

Pryor amendment No. 229, to establish the Patriot Express Loan Program under which the Small Business Administration may make loans to members of the military community wanting to start or expand small business concerns.

Landrieu amendment No. 244 (to amendment No. 183), to change the enactment date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, could I ask the Chair—I know we are discussing the bill. But do we have a time constraint? I understand that at 12 o'clock there may be some additional commentary.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no formal time constraints at this time.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Let me try to recap for just a moment because it is my understanding there may be some colleagues coming down to the Senate floor around 12 o'clock to pay tribute to an extraordinary woman and extraordinary American, Geraldine Ferraro, whom we lost this week. I most certainly want to be respectful to the Members who are coming to the floor to pay tribute to our former colleague and an extraordinary leader. But let me remind colleagues we are still trying to get to this bill, an important bill for the country, an important bill to help put this recession in our rearview mirror, an important bill that gives us yet one more very carefully crafted tool to help create jobs on Main Street, in rural areas, in suburban areas, and in urban areas all across this country; that is, the 8-year reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation and Research Program and Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

This program is approximately 20 years old, first passed by Senator Warren Rudman, when a report found its way to Congress that said, alarmingly, agencies of the Federal Government, whether it was the Department of Defense or NASA or NIH, were not accessing the power and the technology of the small business community; that when they went out to do research they were just looking at research offered by either just universities and we are very proud of the work that our universities do, but they were looking at large businesses. What did GE have to offer? What did IBM have to offer?

It occurred to many Members of Congress at that time that there was a tremendous amount of brain power and agility and quickness and cutting-edge, innovative technologies resting in the minds and hearts and dreams of entrepreneurs and small businesses in America the taxpayers were not benefiting from.

As you can imagine, people might think of all this technology coming out of New York or California. They might skip over a place such as Montana where the Presiding Officer is from or Louisiana where this Senator is from. So there were some very wise Members who said: Let's create a program that will direct at least a portion of the research and development funding of

these large agencies so small businesses can compete.

Now, these are grants not given out by formula or on a first-come/first-served basis. These grants and contracts are given out based on merit, about what looks promising, about potential, and about what the taxpayers need in terms of dealing with problems.

One thing that comes immediately to mind is the terrible tragedy unfolding in Japan as we speak with the potential meltdown, the process of a nuclear reactor melting down. Some of the technology being deployed to that situation, which is technology developed in the field of robotics, was developed, a portion of it, through this SBIR Program. So that makes very relevant the debate that we are having on the floor today.

When people go home and now are turning on their televisions or listening to their radios or over the Internet following those unfolding dramatic developments in Japan, they know that one of the companies that has been deployed and some of the material from the United States actually was developed through this program. So that is just one of a thousand examples that Senator SNOWE and I have provided in terms of testimony before the Small Business Committee to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and in our numerous speeches on the floor to talk about the importance of this program.

I would like, as the manager of this bill—I am not sure it is going to be possible, but I would most certainly like to have this bill voted on and passed by the end of this week. I am not sure the leadership has decided that is something that is possible. But I would like to send a strong bill over to the House—hopefully, a bill that does not have amendments on it that would warrant a Presidential threat of a veto—and get this bill passed through the House and then passed on to the President so he can sign it and send a very positive signal for his agenda and all of our agendas for innovation—having America be the best educated, the best competitors in the world in terms of the economy, and giving our small businesses yet another tool.

We have worked on reducing the abuses in the credit card industry. We have worked on capital access through a new lending program. We have reduced fees, reduced taxes to the tune of \$12 billion to our small businesses throughout the country in the last Congress. We want to continue to work on lowering taxes where we can, eliminating regulations and supporting programs like this that work.

Let's eliminate or modify those programs that are not working, and let's step up our support and reauthorize the programs that are. The assessments done and the reviews of this program by the independent researchers have been very positive across the board and outstanding.

Senator SNOWE and I have taken into consideration those many reports in

the drafting of this bill and made some changes to the program so that as it moves forward for the 8 years it will even be better.

One of my key goals and objectives is to make sure States such as Louisiana or Mississippi or Montana or Wyoming, States that have not previously been awarded many of these grants, know we have stepped up some technical assistance and help so we can find the best technology in this country to apply to some of our most pressing problems, regardless of whether they are in the big cities and big places such as New York, Los Angeles, CA. But we need our entrepreneurs around the country to benefit by a program that they have access to as well.

So I am pleased that we can get back on the small business innovation and research bill and small business technology transfer bill. Senator SNOWE and I will be coming to the floor periodically during the day to continue to move this bill along.

I see my colleague, the Senator from Maryland, who is scheduled to speak in just a few minutes. So at this time I will yield the floor. Again, I hope, and I thank our colleagues for their cooperative nature that they have been working in in terms of trying to get our bill passed that will be so important to so many people in all of our States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

REMEMBERING GERALDINE FERRARO

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak for 5 minutes each on the subject of Geraldine Ferraro: Senators BOXER, HUTCHISON, STABENOW, SHAHEEN, SNOWE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. We come to the floor with a heavy heart and great sadness. Geraldine Ferraro, a former Member of the House of Representatives, a Congresswoman from New York who was the first woman to be nominated by a major party for Vice President, has lost her gallant and persistent fight against cancer and has passed away.

I thank the leadership for offering the resolution noting the many contributions she made to America and to express condolences to her family.

For we women, before 1960, Gerry was a force of nature, a powerhouse. She changed American politics. She changed the way women thought of themselves and what we believed we could accomplish.

On July 11, 1984, when Walter Mondale called Gerry Ferraro and asked her to be his Vice Presidential running mate, an amazing thing happened. They took down the "men only" sign on the White House. For Gerry and all American women, there was no turning back, only going forward.

America knows Gerry as a political phenomenon. I knew her as a dear friend and colleague. We served in the House together in the late 1970s. She left in 1984 to run for Vice President, and I left in 1986 to run for the Senate. We were among the early-bird women in the House of Representatives. And as early birds, we were not afraid to ruffle some feathers. We had some good times and passed some good legislation. It must be historically noted that when Gerry came to the House in 1979, only 16 women were there. In 1984, when she left, we had moved to 23. But in 2011, on the day of her death, 74 women now serve in the House, 50 Democrats, 24 Republicans, and 26 of those women are women of color.

In the Congress, Gerry was a fighter. She was a fighter for New York. She fought for transit, for tunnels. She loved earmarks, earmarks that would help move her community forward. She also fought for the little guy and gal. She was known for her attention to constituent services—the senior getting a Social Security check, the vet who needed his disability benefits, the kid from a blue-collar neighborhood like herself who wanted to go to college. And she fought for women. She fought for our status and she gave us a new stature.

When the campaign was over, she continued for all of her life to be a source of inspiration and empowerment for women. In those early days of the second wave of the American women's movement, the movement defined women on what we did not have, what we did not have access to. What was it we didn't have? Equal pay for equal work. It is hard to believe we were not included in research protocols at NIH. And when it came to having access to credit, we could not get a loan or a mortgage in our own name in many circumstances. We needed a husband, a father, or a brother to sign for it. But when Gerry was chosen for Vice President, she showed us what we could be, what modern women in America had become. Women felt if we could go for the White House, we could go for anything. Gerry inspired.

On the night of July 19, 1984, in San Francisco at the Mosconi Center, Gerry gave her acceptance speech. She became the first woman to be nominated for Vice President for a major party. What a night. I was there—the thrill, the excitement in the room, the turbo energy that was there: 10,000 people jammed the Mosconi Center. Guy delegates gave their tickets away to alternates, to their daughters, to people who worked and helped out. They wanted to be there. People brought their children. They carried them. They put them on their shoulders to see what was about to occur.

When Gerry Ferraro walked on that stage, she electrified all of us. The convention gave her a 10-minute standing and resounding ovation. We couldn't sit down because we knew a barrier had been broken. And for the rest, as she

history, there would be more on the way.

The campaign was hard fought. She traveled over 55,000 miles, visited 85 cities, campaigned her heart out. But it was not meant to be. The ticket lost to Reagan-Bush. But though she lost the election, she did not lose her way. Gerry never gave up and never gave in. Her storied career continued: a teacher at Harvard, a U.N. Ambassador on human rights, always teaching, always inspiring, always empowering thousands of women here and around the world.

Then in 1998, she was diagnosed with blood cancer. Once again, she was determined not to give up and not to give in. She began the greatest campaign of her life. She began the campaign for her own life. She fought her cancer. She not only fought her cancer, she also fought for cancer victims. She forged a relationship with Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON as well as my friendship. Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON will tell the story herself. Her brother Allan Bailey suffered from the same disease as Gerry. They met through an advocacy group on multiple myeloma. Allan Bailey and Gerry Ferraro joined hands and joined together and KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON and I did, and we introduced the Gerry Ferraro Research Investment and Education Act. I wanted it to be Ferraro-Bailey, but Allan graciously said, Gerry is a marquis name. She will attract a lot of attention, and we can get more money for research and more interest in this dreaded disease.

That legislation passed. It showed sometimes when we come together out of common adversity, we find common cause and we get things done. That bill passed, and it is changing lives.

Gerry did various clinical trials. Often we talked. This is what she said to me during the last few weeks. She said: I am glad I could be in those clinical trials. In many ways they helped me live. But we also knew the research would provide lessons so that others could live. Once again, her mantra was: Never give up, never give in. She had toughness, persistence, tenacity, and unyielding optimism in the face of adversity.

I believe it came from her own compelling and often riveting story. It was that personal story that brought us together. We were both from European ethnic backgrounds: She Italian, my proud Polish heritage. We grew up in neighborhoods that were urban villages. Her father owned a small neighborhood dime store. My father owned a grocery store, and they were very much involved with their customers and community. We had strong mothers who wanted to make sure we had good educations. When Gerry's dad died, Gerry's mother took a job in the garment industry. She sewed little beads on wedding dresses to make sure her brother and Gerry had an education. Gerry did have that education. She went to Marymount. She became a

scholarship girl because she was so smart and had so much talent. She felt it was the nuns who played such a big part in her life. They coached her to be smart, and they coached her to be a great debater. They taught her about her faith. For her, her faith was about the beatitudes, especially the one that said: Hunger and thirst after justice.

The other day when Gerry and I were talking, she reminded me that not only did she go to Marymount, but so did Lady Gaga. She said: I am just sorry I can't live to go to more alumni associations.

Then there was John, her beloved husband, a love story for the ages. I was there at the church over a year ago when they renewed their vows for their 50th anniversary. Their vows were not just for a day or for a year or a decade. They believed their vows were for an eternity. Gerry loved her husband, and she loved her children Donna, John, and Laura. She was so proud of them—one a doctor, one an accomplished businessman, another a TV producer and also worked on Wall Street. And the grandchildren, there were always the pictures and the stories of their many storied accomplishments.

Gerry Ferraro loved her family. She loved her extended family. That went to her friends and her community. She loved America. Because she believed, as she said to me: Only in America, Barbara, could somebody who started out in a regular neighborhood, whose father passed away, leaving a mother who taught her grit and determination, go on to run for the Vice Presidency of the United States, to be an Ambassador for human rights, and to make a difference in the lives of her family and her community.

Gerry, we will miss you, but your legacy will live forever.

Mr. President, I now turn to the Senator from California, BARBARA BOXER, and then to Senator HUTCHISON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am so proud to be here with my colleagues Senator MIKULSKI and KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON because of a woman who brought us all together despite any differences we might have, Geraldine Ferraro. I rise to pay tribute to Gerry.

I thank Senator MIKULSKI. Her remarks touched on every single point that needs to be made about our friend. Gerry was a trailblazer. We all remember the first female Vice Presidential nominee of a major party, the first in U.S. history. She cracked open that glass ceiling for women seeking higher office. It was a long time ago.

I just looked at an Associated Press photo of when Gerry arrived in San Francisco to prepare for her speech at the convention. I was there waiting for her to arrive—a much younger version of myself, I might say. I don't remember what I said or did, but this picture tells a story. We know the old saying: A picture says a thousand words. This one says a million words. I have never

seen anyone as excited as I appear to be and was in this picture. Arms open wide, body language, just incredulous that we had reached this milestone, all the while knowing what a tough, tough time it would be for Gerry, as it is for many women, whether they run for the Senate or for Governor or for Vice President. It is a tough road still, especially all these many years ago, more than 20 years.

Gerry was given a very hard time by the press. Gerry was given a very hard time by her opponent. She proved without question that women can stand up to the grilling. Women can stand up to the pressure. Women can go toe to toe with anybody. I often say women are equal. We are not better or worse. We are equal. Gerry proved it. When her campaign took a tough turn and a lot of others would have tried to contain the problem, she stood there in front of the press and said: Here I am. You ask me anything you want, and I will stay here hour after hour. They knew she meant it. She would have stayed there for days because that was Gerry. She was open-hearted. She was straight from the shoulder. She always said what was on her mind, and she did it in a way that was also very appealing because you knew this was a woman who was willing to look you in the eye and not give you any song and dance. It was what it was. And for that she will be missed as a friend, as a colleague.

It is difficult today to imagine what it was like then. Now we see our women figures here in the Senate and in the President's Cabinet and in the Republican and Democratic Parties making a run for President and Vice President. It is hard to imagine today that women were not actively engaged in the highest of offices. Frankly, that is Geraldine Ferraro's abiding legacy because, as Senator MIKULSKI so eloquently stated, she did not win that race—it was a tough race; it was a very tough race—but she proved a woman could do this.

When Gerry spoke about change, she felt in her heart the history-making moment. I remember her in a white suit, as if it were yesterday. In those years, TV people always said: Don't wear white. Gerry wore white.

Ms. MIKULSKI. She was beautiful.

Mrs. BOXER. She was magnificent. And that smile and her togetherness—at that moment in history, when not only was the whole country watching, the whole world was watching—it was an electric moment. I want to read what she said that night. She said:

By choosing a woman to run for our nation's second highest office, you sent a powerful signal to all Americans. There are no doors we cannot unlock. We will place no limits on [our] achievements.

If we can do this, we can do anything.

And those words resonated not just with people who were interested in politics but with women who were in the corporate world; women who were going to law school—just a few in those years, now so many more; women who

just dreamed of going into health care, not as a nurse, although some chose that—and some men do as well—but as physicians. This was something I truly believe changed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 5 additional minutes, and then turn it over to Senator HUTCHISON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. It is going to run us way past the recess time.

Mrs. BOXER. Well, Mr. President, there was only one Gerry Ferraro, so I would go 5 minutes and turn it over to Senator HUTCHISON for as long as she would want.

After graduation from college, Gerry got a job as a second grade teacher at a public school in Queens. She applied to Fordham Law School. That is the law school my husband went to. She was accepted into the night program, despite a warning—listen to this—from an admissions officer that she might be taking a man's place. She got into law school. She was one of 2 women in a class of 179. Imagine, they said to her: You will be taking a man's place in law school. She persevered—one of just 2 women out of 179 students graduating in 1960.

Yes, she raised her family. She adored her family. There was not a second that went by without her saying to one of us, anywhere in earshot: I have to tell you about Laura, I have to tell you about John, I have to tell you about what my kids are doing.

Did my colleague want to ask a question?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask if the Senator from California will yield for a brief statement.

Mrs. BOXER. As long as it will not interrupt my statement.

Mr. DURBIN. I will have a longer statement for the RECORD because I know Senator HUTCHISON is waiting, but I want to make one or two comments about Geraldine Ferraro.

Mrs. BOXER. Yes.

Mr. DURBIN. First, my image of Geraldine Ferraro is this young Congresswoman from California, with her arms outstretched, as you raced toward one another in an iconic photograph of the two of you after she won the Vice Presidential nomination. I will remember you and her in that context forever. Second, it was my honor to serve with her in the House and to count her as a friend. Third, in this long, long battle she had, this medical battle, she never failed to remind all of us that she was indeed one of the fortunate ones who had the resources to be able to fight the battle, where many people did not.

I am going to miss Geraldine Ferraro. She was a great American.

Mrs. BOXER. I am very glad the Senator made that statement, and I appreciate it very much.

When Gerry worked as an assistant district attorney, she formed a Special Victims Bureau. She investigated rape, child and women abuse, and abuse against the elderly at a time when no one was talking about it.

She was elected to Congress. Senator MIKULSKI has gone into that, the work on the Economic Equity Act. I was proud to work with both Senator MIKULSKI and Gerry Ferraro on that and Senator SNOWE and others.

I remember Senator MIKULSKI, OLYMPIA SNOWE, Gerry Ferraro, and myself—we worked to open the House gym to women. It was a battle. We had to resort to singing and everything else. We finally got into the House gym. We said, yes, women need to work out too. That is the way it was then. We only had 24 women in the House and Senate. Now we have 88 of us.

I will skip over her time as a broadcaster and all the things she did that Senator MIKULSKI talked about—her work in women's rights—but I wish to conclude with her brave spirit as she faced multiple myeloma, the bone cancer that ultimately took her life. I wish to do it in this context.

I have a good friend now, whose name is Robin, and her mother is battling the same kind of cancer Gerry was battling. As we know, Gerry was given 4 or 5 years and went on, thank God, for much longer.

This woman lives far away from her daughter Robin. When Gerry passed, she called her daughter and said: I need to see you. Will you come out and stay with me, as I battle this cancer?

Robin said: Well, what is it, mom? You are doing great.

She said: We just lost Gerry, and she was the one who kept my heart and soul together and my spirits up, and I knew she was there battling. Now that I have lost her, I don't know, I feel a hole, I am empty.

That is just the most eloquent thing I could say about Gerry. This woman never met Geraldine Ferraro in person, but Gerry had that way about her that she could reach you as if she was touching you. It is a tremendous loss, first and foremost for the family, whom she adored beyond words, and, secondly, for all the rest of us who just need someone like that out there standing up and being brave and telling it like it is and never giving up.

Mr. President, I am so honored I could be here with my colleagues, and I am proud to yield to Senator HUTCHISON for as much time as she needs.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I say to Senator HUTCHISON, the time is allocated as 5 minutes, but I know you want to speak and were a very dear friend. Please proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BOXER.

Mr. President, I do want to talk about this remarkable woman because I think, as has been mentioned before, her loss is being felt throughout America for many different reasons. She was a trailblazer, and she was one of the great female role models of her generation.

I wrote a book in 2004 called "American Heroines: The Spirited Women

Who Shaped Our Country.” It was to profile the women who were the earliest trailblazers in different fields—education, sports, politics, journalism. Then I interviewed contemporary women who were still breaking barriers in those fields.

In the public service chapter, I profiled Margaret Chase Smith because she was the longest serving woman elected to the Senate in her own right at the time and she was a true trailblazer. I then interviewed Sandra Day O’Connor, our first woman Supreme Court Justice, and Geraldine Ferraro, our first woman nominee for Vice President of a major party.

I asked Gerry Ferraro in my interview with her: What was your most important trait for success?

And she said:

I think the ability to work hard and, if something doesn’t work, to learn from the mistake and move on. That’s what’s happened with my own life. It goes to the personal side from watching my mother, who moved on after becoming a widow with two kids to support. She was thirty-nine years old. . . . Then I watched her move on and do whatever was necessary to get the job of educating her children done. I’m exactly the same way. I’ll do whatever is necessary to get the job done, whatever it is. And then if I do something that doesn’t work, then I go to the next goal.

I asked her what was her biggest obstacle. She almost laughed. She said:

I’m sixty-eight. The obstacles in my life have changed with time. An obstacle when I was a kid was being in a boarding school away from my mother because my father had died. I had no choice. It wasn’t like the boarding schools or the prep schools of today. I was in a semicloistered convent. It was lonely, and I had to work hard. I wanted to go to college, but we didn’t have the money for college, so I knew I had to get top marks in order to get scholarships. That was my obstacle then.

Money was always an obstacle when I was a kid. I taught when I went to law school at night, because I couldn’t afford to go during the day. When I applied [for law school], they would say things like, “Gerry, are you serious, because you’re taking a man’s place,” you know. . . .

And then [after getting out of law school]—

As was mentioned earlier, she was one of only two women in her class—

I was faced with the challenge of trying to find a job. I interviewed at five law firms. I was in the top ten percent of my class.

But she did not get a job offer. Well, I related to that because I graduated from law school, after her, in 1967, and law firms in Texas did not hire women then either. So I know how she felt as she went through obstacles and obstacles and obstacles. But she said: In the end, “each thing was an obstacle that I had to get by” at the time. But she didn’t have too many obstacles because she just picked herself up and kept right on going. She truly was an inspiration and a trailblazer for women of our time.

Throughout her life as a public school teacher, as an assistant district attorney, as a Congresswoman, and as a candidate for Vice President, Gerry

Ferraro fought for the causes that were important to her. When she learned she had multiple myeloma, a somewhat rare blood disease that is incurable, she drew upon that same fighting spirit. As she waged the battle with her own disease, Gerry stepped into the spotlight because she knew if she talked about it, with her high profile, she could bring help to others.

Her testimony before Congress was instrumental in the passage of a bill that Senator MIKULSKI, who is on the floor leading this effort today, and I co-sponsored together in 2001 and 2002. Our legislation gave the research community the tools they need to discover what triggers these deadly blood diseases, to devise better treatments, and to work toward a cure. In our bill, BARBARA and I decided to name the Geraldine Ferraro Blood Cancer Education Program for Gerry Ferraro to raise awareness and spread the lifesaving information about myeloma, leukemia, and other forms of blood cancer. Gerry Ferraro was on the floor of the House when her bill—our bill—passed the House of Representatives on April 30, 2002. Her daughter was in the gallery with my staffer, and there was so much joy in her eyes and her demeanor.

But then Gerry Ferraro went about the business of fashioning the education program. She consulted with the doctors at Harvard, at Dana-Farber, with Dr. Ken Anderson, her doctor. She consulted with him because she wanted an interactive Web site because she knew that doctors all over the country were searching for information on the treatment of this disease because they were so unaware at the time of what you could do to help patients.

Well, this is personal to me because my brother Allan also has multiple myeloma, and I got involved in this because I watched him bravely fight like Gerry Ferraro was doing. And my brother is a great patient. He is tough like Gerry. He is fighting like Gerry. And he is doing really well. But we knew how hard it was because we watched Allan fight this disease and take many of the same drugs and have the same doctor consultations as Gerry. So Gerry and Allan knew each other and traded information, and the patients with these diseases do that. They reach out, they help each other because they know it is the person with the experience who knows how you feel when you just don’t feel as though you can get up in the morning. People such as Kathy Giusti, who was also a good friend of Gerry Ferraro’s, and Ken Anderson, they traded information, and it helped all of them to know they had that kind of support.

So she was an inspiration. Her dignity and grace in fighting multiple myeloma will be one of the trademarks in her life, along with the other great trailblazing she has done.

Just last month, the women of the Senate pulled together to return the encouragement. We knew Gerry was having a hard time, and we took a pic-

ture of the women of the Senate, we all signed it around the edges and we sent it to her, saying: Thanks for being our champion. Thanks for all you do for the women of our country.

Gerry was not just a champion for women running for public office, she was a champion for women to succeed in every field, in every sector. She took the first powerful swing at the glass ceiling. She will not be here to see the woman President who is sworn into office, who will finish the breaking of that glass ceiling. But we will all be standing on the shoulders of Gerry Ferraro, and certainly that first woman President will as well, because she took those first steps, such as so many of the early trailblazers in all the different sectors. The first ones don’t see their success, but what they do by showing the dignity and the courage and the tenacity and the grace does prepare the way for the next generation or the next woman to move to the next level, and that is what Gerry Ferraro has done for all the women of our country.

I will always remember her friendship. I appreciate her leadership. We will all miss her on a personal level, but we will always remember in the bigger picture what she did for this country.

Thank you, Mr. President. I thank Senator MIKULSKI. I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I yield the floor to Senator SNOWE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to join with my good friends and esteemed colleagues, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI of Maryland and Senator BARBARA BOXER of California, as we honor a compatriot of ours from the House of Representatives, an electoral trailblazer, and political torchbearer—the incomparable and courageous, Geraldine Ferraro, who passed away last Saturday after a brave and resilient 12-year battle with cancer.

As this august body will hear many times over, Geraldine was a pioneering champion and a dynamic force for women and women’s rights, a stalwart legislator and colleague of all three of ours in the U.S. House of Representatives, and always a dear friend through more than three decades. As America’s first female Vice-Presidential nominee for a major party, Geraldine has forever secured a legendary position along the timeline of American political history, as Walter Mondale selected her as his running mate in the 1984 Presidential election.

(Ms. MIKULSKI assumed the Chair.)

While America was learning about Geraldine on the national stage, BARBARA MIKULSKI, BARBARA BOXER, and I knew her as a legislative, sister-in-arms, if you will, as all of us served together in the U.S. House of Representatives. Geraldine and I were members of the same House freshman class that began service in January 1979 that brought the total number of women in the 96th Congress in the House to 16.

And all four of us fought for myriad causes, most especially those affecting America's women. Looking back, I take enormous pride, as I know both Senators MIKULSKI and BOXER do, that we spoke as women first, not as Republicans or Democrats, that women's issues transcended partisan lines for us. The fact was, we just couldn't afford to draw partisan lines with women underrepresented in Congress. And that idea is what drove our agenda at the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, which I cochaired for over 10 years in the House of Representatives and where Geraldine Ferraro was also at the vanguard in amplifying issues for literally generations of women.

Our adherence to working together—and to the ideal of principle over politics—became our foundation. We determined if we didn't act, who would? And we started to make a difference for women, and not a moment too soon. Indeed, there was indeed a time in America when our laws specifically worked against women, when economic equality pertained only to economic equality among men—not women, when our laws didn't reflect the changing, dual responsibilities of women who were increasingly working as well as caring for a family.

Well, we weren't going to accept the status quo any longer, and certainly Geraldine was not one to ever countenance the notion of "that's just the way it is." To the contrary. We confronted these disparities for women head on and introduced a package of laws that opened the doors of economic opportunity for the women of America by revising laws and giving women the tools required to succeed. That package was the multifaceted Economic Equity Act. Among a litany of provisions, we called for a study of the government's pay practices, sought to ensure equal credit for women in business ventures, and battled with Geraldine Ferraro who led the effort to end pension award discrimination against women who were discovering upon their husband's death that, unbeknownst to them, they had been left with absolutely no pension benefits.

And in a group of women legislators that was not, shall we say, comprised of shrinking violets, no one gave greater voice to these issues, no one demonstrated more passion in their advocacy, and no one pressed for remedies to right these wrongs with more verve or skill than Geraldine Ferraro. She was a bulwark against injustice and a cherished champion for fairness in an America where women were increasing their roles in American life and their presence in the U.S. workplace and economy.

On a personal note, I can't help but think that part of our mutual bond was that we came from similar backgrounds. Our families immigrated to this great land—hers from Italy and mine from Greece. Our heritages spoke to the very best of our Nation's mosaic

and the American dream where anything is possible and the only limits you have are those you place on yourself. Indeed, the New York Times mentions how Geraldine's mother crocheted beads on wedding dresses to send her to the best schools. My Aunt Mary worked the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. night shift at a textile mill in Lewiston, ME, to earn money to ensure my cousins and I received a good education. Although Geraldine and I didn't agree on everything, we shared an unequivocal determination to make a lasting difference on issues for women and working families—an unerring focus that surmounted politics and party labels.

Not surprisingly, more than 30 years later, Geraldine's legacy lives on through the 74 women serving the other body today, as well as the 17 women currently serving in the Senate. How fitting it is that on the Monday after she passed away, my 16 Senate women colleagues and I submitted a resolution advocating for women's rights in North Africa and the Middle East. We have the moral high ground in that clarion call in no small part because of Geraldine's historic leadership and legacy.

In closing, I can't help but recall the great Lady Astor, who was the first woman to ever serve in the British House of Parliament. In fact, on the day she took her seat in that distinguished body, a Member of Parliament turned to her and said, "Welcome to the most exclusive men's club in Europe." Demonstrating the kind of moxie and sense of obligation that were hallmarks of America's Geraldine Ferraro, Lady Astor responded "it won't be exclusive for long," she said. "When I came in, I left the door wide open!"

Geraldine Ferraro espoused and exemplified what Lady Astor so memorably articulated—that it is not enough to break old barriers and chart a new course, you have to ensure that others are able to traverse it as well. Geraldine spent a lifetime making certain that the path she helped pave was available and accessible to every woman with the courage and will to travel it. And so, today, it is a privilege for me to extol this remarkable woman whose indelible imprint upon the political and public policy arenas will be felt for generations to come.

At this most difficult of times, our thoughts and prayers remain with her husband of 50 years, John—as well as their children, Donna, John Jr., and Laura and Geraldine's grandchildren. May they be comforted by the knowledge that so many share in their profound sense of loss, as well as the memory of a trailblazing woman who, above all else, was an adoring and beloved mother and grandmother who leaves an indelible mark upon her family, as well as an entire Nation.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I know we are about to recess, but I wish to take a minute or two to add my voice to all the women in the Senate who have been here today and thank the Presiding Officer for her leadership for encouraging us to honor Geraldine Ferraro.

I remember being on the floor of the 1984 Democratic Convention when she gave her acceptance speech for the Vice President of the United States, and it was electric listening to her. It epitomized for me, and I am sure every woman there, the fact that women could do anything.

Geraldine Ferraro worked tirelessly on behalf of human rights and women's rights around the globe. She dedicated her public service to the ideals of respect and equality and she lived a career that called on all women to challenge the glass ceilings of the world. I think it is particularly important because just because one woman breaks the glass ceiling doesn't mean opportunities are open to every woman, and she understood that and continued to encourage all the ceilings across the world to be broken for women.

Gerry's life was a powerful example for all of us who are honoring her today and for our daughters and granddaughters. We thank her for leading the way. She will be missed.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to reflect on the life and legacy of Geraldine Ferraro who lost her heroic battle with cancer on Saturday.

Geraldine Ferraro was first elected to public office in 1978 to represent Queens in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As a member of the Public Works and Transportation Committee, she pushed to improve mass transit around La Guardia Airport.

Later, she would cosponsor the Economic Equity Act, which was intended to accomplish many of the aims of the never-ratified equal rights amendment.

In 1984, former Vice President and a distinguished Member of this body, Walter Mondale, chose Gerry to join him as his Vice Presidential running mate, the first woman to be placed on a national ticket.

I was privileged to serve as the mayor of San Francisco in 1984 where the Democratic Party held its convention that election year.

Twenty-seven years later, as I look back on that time, I realize what an important and historical moment her selection was to American politics.

I recall the emotion and enthusiasm of people—men and women—at the Moscone Center in San Francisco when Gerry took the podium.

Sixty-four years after women won the right to vote, Geraldine Ferraro represented a new beginning for our politics. It was an amazing feeling.

While the election didn't go the Democrats' way that year, Gerry's selection was a victory for a generation

of young women who saw that anything is possible and no position in government has a “men only” sign on the door.

As the first Vice Presidential nominee of a major party, she not only put a crack in the glass ceiling that year, she demonstrated the dedication and the competence of women in the political arena.

I didn't know her well, but I do know her experiences well.

I know how tough it was as a woman running for political office—only to find out everyone else was discussing the style of your outfit.

I know how tough it was to be one of the first elected officials to speak using phrases like, “As a mother,” or “If I were pregnant . . .”

I know how tough it was as a woman debating men in political debates and then when it was over, debating a dozen reporters.

I know how tough it was as a woman who fought and won for change to live to see other women make a dozen other cracks in that glass ceiling.

But the same ideals Geraldine Ferraro fought for during her public life are the same ideals we fight for today.

It would be another 24 years after that night in San Francisco before another woman from a major party was nominated for Vice President.

And even though Hillary Rodham Clinton came close to being nominated in 2008 as the Democratic Presidential candidate, a woman has yet to occupy the Oval Office.

There are only 16 other women besides myself serving in the U.S. Senate. In the 435 Member House, just 71 are women. And just six States have women Governors.

Despite these statistics today, Geraldine Ferraro's career and example gave women across the country hope and heart.

At the time when Gerry Ferraro and I were in office, people had reservations about women in office. So the press pushed you further and further—just to see how smart you were or how you would react.

When I was mayor, I had to do more homework than my counterparts; I had to be prepared for every possible question—more questions and detail than my counterparts.

There was a judgment that women were not effective. But that judgment of effectiveness has changed.

It took some time, but women in office have shown we are capable of offering legislation, working to pass it, and being just as effective as our male counterparts.

Geraldine Ferraro gave it her all. She gave women everywhere an example of determination. She continued that drive when she supported other women in national office.

And she will continue to give us all hope and heart for decades to come in her place in history.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life, achieve-

ments, and legacy of Geraldine Anne Ferraro, who paved the way for aspiring women leaders and politicians across the Nation and the world to reach the highest positions of power.

Geraldine dedicated her life to defending women's and children's rights and helping the less fortunate, whether in public service, as an attorney, as a Congresswoman, or as Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Her career was a turning point for women in politics, and an inspiration for women everywhere.

In the early 1950s, when women were not expected to attend college, Geraldine was already breaking through the “glass ceiling.” The daughter of Italian immigrants, she worked her way through college and in 1956 became the first woman in her family to receive a college degree. In 1960, she graduated with honors from law school, where she was one of only 2 women in her graduating class of 179 students. She became a strong advocate for abused women and for the poor while serving as assistant district attorney for Queens County, NY, where she headed a new bureau that prosecuted sex crimes, child abuse, and domestic violence.

Her passion to change America for the better took her all the way to the U.S. Congress, where she fought for equal pay, pensions, and retirement plans for women. She was also a leader on environmental issues. In 1984, she led passage of a Superfund renewal bill and called for improvements in the handling of environmental site clean-ups.

Geraldine will be remembered not only as a pioneer for women's and children's rights but for human rights around the world. As the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Geraldine supported the Commission's decision to condemn anti-Semitism as a human rights violation. And in 1995, she led the U.S. delegation in the historic Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

But what Geraldine will forever be remembered for is that she made possible what was previously unthinkable, that a woman could be a candidate for Vice President of the United States. When former Vice President and Presidential candidate Walter Mondale selected Geraldine Ferraro to be his running mate in 1984, she became the only Italian American to be a major-party national nominee as well as the first woman.

In 1984, Geraldine fought a tough race, venturing into uncharted territory and blazing a trail. Even though Geraldine lost that race, she went where no woman had ever been before, teaching us that “when women run, women win.”

A tireless champion for women in the political arena, Geraldine helped women politicians gain a stronger voice and run for public office. It is because of Geraldine that women today,

including myself, can go even farther than before. Generations of female politicians will forever stand on her shoulders.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, an incredible woman died this week after a long and hard-fought battle with cancer.

Geraldine Ferraro led a trailblazing life, constantly achieving and proving the naysayers wrong.

She was one of two women in her graduating class from Fordham law school, taking night classes after teaching all day.

She was an attorney in a male-dominated New York District Attorney's Office.

She was the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from New York's 9th District in Queens—a district that most people assumed would not elect her, not because she was a woman but because she was a Democrat.

If she had done nothing more, Gerry Ferraro would have earned her place in history.

But then, on July 11, 1984, just 64 years after American women won the right to vote, Geraldine Ferraro agreed to be Walter Mondale's running mate in his race for the White House—the first time in history that a woman had ever run on the Presidential ticket of a major political party.

“I didn't pause for a minute” she later wrote.

It's hard for many people today, particularly young people, to understand what a revolutionary act it was for Geraldine Ferraro to agree to break that barrier. Less than 20 years earlier, want ads in American newspapers were still segregated into “men's jobs” and “women's jobs”—and believe me, Vice President of the United States was not listed under “women's work.”

As a result of Gerry Ferraro's courage, the doors of opportunity swung open for millions of women—not just in politics, but in every profession.

She said often that “[c]ampaigns, even if you lose them, do serve a purpose . . . [the] days of discrimination are numbered.” She was right.

For the last 12 years of her life, Gerry Ferraro fought a terrible blood cancer called myeloma. Once again, she was a pioneer, using a new drug which enabled her to live well beyond her physicians' initial estimate.

Each injection cost over \$1,000 and she went to twice weekly treatments. She was always aware that she was fortunate to be able to afford those life-extending treatments. Even when times were the worst, Gerry Ferraro was an eloquent and energetic advocate for more funding for cancer research, and for help for the 50,000 Americans who are living with cancer and can't afford the treatments for their illness.

Gerry's mother taught her the first lessons about being a strong and independent woman.

When Geraldine was just 8 years old, her father died. She saw her widowed,

immigrant mother work long hours as a seamstress so that she could afford to send her children to good schools. She was living proof for Gerry that, with hard work, you can make a good life for your children in America. She never forgot what her mother did for her and kept her maiden name after she married as a sign of respect.

Gerry Ferraro was a true egalitarian. When she learned that because she was married she was paid less than male attorneys, she quit and ran for Congress. She fought for the equal rights amendment and cosponsored the Economic Equity Act to end pension inequality.

President Clinton appointed her to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and later the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

I had the opportunity to serve with Gerry in the House of Representatives in a very difficult time, and I am honored to have called her my friend. I offer my deepest condolences to her husband John, her children Donna, Laura and John Jr., and her eight grandchildren. Geraldine's passing is a great loss for so many people, but her hard work and accomplishments will continue to live.

Mr. REID. Madam President, America's favorite people are pioneers. We are a nation that celebrates those who first touched the moon, discovered the technologies that changed the world, and fought for what is right before everyone else.

We believe in the brave and admire those who believe in their own dreams—those who pursue them fearlessly, who leave a trail for the rest of us to follow and a legacy to emulate.

This week, America honors a woman we will always remember for breaking one of the highest glass ceilings in history. For two centuries, in election after election, Americans went into voting booths and saw lots of Williams and Johns and Jameses on the ballot. Then, in 1984, they saw the name Geraldine.

As the first woman on a major Presidential ticket, Geraldine Ferraro continued America's proud pioneer tradition. It wasn't the first time she led the way. Congresswoman Ferraro worked her way through law school at a time when few women did so. When the people of Queens, NY, elected her to the House of Representatives she was 1 of only 16 women Members. There was only one at the time serving in the Senate. Today there are 76 women serving in the House—one of whom was the first woman Speaker of the House—and 17 in the Senate.

I served in the House of Representatives with Congresswoman Ferraro and am deeply saddened by her death. She was an inspiration to my daughter and nine granddaughters, and to all of us who believe in our Nation's eternal pursuit of equality. On behalf of the people of Nevada—a State settled, built, and strengthened by pioneers—I honor the memory of my friend, Geraldine Ferraro.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:42 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. WEBB).

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FINANCIAL TROUBLES

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I wish to talk about our Nation's financial troubles. Over the years, I have supported a balanced budget amendment, spending caps, and spending cuts. Recently, we had a proposal to fund the government for the remainder of the fiscal year, and I voted against it because I felt we needed to do more than the amendment proposed.

The fact is, we need to do much more. I agree Congress should cut expenses. But taking whacks at only 12 percent of the budget—that part of the budget that is the so-called discretionary spending portion outside of Defense, that is not part of the mandatory spending, such as all the entitlement programs, and that is only 12 percent of the budget and includes funding for education and roads and bridges and medical research and NASA and environmental research—even if we whacked all that, it is still not going to solve the problem.

Cutting this domestic discretionary spending alone is barely a bandaid, let alone a real cure.

What we need is a comprehensive long-term package. For example, when American families fall on hard times, they just do not cut back on eating out or going to the movies. The American family is forced to make wholesale lifestyle sacrifices. Or take, for instance, when a company, a corporation, faces the threat of bankruptcy. They do not only cut salaries or stop buying office supplies, they go in and restructure entire delivery schemes and future investments.

In the same way, we just cannot focus on slicing what is the conversation that is going on down in the House of Representatives right now, slicing one small part of the budget, which is discretionary spending, because that is not going to reduce the annual deficit and get at the national debt. We have to do more.

Even if we cut huge swaths of discretionary spending, including the programs that help those who need it the most, our expenses for all the other programs in government, mandatory programs, are still growing exponentially. So everything has to be on the table.

Now, how in the world are we going to do this in the next few days? By the time the clock runs out on April 8, where we are faced with funding the government for the remaining 6 months of this fiscal year, how are we going to do it? What would it look like if our debt keeps growing?

Well, the Federal Government is going to have to start writing huge checks to our creditors. Who is a creditor? China is a creditor, and we are having to write for them huge checks on interest payments alone. We will not have anything left to pay for things that we promised to our people, and no one else will want to lend us any more money.

The money people have spent their lives paying in to Social Security may not come back to them unless we can solve this budgetary crisis. Bonds that have been bought and held for decades will go down in value if we cannot meet our debt obligations. Of course, if we do not get to the point that we can pay our debts, then the stock market could even have a worse crash than we had last time.

So if we do not address this pending debt crisis now, our children and grandchildren could be sorely affected by the financial condition of this country in the future.

Every economist we have listened to lately has said that we need to provide certainty to our creditors and to the markets. In other words, they need to know that we will get our debt under control before interest payments skyrocket and overwhelm our obligations. No one knows how long we have before our creditors get nervous and start to make it harder for the United States to borrow money. But they all agree we have to put into place a long-term plan instead of waiting to act until the crisis is upon us. The crisis is coming. It is coming on April 8. That is the first crisis.

Assuming that we can get through this and get the government funded for the remaining 6 months of the fiscal year—until the end of September—the next crisis that is coming is the debt ceiling—probably in early June—that has to be raised in order for the government to pay its obligations.

And then we are going to have to have a plan for next year's budget, the fiscal year that starts October 1, in order to get the votes to increase the debt ceiling. So between now and June, first in a couple of weeks, and then in a couple of months, we are going to have to devise a comprehensive plan.

I am going to support cuts across the board. I am going to support cuts in discretionary spending. But I also want