when women's wages for the period beginning January 1, 1999, will equal the amount earned by a man during calendar year 1999.

Since the passage of landmark legislation like the Equal Pay Act and the Civil Rights Act, women's participation in the labor market has increased dramatically. Unfortunately, their pay has not.

Women continue to earn less than men for comparable work. U.S. Census data from 1998 shows that women earn only 73 cents for every dollar earned by men.

Equal pay is a problem for all working women. For example, the 95 percent of nurses who are women earn $30 less each week than the 5 percent of nurses who are men.

Unequal pay doesn't just affect women, it affects our entire economy.

I had hoped that I would be able to bring forward the resolution that Representative Morella and I introduced recognizing Equal Pay Day. Unfortunately, the Republican Leadership in the House refuses to acknowledge the significant effects of unequal pay on working women and their families.

This Congress can do more than rest on the laurels of equal pay legislation that passed over 30 years ago. I urge all Members of Congress to commemorate Equal Pay Day. Let women in your district know that you will pursue the passage of equal pay legislation in the 106th Congress.

IN HONOR OF OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Older Americans Month.

For more than 35 years, the President of the United States has designated May as Older Americans Month—the month when we honor our 34 million older Americans whose contributions helped to make the 20th century the American century.

This year's theme—''In the New Century . . . The Future is Aging''—highlights the impact that those extraordinary contributions had on nearly every aspect of society for future generations of Americans. It also gives us a chance to draw attention to aging issues that policy makers will face as the ranks of older Americans swell in the coming decades.

The next century is expected to be a golden age for seniors, with life expectancy increasing and predictions that older people will outnumber children for the first time in history.

The least we can do is assist those who have given all they can and want to continue to live healthy, active lives.

We started on the right path when we repealed the Social Security Earnings Limit. No longer will the tax code penalize those seniors who choose to stay in the workforce during their golden years.

But there is more to do. For one, we can renew the Older Americans Act, which has not been reauthorized since 1995. Since that time, our nation's seniors and the programs established to serve them have faced an uncertain future.

The Older Americans Act has been a special program for over 34 years. Using a small slice of the federal budget, the Act has provided hot meals, legal assistance, employment for seniors, and services for the homebound. Because these programs help our seniors to remain active, healthy, and a part of their communities, we must make the Act's reauthorization a priority.

And there are other challenges to face—ensuring that Social Security will be viable for this generation and others, finding a way to furnish long-term care security, and providing a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

But let's not get lost in the minutiae of policy—May is about honoring our seniors, not advancing an agenda.

So, on Friday, I will travel to Darien, Illinois, in my congressional district to celebrate their Older Americans Day. We will honor those who contribute to our communities as grandparents, parents, workers, volunteers, and role models. We will honor those who are the keepers of our traditions and teachers of our values.

I urge all my colleagues to follow Darien's led and to use the month of May to celebrate the great gifts older Americans bring to our lives. And let's help our older friends, parents and grandparents make their lives and our lives more rich and rewarding for many years to come.

IT'S ONLY FAIR

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, a day that symbolizes the financial struggles that women must endure because of the ever-present wage gap.

In the workforce, women are at a clear disadvantage. They are paid less than their male counterparts for doing the same job. Women are paid on average 74 cents for every dollar men received of $148 less each week. Women of color are faced with an even worse prospect. African American women earn 64 cents for every dollar men earn or $210 less each week. Hispanic women fare the worst. They earn only 54 cents for every dollar men earn.

This pay inequity is hurting families in every part of our country. A working woman's family loses on average $4,000 each year due to this inequity. And in Illinois, the numbers are even worse. Women in my home state lose on average $4,913 a year.

The inequity compounds over the years. A 25-year-old working woman will lose $523,000 during her lifetime as a result of this wage gap. And when she retires, she'll collect a smaller pension and less Social Security.

There is no denying that a pay gap exists today. When comparing the wages of women and men who have the same job, qualifications, education and background, men win.

As we begin the 21st Century, we must eliminate inequities in the workplace. We must do this for the sake of our next generation of women leaders. When my granddaughters Isabel and Eve are ready to enter the workforce, I want to make sure that they earn the same as their male counterparts. It is only fair.

IN HONOR OF THE WOMEN'S DIVISION 2000 SPRING LUNCHEON JOURNAL OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL FEDERATION OF BERGEN COUNTY AND NORTH HUDSON

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the honorees of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson.

Today, the UJA Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson holds its Women's Division 2000 Spring Luncheon Journal, an event that proudly celebrates the heritage and solidarity of the Jewish community, while honoring the women who have tirelessly worked to preserve Jewish identity.

This year's honorees are Dr. Adrienne Greenblatt, Lilo Ollendorf, and Susan Shaw. These three exceptional women represent the life-blood of community service—their contributions to the Jewish community will long endure.

The UJA Federation serves more than 70,000 Jewish people living in 65 Bergen County and North Hudson communities. The 2000 Spring Luncheon will raise money to help the elderly, people with developmental disabilities, and families in crisis. Funds will also be used to help integrate Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union into American society.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Adrienne Greenblatt, Lilo Ollendorf, and Susan Shaw for their extraordinary contributions to the Jewish community.

TRIBUTE TO JIM NICHOLSON

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, each year the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans honors outstanding citizens who, overcoming humble or adverse circumstances, become leaders who dedicate themselves to others and serve as role models for youth.

I am proud to report that Jim Nicholson has been chosen as a 2000 Horatio Alger Award recipient.

He was a child raised in bitter poverty, who won an appointment to West Point, led troops in Vietnam, practiced law, built a successful homebuilding and land development company, and served as a volunteer leader to help numerous community and charitable organizations. His faith, family, and commitment to education have been the foundation for his success.

Jim Nicholson now serves as chairman of the Republican National Committee, a post he has held since 1997. His tireless efforts, his optimism, his courage, and his integrity have contributed markedly to restoring public confidence in the ethics of American political leadership.