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THREE IN A ROW - India's economy is forecasted to grow by +7.6% in calendar year 2017, a result that would make India the fastest growing major economy in the world for the 3rd straight year (source: IMF).

SEVEN MILLION MORE RENTERS - The 111.4 million households in the United States on 9/30/09 were split between 75.3 million owners and 36.1 million renters. The 118.6 million households in the United States on 9/30/16 were split between 75.3 million owners and 43.3 million renters (source: Census Bureau).

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In the United States of America, most children are taught from an early age that you can be anything you want no matter your race, gender, religion, or who your parents were. It's an inspiring truth that has powered many a dream.

Of course, there have been times in our nation's history when that truth was not actually true. These were times when a person's race, gender, or religion could have a definite impact on what rights they had or what they could aspire to be. That's what makes figures like Jeannette Rankin so important.

100 years ago this November, Rankin became the first woman ever elected to Congress. The fact she was the first is remarkable. The fact she was elected during a time when many women still did not even have a right to vote is more remarkable still.

Unlike many politicians, both then and now, Rankin did not even have the advantage of coming from a wealthy or influential family. She was born in 1880 in what was then Montana Territory to an immigrant rancher and a school teacher. From an early age, Rankin was expected to help provide for the family. She helped run the ranch, operated farming machinery, cleaned, sewed, and performed woodwork.

It was these experiences that opened Rankin's eyes to the inequalities of the era—that women worked as hard as men, and were needed as much as men, and yet were not allowed the same voice as men.

Moved by this realization, Rankin spent her twenties moving around the country, seeking more and more education before eventually devoting herself to social work. But it wasn't until around 1909 that she committed herself to the women's suffrage movement. She worked hard to garner support for the cause, tasting her first success a year later when the state of Washington, where Rankin had been living, extended permanent voting rights to women.

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Jeannette Rankin

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DISCIPLINED - 78% of Millennials follow a budget in managing their monthly spending.

"Millennials" are adults aged 19-35 in 2016, i.e., individuals born from 1981-1997 (source: Chase).

MOST WINS - In the last 20 years (1996-2015), the major league baseball team with the best regular season record has won the World Series just 4 times – the 1998 and 2009 Yankees, and the 2007 and 2013 Boston Red Sox. The Chicago Cubs had the best regular season record in 2016, winning 103 games (source: MLB).

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From there, Rankin returned home where she became the first woman to speak in front of the Montana state legislature. Her star was rising quickly, and by 1914, Montana became the next state to open the ballot box to women.

Two years later, Rankin decided it was time to take her cause to the capital itself – by running for a seat in the House of Representatives.

As usual, Rankin didn't shy away from hard work. She traveled the length of Montana tirelessly, appearing anywhere and everywhere, from train stations and street corners in the cities to ranches and schoolhouses in the country.

Once again, her effort paid off: she won the election.

Suddenly, Congress counted a woman in its ranks for the first time ... and the world had changed for the better. As Rankin herself said,

"I may be the first woman member of Congress, but I won't be the last."

During her two-year term, Rankin once again advocated for universal suffrage. It was she who opened the official debate for amending the Constitution, saying:

"How shall we answer the challenge, gentlemen? How shall we explain to [the world] the meaning of democracy if the same Congress that voted to make the world safe for democracy refuses to give this small measure of democracy to the women of our country?"

Change never comes easily, and the issue died in the Senate. But persistence pays off, and a year later, Rankin emerged victorious. Both the House and the Senate passed her resolution, which became the basis for the 19th Amendment to the Constitution:

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

In the United States of America, you can be anything you want no matter your race, gender, religion, or who your parents were. It's an inspiring truth that will power many a dream for generations to come. And it's all because of people like Jeannette Rankin. Despite the barriers she faced – barriers related to her gender and background – she accomplished her aim. She became what she wanted to be.

May we all strive to follow her example.

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