

have served, at Naval Submarine Base New London.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF MR. ROY FUJIWARA

HON. COLLEEN HANABUSA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Roy Fujiwara, a Honolulu resident, decorated World War II veteran, and loyal American citizen.

Mr. Fujiwara was born February 15, 1918, in Seattle, Washington. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on January 17, 1941, soon after Pearl Harbor. He was a patriot prepared to die for his country, telling his family he “was going, but not coming back.”

While he served the United States, his family was removed from their homes and sent to the Puyallup Relocation Center. The family was later separated and sent to internment camps that held Japanese-Americans throughout the war.

Mr. Fujiwara joined the Army’s segregated 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a unit that would go on to become the most decorated in the history of the United States Armed Forces. In 1945, the 442nd was ordered to attack Mt. Folgorito in Italy. From its heights on the western terminus of the Gothic Line, the enemy could block American operations all the way to the coast and for several miles out to sea. The mountain had to be taken for the Allies to advance.

The 442nd made a surprise attack that required a stealthy eight-hour climb up the mountain in complete darkness. Italian partisans led the way, and Mr. Fujiwara climbed carrying the heavy Browning Automatic Rifle, or B.A.R. He remembers the battle at the

summit that nearly cost his life: “The Germans looked for us B.A.R. men because we had the firepower. My buddy got shot, and I could hear him yell, ‘Roy! I’m hit!’ I stuck up my head and the sniper knew exactly where I was . . . Pow!”

The sniper’s bullet hit Mr. Fujiwara next to his right eye and exited his neck, which still today bears a six-inch scar. Not yet spent, the same bullet shattered his right shoulder. His fellow soldiers carried him down the mountain, and he spent 30 days in the hospital with his arm in a cast and his jaw wired shut. Months of rehabilitation were to follow. The 442nd took the mountain, broke the Gothic Line, and the Allies continued to push the enemy out of Italy. Mr. Fujiwara’s two brothers also served in the U.S. Army.

After the war, he returned to find the Seattle Japanese-American community trying to pick up the pieces of its pre-Internment existence. He applied for work at Fredric and Nelson, which he calls the “biggest and nicest department store in Seattle at that time” and worked there 32 years. The store had not hired Japanese Americans until Mr. Fujiwara broke the color barrier. He met and married Sei Kanogawa, who passed away in 2012, and has one son, Tod Fujiwara, who lives in Honolulu.

442nd Regimental Combat Team veterans, including Mr. Fujiwara, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol in November 2011. Mr. Fujiwara also earned the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Combat Infantryman’s Badge for his service.

Mr. Fujiwara turned 100 years old on February 15, 2018, celebrating with his family and friends in Honolulu. He remains a patriotic American and an American hero for serving his country and enduring the wounds his service brought. He has led a productive life, has a great sense of humor, and always conducts himself with dignity, in spite of the many chal-

lenges he has faced. He is a treasure to his native state of Washington, his new home state of Hawaii, and the United States of America. I extend my sincerest birthday wishes to Roy Fujiwara and wish him many more healthy and happy years.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, this Equal Pay Day, I rise to call for the closing of the gender pay gap.

Last year, women earned a meager 80 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

That’s a \$10,000 difference in paychecks or another 100 days of work to earn what men earned just last year.

That’s shameful.

Even more shameful: for women of color, the pay gap is even wider: 63 cents on the dollar for Black women; and 54 cents for Latinas.

In my own district, the gender pay gap stands at 89 cents.

While that is better than most, we cannot rest until women in Central Ohio and across the country are paid dollar-for-dollar.

Congress can help make pay equity a reality by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would make it harder for pay discrimination to infect the workplace.

Because, when women are given a level playing field, companies benefit, families prosper, communities grow, and our economy is stronger.

Yes, when women succeed, America succeeds.