CRISIS PLAGUING NEXT GENERATION

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis plaguing our country's next generation. Today, the unemployment rate for 18- to 29-year-olds is nearly 16 percent, more than double the general rate.

Furthermore, the increasing cost and skyrocketing tuition rates for those wanting to get a higher education is placing a crushing burden on young Americans. Student debt has nearly doubled since 2007, topping $1 trillion, and a recent study from the University of Michigan says tuition for all universities, public and private, increased at an annual rate of 7.5 percent from 1978 to 2011.

On average, when a student graduates college, they owe nearly $30,000, and if they attend a private or out-of-State school, that number is even higher.

As someone who is still paying off my student loans, I sympathize for our college graduates who are weighed down with debt in an economy that is proving to be very difficult for young, educated jobseekers.

Mr. Speaker, our obligation is to help build an economy rich with job opportunities, to contain the costs of higher education, and to support the young, bright minds in our Nation yearning to realize their dreams.

PROVIDING VETERAN HEALTH CARE

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, if your son or daughter, your brother or sister was sick and needed care, but couldn't see a doctor for 3 months or 6 months or maybe over a year, wouldn't you take immediate action, do whatever it took to make sure that they were cared for?

As we stand here today, over 100,000 veterans—our sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters in Hawaii and across the country—have been waiting months just to see a doctor.

In Honolulu, veterans wait an average of 145 days, sometimes longer, just to see a primary care physician for the very first time. This is infuriating to me, and it is unconscionable that our veterans are treated this way when they come home.

Last week, I heard from veterans from across the State of Hawaii, from every generation, about their struggles and frustrations in trying to receive care from the VA, some coming to me with tears streaming down their face as they begged for help.

These are my brothers and sisters. They are our family, and they need help. Immediate action must be taken.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY INVASION

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, last week, on June 6, I had the honor of attending the 70th anniversary of the D-day invasion in France. What a humbling experience it was to be there. Countless graves marked the landscape where over 6,000 U.S. soldiers fought and died at the site of one of the most significant military operations in modern history.

Looking back, it is incredible—incredible that an operation as vast and as complex as the Allied invasion of Normandy could ever succeed. Just about everything that could go wrong did. We faced setbacks at every turn, yet against all odds, our brave young men persevered.

Speaking with D-day veterans from San Diego like Jack Port, Joe Reilly, Victor Kramer, and James Federhart, I was reminded that they were just kids in 1944, many of them still teenagers.

I wish I could have shared it with my dad who served as a medic throughout the war, but like so many of his brothers in arms, he did not speak about his experience, and it is not hard to imagine why.

Many of their comrades never made it home. Thousands of U.S. soldiers fought and died, so that the world might live in freedom and inherit peace.

51ST ANNIVERSARY OF EQUAL PAY ACT

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, over the last 50 years, women have broken barriers in business, science, education, and government; yet in Nevada, the average woman still makes only 85 cents for every dollar a man earns, so that leads to a pay gap of more than $6,300 every year.

This not only harms individual women, it hurts their families, our communities, and the national economy. In a country where we strive for equal opportunity for all, this inequity is simply unacceptable.

That is why I am calling on my Republican colleagues to bring the Paycheck Fairness Act to the floor for a vote. How can they say to their wives, ''You deserve less pay than I do?'' How can they say to their daughters, ''You are worth less than my sons?'' How can they tell their staff that the women aren't as valuable as the men? It is just unconscionable.

So I say pass this bill now because when women succeed, Nevada succeeds, and America succeeds.

HONORING KAREN DECROW

(Mr. MAFFEI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Karen DeCrow, a constituent of mine who passed away last Friday at the age of 76. Karen DeCrow was a trailblazer who fought tirelessly for women's equality and justice for all.

Among her many accomplishments, Karen was a civil rights lawyer, a columnist for the Syracuse Post Standard, and a founder and president of the National Organization for Women, also known as NOW. She was the first woman to run for mayor in a major city in New York and was the only woman in her graduating class at Syracuse University College of Law.

Karen championed the Equal Rights Amendment, which would have made discrimination against women unconstitutional; and she led the fight against gender discrimination in workplaces, educational institutions, and sports.

I had the privilege of working with Karen as she remained active in NOW, serving as the vice president of the Greater Syracuse chapter up until her passing.

Mr. Speaker, Eleanor Roosevelt was remembered as having lived by the phrase:

> It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

For those of us who strive for women's equality, Karen DeCrow lit a bonfire.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last month, this body passed H.R. 863, a bill I authored along with the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN). This bill would create a national commission to develop a plan for a national women's history museum on or near the Mall in Washington, D.C.

This would be the first national women's history museum in our country and, I believe, in the world. It passed this body with a huge bipartisan support and vote.

My friends and colleagues in the other body, Senators SUSAN COLLINS and BARBARA MIKULSKI, are working hard to pass this bill, and I hope their colleagues in the Senate will move quickly and allow an up-or-down vote.

Passing this bill won't cost taxpayers a single dime, but it will be a valuable first step in honoring our Nation's foremothers and inspiring future generations of women.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule