering our country, they continue to face countless barriers to full inclusion and equality in American society. Black women are disproportionately subject to compromising health conditions, such as poor-quality environments in impoverished neighborhoods, food deserts, and a lack of access to basic healthcare—conditions that make them more susceptible to life-threatening diseases such as HIV and heart disease and which often make highly treatable illnesses, like breast cancer, lethal. Single Black women's median wealth is just \$100, while single White women have a median wealth of \$41,000; and White households have a median wealth of 13 times more than Black households. Even more alarming, around half of single Black women have zero or negative wealth, meaning their debt equals or exceeds their assets. On average, Black women workers are paid only 67 cents on the dollar relative to White non-Hispanic men, even after controlling for education, years of experience, and location.

Further, while Black women, especially trans Black women, are exceptionally vulnerable to violence, both at the hands of the state and at the hands of intimate partners, often they are not listened to or believed when they speak out. On all these fronts, we can and must do better, and we will.

In conjunction with the congressional declaration, a coalition of organizations advocating for the well-being of women and communities of color will partner to elevate the stories, histories, and realities of Black women's lives through a series of events entitled "Her Dream Deferred". These events will address a number of issues facing Black women today, including maternal mortality, sexual assault and harassment, political participation, and police violence through artistic expression and academic fora.

Exploring these issues and acknowledging the centrality of Black women to our history and social fabric, along with recognizing the uniquely gendered and racialized inequities they face, is critical as we seek to extend equal rights to all Americans. We hope and request that this year will be a continuation of years past in celebration and recognition of Black women through the Week on the Status of Black Women.

Thank you.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY ANNE SCIUTO

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Mary Anne Sciuto for more than 38 years of service to the Federal Government. As Boston's first full-time congressional liaison, Mary

Anne will retire at the end of March from her post as district congressional lead at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Boston district office.

Mary Anne's expertise, combined with her eagerness to assist the people of Massachusetts, has been an invaluable resource to me and my staff. Throughout her venerated career, she has assisted countless immigrants and refugees and has made the difference for individuals and families who dream of making the United States their home. Though navigating our Nation's immigration system can be a long and complicated process, Mary Anne is widely known for her patience and compassion. She has continually provided my office with important advice and training to ensure that we best meet the needs of our constituents. While she will be sorely missed, her legacy of helping and mentoring so many during her long career will live on.

My staff and I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Mary Anne for her years of dedicated service and wish her well as she embarks on this next chapter in her life.

Congratulations, Mary Anne, and thank you for the enormous contributions you have made to the community, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the United States of America.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO J. MICHAEL "MIKE" NUSSMAN

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate J. Michael "Mike" Nussman, who is retiring next week from the American Sportfishing Association, ASA, the trade association that represents the recreational fishing industry. Mr. Nussman joined the ASA's government relations team in 1992 and became president and chief executive office of the association in 2001. I am proud to call him a fellow Marylander.

Sportfishing provides outdoor recreation for more than 47 million Americans each year. In Maryland, we are blessed with some of the best fishing opportunities in the Nation. From fishing for striped bass—"rockfish"—on the Chesapeake Bay, to fly fishing for trout on the Gunpowder, to fishing for smallmouth bass on the Potomac, we have great waters and angling throughout our State. Whether casting for yellow perch and pickerel on the Eastern Shore or trolling for tuna and white marlin off Ocean City, fishing in Maryland provides opportunities for young people and families to get into the great outdoors and enjoy our public lands and waters.

Like many other outdoor industries, sport fishing is sometimes overlooked as a significant job generator and economic engine. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that, nationwide,