

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, we commemorate Equal Pay Day, the typical time three months into the year when a woman's wages finally catch up to what men were paid the previous year. This symbolic day illustrates the blatant gap that still remains between men and women's pay earnings, with women continuing to make 77 cents for every dollar a man makes. It is an urgent reminder that we must work together to secure equal pay for equal work.

When you discriminate against a woman, you discriminate against her entire family. Today women serve as the sole or primary breadwinners in 40 percent of all households with children under the age of 18. In addition, two out of three families now depend on the wages of working moms. Our country is evolving; today only a fifth of American families have a male breadwinner and female homemaker. It is time to promote pay equity on behalf of these families.

Closing the wage gap between men and women would cut the poverty rate in half. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that the poverty rate among women is the highest it's been in 17 years, with 17 million women living in poverty last year compared with 12.6 million men. The 77 cents to the dollar that women make relative to men adds up to \$11,084 a year in loss of income. This impacts her lifetime earnings and hurts her retirement savings. Over the age of 65, nearly 52 percent of women are categorized as economically vulnerable by the supplemental poverty measure versus almost 42 percent of men at the same age. If the slow pace of increase continues, it will not be until 2058 that hard-working women receive pay equity and are able to close the wage gap that will allow them to enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

It is estimated that greater pay equity between men and women would add nearly half a trillion dollars to the U.S. economy. The first female Chair of the Federal Reserve, Janet Yellen, has been vocal in her praise of women's increasing participation in the workplace and contributions to our overall economy. Between 1970 and 2009, women's participation in the workforce jumped to nearly half of all workers, going from holding 37 percent of jobs to nearly 48 percent. Women have made similar advances in higher education and receive almost 60 percent of the bachelor's degrees granted in the United States. Still, one year after college, female graduates receive just 82 percent of what their male counterparts make. This unjust pay gap only increases as they become older; women are paid just 69 percent of what men earn 10 years after college graduation.

In this year's State of the Union, President Obama drew attention to the wage gap, saying that this level of inequality in 2014 is unacceptable. He prioritized congressional and private sector action on fair pay and fair leave policies so that women can achieve the equality they deserve.

Women make tremendous contributions to our economic wellbeing. Unequal pay is a reality in modern America but it doesn't have to

be. There is wide support for equal reimbursement—73 percent of Americans favor equal pay for equal work. I agree, and that's why I support the Paycheck Fairness Act. It is time for us to prioritize the long-term well-being of the nation's hardworking women, many of whom are heads of households, and immediately pass this critical legislation to help ensure equality in the workplace.

CONGRATULATING PRINCIPAL DON FARR FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Don Farr, the principal of Monmouth-Roseville Junior High School, who has been named the Middle School Principal of the Year by Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association.

Principal Farr has served as a principal for 17 years. He is active in the Illinois Principals Association as well as numerous community organizations, including the Roseville Community Center, the Warren County YMCA, the Roseville Masonic Lodge and the Monmouth Chamber of Commerce. He also passes on his experience by teaching classes in Middle School Methods and Strategies at Monmouth College.

As a proud mother of three sons who were educated by our public schools, I know firsthand the importance of administrators who work with teachers and the community to create a positive school climate and do what is best for our students. I'm glad that the Illinois Principals Association and Horace Mann are recognizing and honoring Principal Farr for his excellent work.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again congratulate Principal Farr for his outstanding efforts on behalf of students in our community and wish him the best in the National Middle School Principal of the Year awards.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER JAMES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Christopher James of Davis Brown Law Firm in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Christopher in the United

States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. James for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Christopher on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

SYDNEY AND THALIA POTTER

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Mr. Sydney Potter. As our neighbors in the Tampa Bay area know, you cannot talk about Sydney without also talking about his amazing wife, Thalia. Sydney and Thalia were true partners dedicated to their family and to serving our community. Sydney passed recently, but today I am happy to honor their countless accomplishments and unsurpassed reputation for improving Hillsborough County.

Sydney and Thalia Potter married in 1944 and raised their family along the banks of the Hillsborough River in 1955. Both Sydney and Thalia had distinguished professional careers. Sydney served most of his career as Secretary-Treasurer of I.W. Phillips & Company before managing a distribution office for Ace Hardware. Thalia had an outstanding career as a legislative aide which began with Florida State Representative Ed Blackburn in the early 1970's and continued with State Senator Pat Frank as well as State Representative Jim Davis before her retirement. Throughout her career, Thalia was known for her scrupulous ethics, impeccable attention to detail, and unparalleled skill for serving constituents with kindness and poise.

Sydney and Thalia's love of the Hillsborough River led them to be longtime advocates for environmental stewardship. In the words of close friends, Sydney and Thalia "were green before green was cool." Their activism led to the passage of environmental protection bills for the Hillsborough River as well as led to the completion of projects that successfully reversed erosion along a local riverfront park and pushed local officials to allow more freshwater to flow from the upriver dam to replenish the river's ecosystem. In 1997, they also helped organize Citizens for the Responsible Application of Malathion (CRAM), which successfully stopped the spraying of dangerous pesticides over the citizens of Hillsborough County. Sydney and Thalia's leadership in environmental conservation and preservation has had an immeasurable impact on the community and the future of the Tampa Bay Watershed.

Sydney and Thalia's dedication and community service has led to their recognition by several prestigious organizations. Thalia was awarded the Sierra Club's Pine Tree Award in 1998 for achievement in group activism and, later that year, Sydney was awarded the Club's Gopher Tortoise Award for support of a member in important activist effort. In 2008, The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County announced the establishment of the