

across the country to celebrate the mothers in our lives—in mine, my wife Marcelle, my daughter, friends, and other family members. Mother's Day is an important reminder of just how essential these inspirational women are to their families, their friends, and their communities.

Mothers—and all women—are also essential to the fabric of our economy. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, just four decades ago, fewer than half of mothers were in the American work force. Today, 70 percent of mothers are working outside the home, and one-third of working mothers are the sole wage earners in their households. More than 30 percent of Vermont families rely on working moms as the exclusive wage earners in their homes.

The numbers are staggering. Yet working moms still fall behind in equal and fair pay. The Joint Economic Committee of Congress recently released a report showing that working mothers earn 3 percent less than women without children, while fathers earn 15 percent more than men without children. Working moms also face the potential of missing scheduled wage increases or bonuses, if they take time away from the workforce to care for a child.

Vermont has been a national leader in leveling the playing field for working moms. In 2002 the Green Mountain State enacted its own Equal Pay Act, making it illegal for employers to offer anything less than equal pay for equal work. The Federal Government has fallen behind, and it is far past time for Congress to approve the Paycheck Fairness Act. This legislation, authored by one of the trailblazers in the Senate, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI (D-MD), builds on efforts that date back more than 50 years to ensure a balanced and equal playing field in the workplace for women.

Of course, equal wages are not fair wages if they are not livable wages. According to the Joint Economic Committee, working mothers in families in the bottom 20 percent of households contribute an astounding 86 percent to their families' income. In an overwhelming majority of cases, these families are supported solely by a mother. That is just one of the many reasons we need to ensure that wages are not just equal and fair, but also livable. Two weeks ago I joined with Senator PATTY MURRAY (D-WA) and 31 other Democratic Senators to propose legislation to raise the minimum wage. The Raise the Wage Act will provide a staggered increase in the Federal minimum wage, from \$7.25 to \$12.00 by the year 2020. It is the right thing to do, and it is the fair thing to do, for working mothers, for our families, and for our Nation's economy as a whole.

Mother's Day is always an opportunity to show the moms in our lives just how valued they are. It is past time for Congress to do the same, and to act on commonsense bills like the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Raise the Wage Act.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD A. RITCHIE

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, this week, the Senate will say goodbye to the Chamber's current Historian, and welcome him to the ranks of Historian Emeritus. Donald Ritchie has observed, studied, and documented the workings of the U.S. Senate for almost four decades. Only the second person to serve as the Historian of the Senate, Don has been with the Senate Historical Office since shortly after its creation.

Beginning in 1976, Don spearheaded the Senate Oral History Program, for which he interviewed dozens of former senators and their staff. He documented firsthand recollections of those individuals' time with the Senate, major events and debates, and how the institution evolved during their tenure. In the 1990s, the Senate Historical Office began making transcripts of the interviews available at various libraries and archives, including the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress and the Senate Library. These accounts are fascinating, and remind us of the intricacies—both in public and behind the scenes—of legislating in the U.S. Senate. The Oral History Program was a colossal undertaking, and one congressional scholars will study for many years to come. Don's work on this program was exceptional.

In addition the Senate Oral History Program, Don and the Senate Historical Office maintain and make available historical documents, statistics, and provide historical background and how it may pertain to current events. In addition to his enormous undertaking, for years, Don has provided enlightening—sometimes humorous, always informative—vignettes to Members and staffers of moments in history, from now famous—or infamous—committee proceedings, to turning points in historical Senate debates, to the personal interactions and relationships among Senators that often don't make the history books.

My wife Marcelle tells me that Don is always welcomed at the Senate spouses' luncheon because of his valuable insights.

Don often reminds us of our roots—how our many traditions began—and how the Senate, as a continuing body, has evolved, decade to decade, generation to generation. He reminds us that for all our political disagreements, progress in the Senate requires some measure of consent. The history of the Senate is clearer because of the talents of Don Ritchie. The time has come to thank him for his decades of service and to wish him well as he assumes a new title of Historian Emeritus.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD FRANCIS "PAT" PATIERNO

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to one of the foundational figures of the U.S. global demining effort, Mr. Donald Francis "Pat" Patierno.

Pat is retiring after more than 20 years of global demining leadership both at the State Department's Office of Humanitarian Demining and subsequently as a member of the board of directors and four-term president of the 501(c)3 Mine Advisory Group, MAG, America.

Pat was the first Director of the Office of Humanitarian Demining where he organized and led the U.S. Government worldwide demining program for nearly 10 years. Under his determined and capable leadership in those formative years, U.S. participation expanded its efforts to remove the scourge of landmines, unexploded bombs and shells left behind in former areas of conflict. From its modest beginnings that program today is working around the world to save civilians from becoming limbleless victims of past wars.

Before his retirement from the State Department in 2006, Mr. Patierno oversaw a \$60 million program that supported humanitarian mine action assistance to over 40 countries. Subsequent to his retirement, he joined the board of directors of MAG America to carry on his humanitarian work in the area of demining and unexploded ordnance. At the same time Mr. Patierno served as the U.S. advocate for the Slovenian-based International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance. Mr. Patierno became president of the MAG America board in January 2011. So strong and dedicated was his leadership that at the request of the board, he served four 1-year terms as president.

Many Senators know of my long interest in stopping the death and maiming of civilians from landmines and other unexploded ordnance left behind when conflicts end. The carnage does not stop when the soldiers cease combat: civilians continue dying and suffering long after the fighting stops, and they continue to do so today. That is why I, as former chairman and now ranking member of the Department of State and Foreign Operations subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee have so strongly supported the dedicated work of Pat Patierno and his colleagues.

I close by expressing my admiration of and appreciation for Pat Patierno's selfless service, outstanding leadership, commitment, determination, and tenacity in this most noble and worthy cause.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, on May 14, 2015, the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library organized, elected a chairman, a vice chairman, and adopted committee rules for the 114th Congress. Members of the Joint