

Mr. DeBergalis lived most of his life in Buffalo's Lovejoy neighborhood. He took pride in his heritage and community, holding membership in the Big Timers Italian-American Club. In his down time, he enjoyed a variety of activities including gardening, cooking, and stone carving.

Mr. Speaker, I kindly ask you to join me and our colleagues as we stand in this moment to honor the life of Mr. Louis C. DeBergalis and offer our deepest condolences to his family.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, women played a tremendous role in the 2012 elections—including fighting for equal pay. Today, we commemorate Equal Pay Day, the time typically three months into the new year that it takes for women's wages to catch up to what men were paid in the previous year. This is an annual reminder that the wallets of America's women are not as heavy as they should be because women face pay discrimination. Even when accounting for education, industry, and hours worked there remains a wage gap.

Women's lifetime earnings will never recover from the persistent reduction in wages they receive relative to their male counterparts. Nationwide, women make 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. While these sound like pennies, in fact they add up to a yearly gap of \$11,084 between full-time working men and women. This decrease in take home pay affects not just women but also their families.

In New York City, which I'm proud to represent, women who work full time are paid 85 cents for every dollar paid to men who work full time, adding up to a yearly gap of \$8,429. As a result, New York City's women collectively lose more than \$23 million a year because of the wage gap. This is simply unacceptable for working women and their families in New York and nationwide.

In the 111th Congress, I was proud to serve as the first female Chair of the Joint Economic Committee. At the end of my tenure I issued the report, "Invest in Women, Invest in America: A Comprehensive Review of Women in the U.S. Economy." This comprehensive report included research done by the Committee, testimony from several hearings, and GAO reports assessing the detrimental gender wage gap for part-time workers and older Americans as well as wider discussions of women's continued under-representation in management level positions. As I said in that report, "The decisions we make today will have dramatic impacts on our nation's future economic well-being, and we must carefully consider what those decisions will mean for women, both as consumers and as producers."

There is a remedy to this persistent problem of unequal pay. I have consistently supported the Paycheck Fairness Act, commonsense legislation that gives women the tools to fight wage discrimination and provides stronger workplace protections for working women. This Congress must stand up for working fam-

ilies and provide for the basic rights and fairness of 51 percent of the U.S. population.

34TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, for sixty years the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of mutual political, economic, cultural and strategic benefit. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations from the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the People's Republic of China in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) to ensure that the United States would have continued commercial and cultural relations with Taiwan. This year marks the 34th anniversary of the TRA.

This important piece of legislation codified the basis for relations between the U.S. and Taiwan and has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

Today, Taiwan is one of the leading U.S. trading partners and, in my district, accounts for the second-largest percentage of cargo activity at the Port of Long Beach.

It is my hope that the United States and Taiwan will continue to work together to promote enduring peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

HONORING MS. LANA FELTON-GHEE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Lana Felton-Ghee, a constituent of Pennsylvania's 1st District, for her 66th birthday.

Born, raised and educated in Philadelphia, Lana is well known for her successes in business and politics. Graduating from Temple University, Ms. Felton-Ghee led a longtime, high profile career in marketing and public relations. She established her own business in 1995, Lana Felton-Ghee Associates, Inc., and took on challenging projects in our area and throughout the country. Her expertise was recognized nationally, and she became a key consultant on campaigns for figures such as Mayor Ed Rendell and President Bill Clinton.

Throughout her busy and successful career, Ms. Felton-Ghee also made time for a fulfilling family life and is a proud mother of four and grandmother of ten.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring Ms. Felton-Ghee and her birthday. Ms. Felton-Ghee is the epitome of a life-long Philadelphian and a model citizen. We can all learn something from her fortitude and her commitment to her career, her city and her family. She has been known to say that "there is no place like Philadelphia," but Philadelphia would not be nearly as bright a place without her vibrant and dedicated personality.

CONTRACT SCREENER REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the "Contract Screener Reform and Accountability Act."

Together with my colleagues in the House, Representative NITA LOWEY of New York and CEDRIC RICHMOND of Louisiana, I am introducing this legislation to reform, enhance oversight of, and provide greater workforce protections to the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) contract screener program known as the Screening Partnership Program (SPP). I am very pleased that a companion measure is being introduced in the other chamber by Senator SHERROD BROWN of Ohio.

Specifically, the "Contract Screener Reform and Accountability Act" would:

- Bar subsidiaries of foreign owned corporations from providing for security screening at domestic airports under the SPP;

- Mandate covert testing of contract screeners so that their performance can be monitored and compared to airports where screening is carried out by TSA and protect the integrity of those tests by imposing penalties for compromising such testing;

- Require security breaches at airports with contracted screening services to be reported;

- Ensure national security through requiring training for the proper handling of sensitive security information at SPP airports;

- Provide new compensation, benefits, and whistleblower protections for screeners; and
- Enhance customer service for the flying public who are screened at SPP airports.

With enactment of the "FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012" (P.L. 112-95), subsidiaries of foreign owned corporations are permitted, for the first time since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, to provide screening services at our nation's commercial service airports. This change in law was enacted without debate about the security implications and despite the need, in the current economic climate, to encourage opportunities for U.S. companies rather than outsourcing work and diverting taxpayer dollars to subsidiaries of foreign owned corporations.

The reforms concerning covert testing are necessary in light of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General's previous finding that the contractor for screening services at San Francisco International Airport (SFO), the nation's largest and busiest airport with contract screeners, compromised covert testing.

It is imperative that the integrity of covert security testing be protected so that we are assured that contract screeners perform at the same level as Transportation Security Officers.

TSA has reported numerous security breaches occurring regularly at airports with contract screeners, including at SFO. These breaches include contract screener personnel not detecting prohibited items such as knives and bullets in carry-on baggage, improperly clearing passengers without verification of their identity, and not conducting the required additional screening of passengers referred to secondary screening.

For example, on August 21, 2009, a passenger at SFO alarmed the walk-through

metal detector and was referred to the secondary area for additional screening. The passenger promptly let herself out of the holding area and collected her accessible property. It was three minutes before an employee of the private screening company noticed that she was missing.

More needs to be done to prevent security breaches at SPP airports.

Similarly, given that the documented mishandling of sensitive information can have tragic consequences, more needs to be done to prevent such violations as well.

Today, TSA does not have a process in place for ensuring that all employees of corporations with contracts for screening services receive training on the proper handling of sensitive information.

This is the case despite several instances of sensitive security information having been mishandled by employees of corporations with contracts for screening services under the SPP.

For example, on July 18, 2010, a new hire training manual containing sensitive security information (SSI) about screening practices was stolen after a private security company employee in possession of the manual removed it from SFO. In response, TSA sent a letter to the company that conducts screening services for SFO, as well as to all other SPP contractors, directing that any SSI materials be retained in a secure fashion at the airport and only removed with expressed, written permission of a TSA Contracting Officer.

I understand that similar incidents have occurred at other SPP airports. However, since TSA has not always taken action or documented their actions to correct the mishandling of the SSI information, reports on such incidents are currently unavailable.

Regarding workforce protections, the bill would protect workers' pay and benefits by requiring that when an airport privatizes, the private screening company provide Transportation Security Officers employed at the time of the switch the right of first refusal to screening jobs and offer compensation and benefits equal to or greater than what they received at the time the contract was awarded.

No worker on the front lines in securing our aviation system should lose their job, see a reduction in pay, or lose benefits because an airport opts to utilize a private screening company.

As all of my colleagues can attest to, customer service at airports, and in particular in the security screening lanes, is an issue that evokes passionate reactions from constituents all across the country.

Currently, there is no requirement that private screening companies report customer complaints regarding their screening experience to TSA or Congress. The bill would provide the public an avenue for expressing concerns with screening at airports with contract screeners, thus ensuring that the flying public's concerns can be addressed.

In the wake of the deadly attacks of September 11, 2001, TSA was created to secure all modes of transportation so that a terrorist attack on the scale of 9/11 would never happen again.

Since TSA's earliest days, it has struggled to fulfill its mission, but, with every passing year, it matures and improves as a security agency. Opponents of TSA have not forgone any opportunity to exploit a misstep to ad-

vance their ultimate goal—the dismantling of TSA. At the same time, they have willfully turned a blind eye to lapses, breaches, and problems at airports secured by contract screeners.

Just as we must act to strengthen TSA's security operations, it is imperative that we address SPP's glaring security challenges.

It is my hope that the "Contract Screener Reform and Accountability Act" be enacted to ensure that we do just that.

HONORING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF ARTHUR EVE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the former Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, and my former colleague, Arthur O. Eve, on the occasion of his 80th birthday. A Korean war veteran, factory worker, national political activist, and tireless advocate for all those forced to occupy the margins of society, Art's selfless public service inspires me to this day.

Born in New York City and raised in Florida during segregation, Art arrived in Buffalo in February 1953. Having just earned his Bachelor's of Science from West Virginia State College, he enlisted in the United States Army. Art honorably served our country, fighting in the Korean War from 1953 to 1955. While serving his tour of duty in Germany, he managed a program for orphans, foreshadowing his legacy of advocacy for children, the elderly, the homeless, the poor, and all others who suffer discrimination.

In 1955, Art completed his service and returned to Buffalo, securing a job at a local Chevrolet plant. It was there he first observed the desperate plight Buffalo's youth. Due to a complete absence of role models and guidance, young people often succumbed to drugs and other criminal activities. A former All-High basketball player in Florida and an All-European player in Germany, Art intimately understood the immeasurable benefits of role models and organized activities in children's lives.

Art became inspired to quit his job at Chevrolet to seek a position in parks and recreation. He found civil service jobs, the foundation of our city, were rarely awarded based on merit. Determined to transform the system from within, Art joined the local Democratic Party and soon earned his position in the Parks Department.

A true reformer, Art was the sole ward leader who remained separate from the political establishment by 1958. He became known for his courageous independent activism and civil rights advocacy, which led to his election to the New York State Assembly in 1966.

Art dedicated his extraordinary tenure in the Assembly to representing those who others ignored. During his first term, he pioneered efforts to secure \$500,000 to begin the State University of New York system's SEEK/Educational Opportunity Program. The program provides financially disadvantaged students with academic support and supplemental funding to facilitate their pursuit of higher education. As of 2013, the program had \$3.5 million worth of funding.

Art's reputation as a champion of equality spread. Ahead of his time, Art supported many issues that remain relevant today, including legislation in favor of expanded access to healthcare and against hate crimes. By the 1970s, colleges in New York had established the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program to aid students without scholastic or financial resources. In 1988, the Kennedy Center recognized Art's legacy with their prestigious Distinguished Leadership in Arts and Education Award.

In 1979, Art became Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly. His tireless work towards equality and human rights brought national attention to the New York State Assembly. As Deputy Speaker, he was the highest ranking African American in the New York State Legislature. He was a founding member of the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, and served on the committee of public officials who attempted to quell the conflict at Attica State Prison. He remained Deputy Speaker until his retirement from the State Assembly in 2002.

Art's rise to political prominence demonstrated great strides for the African-American community. In Buffalo, Art became the first African American to win the Buffalo Mayoral Democratic Primary. During his campaign, he led a historic voter registration drive, registering thousands of new African-American voters. Nationally, Art served as an adviser to Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign.

I feel highly privileged to have served with Art in the State Assembly from 1999 to 2002. During my time there, I valued Art's advice and counsel. As a new legislator in Albany, I treasured the wisdom and companionship of my colleague and fellow advocate for Western New York. To this day, I feel extremely fortunate to have shared time in the New York State Legislature with Art.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to celebrate Arthur Eve's extraordinary work in honor of his 80th birthday. I am profoundly grateful for his service and friendship, and continue to be inspired by his incredible legacy.

IN OBSERVANCE OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember those who perished during the Holocaust and to honor those who survived.

This week, when the world observes Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, we recall the 6 million who died at the hands of the Nazis. We remember their stories—as sons, daughters, mothers, fathers. Whole communities have been lost.

This week, Congress will assemble for a memorial service for the Days of Remembrance to pay our respects to the victims of the Holocaust.

In Washington, DC, Yom Hashoah is commemorated as part of the Days of Remembrance sponsored by U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. The theme of this year's event is "Never Again: Heeding the Warning Signs." The theme raises questions: