

Mr. Speaker, the Chicago Tribune identified these issues clearly in a masthead editorial printed yesterday. They correctly pointed out that the proposed privately funded \$100 billion trust fund will be more than adequate to meet the needs of victims who currently only look like they will get \$80 billion under the current misguided system.

Mr. Speaker, if one's 401(k) looks like mine, it is really probably just a 201(k). This issue depresses the market and, therefore, the retirement savings for millions of Americans. I ask everyone to contact their representative or Senator and urge them, for the sake of their retirement savings, to pass asbestos liability reform. If we are to return to \$10,000 on the Dow or even better, this reform must pass.

In the next 48 hours, the Senate is scheduled to act and the House must soon follow. There is no economic issue more important, and therefore, this must move to the top of the to-do list for the United States Congress.

#### WOMEN'S ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLANCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, we have had wonderful debate in these halls, both this evening and during the week, on issues of great significance to the people of this country. I am here today to speak to the determination and grace of women in transcending the hurdles they face on a daily basis as they lead others along the paths they have carved out for future generations.

While it is true, Mr. Speaker, that we stand here tonight highlighting the many obstacles faced by women on a daily basis, I would like to take these next few minutes to focus on the strength and dedication exemplified by so many women in my rural district in eastern North Carolina, the First Congressional District.

The First District transcends hurdles and lead others along the paths they carved out, these women, for our future generation. The women of eastern North Carolina are many things. They are mothers and wives and sisters and daughters. They are doctors and lawyers, teachers, cooks, business owners and preachers. Most of all, these women are leaders.

Tonight, I am proud to share with my colleagues stories of women who lead with distinction every day in areas of education, the political arena, housing, and economic development among others.

I can think of no better example to begin with regarding the success for women in leadership than my predecessor in these halls, the honorable Eva Clayton, the first woman to be elected from North Carolina and one of only three to ever join the North Carolina congressional delegation.

For 10 years, the First Congressional District made history with the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. Clayton) at the helm, leading the way on so many issues, among them minority farming, agriculture, housing, education and community and economic development, and her passion, hunger.

Congresswoman Clayton carved out a path upon which I am proud to follow.

Women in eastern North Carolina are leading the way in areas of housing, but while the ownership rates are increasing, women still lag considerably behind the general population in homeownership.

One woman in Wilson, North Carolina, is helping entire communities realize the dream of homeownership. Her name is Fannie Corbett. She served for more than 31 years with the Wilson Community Improvement Association, being a founding member in 1968. Ms. Corbett and her colleagues have spent the last 3 decades moving from improving existing housing to initiating the building of more than 200 houses for families in the Wilson community, including playgrounds, arts, crafts, computer classes, Bible studies and exercise programs.

Women around the country are building quality, affordable housing as they try to help their neighbors, friends and themselves improve their lives. For 31 years, Ms. Corbett, who will retire at the end of this month, led the way.

Helping ensure the children of North Carolina receive quality education they deserve is Dr. Shirley Carraway, from Kinston, North Carolina. A lifelong education professional, Dr. Carraway served for many years in the Pitt County school system, one of the largest systems in my district.

As assistant school superintendent for Pitt County, Dr. Carraway's dedication to educating the young minds of our district saw her recently voted as head school superintendent for another North Carolina county.

On a national level, women lag behind men in earning doctoral professional degrees and are underrepresented in math and science. Dr. Carraway is leading the way to break down these barriers and open the doors of education for all children.

North Carolina ranks number 31 in the Nation for women in managerial and professional occupations and 32 in women-owned businesses.

#### HISTORY OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 60 minutes.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will remain at the lectern, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, all of these women share one great quality, whether they are helping educate our youth, building houses for our families, creating jobs for our workers, or representing the people in the public arena. They all lead. These women are but a few women leaders from the congressional district that I represent.

I want to close by saying that there are so many other women that I could call on and mention in my remarks, but I know my time is short.

I do want to mention Joyce Dickens, president and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Edgecombe Community Development Commission and Andrea Harris, of Vance County, president of the Institute for Minority Economic Development. These and so many other women are blazing trails all over North Carolina and showing that women are great leaders, not only in North Carolina, but more particularly, in the First Congressional District.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks, and I know that the women of his district very much appreciate the kind of attention he is paying to their accomplishments, in particular, and I know that his predecessor would have taken great joy in his remarks. Nobody could be more deserving of his remarks than Eva Clayton, and I thank him for taking the time to come to this floor during this special order when we are, in fact, looking closely at women's issues and women's rights.

First, in recognition of a former trailblazer and Representative Martha Griffiths. Martha Griffiths served in this House at a time when very few women darkened the doors of the House of Representatives, and she died April 22 at 91. Issues that we take for granted today were put on the map by Martha Griffiths so that as we celebrate her life and think of her passing, it seemed to me altogether fitting that we remember that much that women are grateful for today began with and owe to the extraordinary work of Representative Martha Griffiths of the State of Michigan, for it was Martha Griffiths who led the fight to add sex to Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and of course, for me, that one gets to be personal since it became my great honor during the Carter years to chair the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The notion that in the beginning sex was not even included as a form of discrimination can perhaps give us some appreciation for what it meant to have one good woman in the House of Representatives, along with a few others, and many men who supported her.