

April 3, 2001

PAYCHECK EQUITY EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. MIKE HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today is a significant day for American families. On one hand, it represents injustice, marking the amount of time required for a woman to earn the same pay as a man: an additional three months into the next year. On the other hand, this day marks the continuation of an ongoing struggle, the battle for an American ideal: Equality.

Today, I stand in support of working women and the American family. Today, I stand in support of equal pay for equal work.

On Equal Pay Day, we are reminded of the facts in the contemporary American workplace:

The average working woman working full time earns about 76 cents for each dollar earned by the average man;

The median wages of female college graduates fall behind those of male college graduates by \$14,665;

This pay disparity applies for all age groups. For example, women ages 35-44 earned about 72 cents per dollar and women ages 45-54 earned about 70 cents per dollar, compared to men.

The inequality in pay is not just morally wrong; it renders real harm on American families and our national economy. This gender wage gap means \$4,000 less per American family and over \$200 billion less in the American economy.

We need to act now, and that is why I support H.R. 781, "The Paycheck Fairness Act," authored by my distinguished colleague, the distinguished gentle lady from Connecticut, ROSA DELAURO. This bill creates stronger enforcement, greater measurement, and better incentives against discrimination in wages based on gender.

These are the facts, and they challenge our national integrity. They challenge our commitment to equal rights and equal treatment. They challenge us to action. The majority of Americans support equal pay for equal work. It is time for Congress and the President to finally hold our nation accountable to the promise and ideals embedded in our Constitution.

EQUAL PAY PROTECTION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, when President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law on June 10, 1963, women on average earned 61 cents for each dollar earned by a man.

Today, working women only earn 73 cents for every dollar earned by men, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

President Kennedy told his fellow citizens that he was taking the first step in addressing "the unconscionable practice of paying female

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

employees less wages than male employees for the same job.'

While progress has been made, still more needs to be done and, if Congress acts this year, more can be achieved.

In my state of California, families lose a staggering 21 billion dollars of income annually to the wage gap.

If women in California received equal pay, poverty in single mom households would go from 19.2 percent to 9.2 percent.

Women in the Inland empire for example loss on average 4 thousand dollars every year because of unequal pay.

This is money that can't buy groceries, housing, child care, clothing for their families.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 781, The Paycheck Fairness Act and the Fair Pay Act, legislation currently pending in Congress that is designed to help eliminate the wage gap that still exists between men and women.

Many working women lack the basic benefits they need in order to care for their families.

They are our grandmothers, mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, and colleagues.

They are our doctors, lawyers, teachers, caregivers, and leaders.

Women lawyers earn \$300 less than male attorneys.

Female doctors make \$500 less than their male colleagues.

Wages for female nurses, where 95 percent are women, are \$30 less each week than male nurses who only make up 5 percent.

Waitresses weekly earnings are \$50 less than waiters' earnings.

The situation is even worse for women of color. African American women earn only 67 cents and Latinas 58 cents for every dollar that men earn.

The wage gap impacts women's retirement also. Women have less to save for their futures and will earn smaller pensions than men.

We need to recognize working women and we need to pay them equally.

On the job, working women are looking for higher pay, better benefits and, most of all, the three "Rs": Respect, Recognition and Reward for a job well done.

Half of all older women receive a private pension in 1998 got less than \$3,486 per year, compared with \$7,020 per year for older men.

Before the end of this year, let's pass this legislation to finally make the work of America's women valued, fair, equitable and just.

Let's work to bring equal pay to every woman in America.

They deserve it and their families deserve it. Let's get the job done.

TRIBUTE TO JASON WILLIAMS

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Plainfield, New Jersey's own star, Jason Williams. Jason, who is an All-American basketball player for Duke University, lead his team in their 82-72 NCAA National Championship victory over Arizona on Monday night, April 2, 2001.

All of Plainfield and New Jersey are proud of our hometown hero, Jason Williams. As a student athlete, he has shown tremendous leadership and dedication while playing at an incredible level—all while under the pressure of the national spotlight.

The top-ranked Duke Blue Devils won the national title Monday night under the leadership of Jason Williams. The 6'2" point guard has been one of the Duke's biggest offensive weapons all season. After scoring 16 points in the win over the University of Arizona Wildcats, the All-American guard has scored 154 points in six tournament games (ninth of all-time). A pass from Williams enabled Shane Battier to score a slam-dunk, making the score 77-72 with 2:31 left on the clock. Then Williams clinched the Blue Devils' victory with a 3 point shot with 1:45 left, giving the Blue Devils an eight-point lead.

Williams has been a leader all season long in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), registering 21 points and 6.3 assists a game and earning the All-ACC First Team nod as well as the East Regional's Most Outstanding Player. Williams spent this past summer helping to train the U.S. Olympic basketball team as a member of the U.S. Select Team that scrimmaged against the Dream Team.

As a graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, New Jersey, Williams lettered in basketball all four years. Among the awards he won: the Morgan Wooten Award given annually to the nation's top prep school player, first team All-America selection as a high school senior by USA Today, Street & Smith, and Hoop Scoop, two-time all-state selection, first team all-county, all-area, and all-Parochial accolades during his career. As a two-time team captain, he set school records for most points scored in one game with 43 and the most total points with 1,993 high school career points, averaging 24.0 points, 8.0 assists, 4.0 rebounds, and 3.0 steals.

I commend Jason Williams for his leadership and congratulate the Blue Devils on their victory.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF CESAR CHAVEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the great American heroes of our time, Cesar E. Chavez. Throughout his life, Cesar embraced nonviolent tactics to lift up the lives and spirits of millions of people and to advance the cause of equality and social change, particularly for migrant farm workers.

At an early age, young Cesar and his family were forced from their ranch because of an unscrupulous land deal. They went to work in the fields. Cesar traveled throughout California and followed the seasonal work and attended 37 schools before dropping out after the Eighth grade in a great sacrifice to his father, who was injured in an accident, and his mother, whom he didn't want to work in the fields.

He joined the U.S. Navy at Seventeen and returned to the San Joaquin Valley in California and became involved in community action programs.

Even though his own formal education was limited, later in life education became his passion. He was inspired by the teachings of a Catholic priest and by the writings of St. Francis, Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and once said that, "The end of all education should surely be service to others." Cesar put that belief into practice and formed the National Farm Workers of America, which later became the United Farm Workers, and began a great social movement to fight for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, decent housing and outlawing child labor.

Chavez used fasting, marching rallying picketing and boycotting to call attention to the plight of the farm workers who endured great pain and exploitation to put food on tables of millions of American families.

In 1965, he led the Delano grape strike and a 340-mile march across California, which gained national attention and ended in an agreement to improve wages for farm workers. Chavez's work did not end there. He led another boycott to protest the use of dangerous pesticides in the fields, and in 1973, he led another strike against lettuce growers for higher wages.

"La Causa" had broad-based support not only from farm workers and Latinos, but from labor unions, religious groups, minorities and students. The UFW became a symbol of empowerment and pride for many workers throughout the nation for over three decades. Throughout the movement, Cesar Chavez never lost his direction or his soul. Although he had won national and international fame, he continued to live a simple life based on sharing and frugality. Chavez even engaged in life threatening fasts to keep the movement alive and rededicate it to the principles of non-violence.

Cesar Chavez died in his sleep on April 23, 1993. He died while he was defending the UFW against a lawsuit brought by a California lettuce and vegetable producer, which demanded that the farm workers pay millions of dollars in damages resulting from a UFW boycott of its lettuce during the 1980's.

Cesar Chavez received many honors for his commitment to social change. They included an honorary degree from Arizona State University West in 1992, induction into the LIFE Hall of Heroes in 1997, and the Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian honor, bestowed upon him posthumously by President Clinton in 1995.

In addition, several states honor him and his work with a state holiday—and, just last week, our own State of Colorado joined that number when the legislature passed a law creating a state holiday to commemorate the birthday of Cesar Chavez.

The successful effort to pass this legislation was led by my friends, Colorado State Senator Rob Hernandez and Colorado State Representative Frana Mace. I think all Coloradans owe them a debt of gratitude—and I especially want to thank them for raising my own consciousness and inspiring me to support federal legislation that would create a national Cesar Chavez holiday.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's with great pride and humility that I stand here today on the floor of the House of Representatives and pay tribute to Cesar E. Chavez, a national hero and one of the giants of the civil rights movement in America.

I honor him for his leadership, his vision, his bravery, and his unselfish commitment to the principles of social justice and respect for human dignity. He is an inspiration to those of use who seek to create a better world, and his legacy is one which serves to remind us that "Together all things are possible." ¡Si se puede!

TRIBUTE TO THE ARMADA FREE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an institution whose outstanding dedication and commitment to the service of its community has led to a great accomplishment. On Sunday, April 1, 2001, the Armada Free Public Library will celebrate its Centennial Anniversary, commemorating 100 years of civic excellence.

Located in Armada, Michigan, the Armada Free Public Library has always been a flourishing center of education and resources for families and friends of the community. With a great emphasis on community service, the Armada Library has opened its doors throughout the years to welcome patrons to civic gatherings, conferences, club meetings, and children's hours.

Literature and books will always serve as the cornerstone of the Armada Library. But the library is expanding, by bringing in new levels of technology and resources. The community of Armada has dedicated its time and talents to bring the public library into the 21st Century with online databases, World Wide Web access, and an automated card catalog system. Because of this community's unwavering support, the Armada Free Public Library has become a center that will continue to cultivate its historic roots as well as reach out to younger generations.

The Armada Free Public Library is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of community members and their families. I applaud the Armada Free Public Library for its leadership, commitment, service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this landmark occasion.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER MICHIGAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE
PRUSI

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Mike Prusi, a former representative to the Michigan House of Representatives

from the 109th Representative District, which is made up of two counties, Marquette and Alger, in my congressional district.

Mike was first elected to the House in a special election in May 1995, following the death of one of Michigan's great legislators and great spokesman for northern Michigan, Dominic J. Jacobetti. Mike has just concluded his service in the Michigan House because of the Michigan term limits law. This law was enacted at the will of the voters of Michigan, but I have to confess that in this case I believe the law has turned an excellent public servant out of office.

Mr. Speaker, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where Mike and I are from, is an area rich in natural wealth and scenic beauty. It is also an area that, because of its sheer size, offers a wealth of diverse social and political issues. Because its population is sparse, however, its representation in Lansing is meager in numbers.

Spokesmen for this region must stand taller and speak more eloquently than their downstate counterparts. Mike served on the important Appropriations Committee in the Michigan House and, like Dominic J. Jacobetti before him, was an outstanding spokesman for the region.

Mike brought a profound understanding of the region with him when he went to Lansing. He was born in his district, was schooled there, and became an iron mine worker, eventually becoming president of a Steelworkers local. Like the red dust that coats the clothing of miners, Mike carried the innate strength, pride and independence of Upper Michigan residents to his job as a state representative.

There have been many important issues affording us an opportunity to work together. The round of military base closures under the BRAC Commission in the early 1990s affected a base in the Upper Peninsula, in the heart of what would become Mike's district. Fighting to revive this economic heart of the Upper Peninsula has been one of our major efforts and concerns.

Today, we face the problem of illegal imports of steel—raw materials and finished projects—which have jeopardized the health of the U.S. steel industry. These illegally dumped products affect the entire industry, beginning with the very mines where Mike has worked. We are again joined in an important economic battle, this time to protect jobs and our vital national steel industry, from mining to final rolling of finished steel.

I wish Mike and his wife Sandra the best in his post-legislative career. He has my deep respect and friendship. The people of Michigan were well-served by Mike Prusi. They will miss him. I will miss him.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF DR. THOMAS E. STARZL
IN THE FIELD OF ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Dr.