

Runyan Announces Legislation to Honor Alice Paul with a Congressional Gold Medal from the Alice Paul House

Mar 27, 2013

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Jon Runyan along with Lucienne Beard of the Alice Paul Institute and Mary Brennan-Taylor of the YWCA announced the introduction of legislation to honor women’s suffragist Alice Paul with a Congressional Gold Medal. Runyan made his announcement from the Alice Paul house in Mount Laurel.

Runyan made the following statement on the introduction of the legislation, “I was thrilled to be able to introduce legislation to honor Alice Paul with a Congressional Gold Medal today,” proclaimed Runyan. “Alice Paul made an invaluable contribution to the women’s suffrage movement and we owe her a debt of gratitude. A Congressional Gold Medal is the least we can do to honor her legacy.”

Lucienne Beard, Executive Director of the Alice Paul Institute made the following statement, “We are especially glad that Congressman Runyan is representing his home district in being the lead sponsor of this Congressional Gold Medal Act to honor Mt. Laurel’s Alice Paul. He appreciates Paul’s lifelong work for equality, and this Medal is one way to recognize Alice Paul’s legacy that one person can indeed make a difference.”

Mary Brennan-Taylor of the YWCA stated, “On behalf of the YWCA, I would like to express deep gratitude to Congressman Jon Runyan for introducing this legislation to recognize one of America’s greatest Civil Rights heroes,” stated Brennan-Taylor. “Alice Paul believed viscerally that the right to vote is a fundamental principle of equality and dedicated her life to ensuring that future generations of women could be empowered to participate in the action and passion of their time. Thanks to Miss Paul’s courage and vision, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution guaranteed American women the right to vote and opened the door for women to live as full members of American society.”

Alice Paul was born in Mount Laurel, NJ on January 11, 1885 and died July 9, 1977. She dedicated her life to securing suffrage and equal rights for all women, founded the World Women’s Party and was instrumental in passage of the 19th Amendment. Alice Paul and the World Women’s Party were the first group to ever picket the White House, doing so in support of women’s suffrage. She also founded the World Party for Equal Rights for Women with the goal of advancing universal women’s suffrage, and was influential in the placement of a passage on gender equality in the preamble of the United Nations Charter.

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