

the Lodge building until the late 1880s. A school term during that time only lasted 3 months so as to enable the students to assist their families with farming activities.

The first structure solely devoted to public education was built in 1888 and was located on Jackson Avenue. The high school, which at that time allowed students to attend grades 9 and 10, was not initiated until 1906. Even though the size of that first graduating class was small in number, their accomplishments were far and reaching. The first female to graduate, Mrs. Myra Lewis (Green), became a schoolteacher and taught in Livingston and Raymondville. Mr. Brown L. Meece went on to attend Texas A&M University and later became Vice-President for both Global and Sinclair Oil Companies. After graduating from Livingston High School, Mr. Ralph Feagin attended the University of Texas and later served as Executive Vice President of Electric Bond and Share Company in New York City and later in his life he became a partner at the law firm of Baker, Botts, Andrew, and Wharton.

Today, Livingston High School is home to approximately 1200 students that attend the ninth through the twelfth grade. Students at the school have the ability to enrich themselves academically, culturally, and athletically by participating in many different clubs and extracurricular activities.

Livingston High School has worked hard to prepare its students for the rigors of a college education. Additionally, Livingston High School serves as an off-campus center for Angelina College which enables the students to earn college credits while still in high school.

Looking back at the 100-year history of Livingston High School there is much to be proud of. Graduates of Livingston High School have excelled in all areas of life and made many positive contributions to our country. We can rejoice, however, because with great teachers and administrators there are many more positive years ahead for Livingston High School.

Madam Speaker, our Nation's high schools are places that prepare the youth of our great country to lead prosperous lives, and it is an honor to represent a high school that has such a distinguished record on doing just that in the U.S. House of Representatives. I urge you to join in congratulating Livingston High School on 100 years of excellence in educating the youth of Polk County.

IN HONOR OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to acknowledge and honor the 10 year anniversary of Equal Pay Day, a national day of recognition instituted by President Clinton in 1998 to raise awareness about the wage disparity and discrimination between men and women.

America has made some strides in narrowing this disparity in the workplace, but the fight for equal pay for equal work still remains prevalent and pertinent today. Thirty-five years

ago, when President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act of 1963, women who worked full-time, year-round made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men. In 2006, women earned 77 cents for every dollar earned by men; the figures are even more unsettling for women of color. This data demonstrates that the wage gap has narrowed by less than half a cent per year. An 18 cent increase over 35 years indicates a significant wage disparity between working men and women that leaves a great deal of work for the employers and decision makers of today.

In the state of Texas, between 2004 and 2006, the average annual salary of men with a college degree or more was \$63,000, while their female counterparts only received an average annual salary of \$45,000 with the same credentials. In comparison, during that same time frame, the national average annual salary for men with a college degree or more was \$66,000, while their female counterparts received only \$50,000. Therefore, the state of Texas is about 5 percent below the national average in narrowing the wage disparity between men and women.

A great woman and former congresswoman from Texas, Barbara Jordan once said that, "If the society of today allows wrongs to go unchallenged, the impression is created that those wrongs have the approval of the majority." To take the late Ms. Jordan's advice: we who live in today's society must not allow the wrongs created by wage discrimination continue to discount minorities and women.

I ask my colleagues and employers nationwide to take up the fight of eliminating the wage disparity between men and women as we all honor the 10 year anniversary of Equal Pay Day.

YORK-ADAMS COUNTY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL 19TH ANNUAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the York-Adams County Central Labor Council, for helping to bring safety awareness to the issue of worker safety.

Every April for the past nineteen years, the York-Adams Central Labor Council has celebrated Workers Memorial Day by sponsoring public events to recognize workers who have been killed or injured on their job.

While the workplace fatality rate has decreased significantly since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, OSHA, in 1970, we must remain vigilant in working to ensure that workers are employed in safe environments. As a Member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I believe that ensuring worker safety should be one of Congress' top priorities.

Congress must appropriate adequate funding for OSHA so that representatives can carry out safety inspections and enforce safety regulations within workplaces across the Nation. It is imperative that employers understand OSHA regulations and comply accord-

ingly to maintain the safest work environments possible.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the York-Adams County Central Labor Council for its strong commitment to promoting safety in the workplace and look forward to joining them in honoring injured and deceased workers everywhere.

RECOGNIZING GERALDINE "JERRE" MCPARTLIN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Geraldine "Jerre" McPartlin for receiving "The 2008 Sister Huberta McCarthy, R.S.M. Woman of Mercy" award. Mrs. McPartlin is the fifth woman to have the honor of receiving the "Woman of Mercy" award, and I congratulate her on this achievement.

This award has been presented by Mercy Hospital and Medical Center's Women's Board in honor of Mrs. McPartlin's work carrying forth the mission of Mercy Hospital throughout her professional and private life.

In 1852 Mercy Hospital and Medical Center was founded as the State of Illinois' first hospital and Chicago's first chartered hospital. For the last 155 years, Mercy has helped treat countless Chicagoans from all backgrounds, income levels, and educations seeking medical care.

Jerre, as she is known to her friends and family, was raised on the West side of Chicago and educated at Resurrection Grammar School and Siena High School by the Sisters of Mercy. She began her career working with the local labor movement as a business agent for the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union. This union serves thousands of workers in the hospitality and food service industries in the Chicagoland area. In 1985 she became the First Vice-President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and in 1995 was named "Labor Woman of the Year" by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Jerre has given her time to a long list of worthwhile charities, including Concern Worldwide USA, Misericordia, and Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. She has been a member of the Mercy Women's Board for several years, as well as Vice President of the Women's Board from 2003-2005.

Amazingly, she has managed to give so much of her time and energy to others while also being devoted to another sizable organization—her family. Jerre has 12 children, 23 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren, and I am as impressed with the size of her family as her commitment to service.

Madam Speaker, because of Jerre McPartlin's tireless commitment to our community, she has touched the hearts and lives of thousands of Chicagoans. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I thank her for her service to the people of Chicago and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.