

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT  
BILLINGSLEA

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful corporate and community leader upon his retirement. Robert Billingslea is retiring on March 31, 2012 as the Corporate Director of Urban Affairs for the Walt Disney Company. His professional efforts have enhanced the strength and diversity of the Disney Company, and his civic endeavors have made a tremendous impact on the city of Orlando.

Robert Lee Billingslea was born on December 20, 1937, to Faye and Robert Billingslea. He was raised by his grandparents on the south side of Youngstown, Ohio. Growing up he attended local public schools, and found his passion in music. He began playing the drums at age 12, and at 16 he was playing professionally. In 1956 he graduated from South High School, and was voted "most musical" in his class. His love of music spurred him to move to California following graduation to pursue a career as a musician. He studied music at Vallejo Junior College, while performing with several West Coast bands.

In 1958, he returned to his hometown and continued to tour the country playing drums for various musical groups. Two years later, he enrolled in Kent State University to study sociology. In his senior year, he worked in juvenile court, and upon graduation became a probation officer in Akron, Ohio's juvenile court system. Mr. Billingslea went on to serve as a community organizer for the Office of Economic Opportunity. In 1966, an opportunity to become a wage and salary compensation analyst at Martin Marietta Corporation (now Lockheed Martin) took his life on a new trajectory in Orlando, Florida.

He joined the Walt Disney Company in 1969, and went to work at Disneyland in California as a senior personnel representative. But he quickly returned to Orlando where he was involved in the opening of the new Disney World facility in 1971. He has remained with Disney since that time, climbing the ladder to his current position as Corporate Director of Urban Affairs.

In addition to his position at Disney, Mr. Billingslea has been just as active in his community. When he returned to Orlando, he became chair of the Orlando Human Relations Board. Four governors also appointed him to serve on the Florida State Commission on Human Relations. It was during this time that our paths crossed and we became fast friends.

In 1985, his work at Disney brought him together with the NAACP, which was reviewing the company's employment practices for African Americans. Mr. Billingslea served as Disney's liaison to the NAACP, and a lasting relationship formed. He began working with the NAACP's Youth initiative, Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO). Through this program, he helped African American youth enhance their academic, artistic and scientific abilities. He served on the ACT-SO Industry Advisory Council, as a Special Contributions Fund Trustee, and on the NAACP Image Awards Committee.

His experiences working with youth in the juvenile court system ignited a lifelong passion. He serves as an ambassador to the Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida, as a trustee for Bethune-Cookman University, and as an advisor to the Central Florida Urban League. He is also a member of the board for the League of Black Women and the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation.

Bob has been honored with numerous awards include the National Service to Youth Award from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America for his 30 years of dedicated service and the Whitney M. Young Award from the Metropolitan Orlando Urban League in recognition of his help in founding and supporting the local Urban League chapter.

Mr. Billingslea and his wife Deidre (DeeDee) live in Orlando, and are the parents of one son. They are also the proud grandparents of two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me today in celebrating the extraordinary contributions of Robert Billingslea. This a man who came from humble beginnings who started out hoping to change the world with his music, but ended up beating a different drum. He has helped shape the Walt Disney Company into the beloved entertainment empire it is today and still found time to help build a better community in Central Florida. I wish him well in his retirement, and know that he will continue to share his time and talents with others.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. KAY  
MOURADIAN, 29TH CONGRES-  
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF  
THE YEAR—2012

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women.

I stand today to pay tribute to Kay Mouradian, EdD, of South Pasadena, California, who has provided the Los Angeles Community Colleges with strong leadership and dedication for many years. Attaining a B.S. from Boston University, an M.S. from University of California, Los Angeles, and an Ed.D. from Nova Southeastern University, Dr. Mouradian served the Los Angeles Community Colleges as Professor of Health and Physical Education, and advocated in the California Teachers Association for the importance of physical education in California Community Colleges. In addition to her love of education and advocacy for health, Dr. Mouradian is also a very accomplished author.

Dr. Mouradian researched yoga in India for several months for her dissertation. She has published articles about yoga for magazines, with two much admired articles titled: Increasing Body Awareness through Yoga's Relaxation Technique and Developing a Competency-based Syllabus in Yoga for the Community College Curriculum. Kay's efforts did not stop there, as she also published a guide for yoga instructors who taught at the commu-

nity colleges. In addition, Dr. Mouradian is planning to write books tailored to help people who want to and are interested in retaining a quality body, primarily during their elder years.

After several health crises, Kay's mother asked her to write about her life. This opened a new chapter for Kay. Kay extensively researched the Armenian Genocide of 1915 by reading numerous books and traveling to Turkey. There, she visited the town where 25,000 Armenians, including her mother and her family, were ordered to leave their homes at the time of the Armenian Genocide. She journeyed through the deportation path, where over 2,000,000 Turkish Armenians had to march for countless miles through the desert. Her findings and experience led her to write *A Gift in the Sunlight, An Armenian Story*.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Dr. Kay Mouradian, for her exceptional service to the community.

ANASTASIA LAWRENCE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anastasia Lawrence for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Anastasia Lawrence is an 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anastasia Lawrence is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anastasia Lawrence for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

STUDENT LOAN GRACE PERIOD  
EXTENSION ACT

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, this recession has left virtually no one untouched. Students that are graduating from college are finding not only a hostile job market, but many carry with them an overwhelming amount of debt. If we are going to get our economy back on track, we need to make sure those young people are given a fighting chance.

The unemployment rate for new college graduates in many fields is higher than the national average and they currently have to begin repayment on their loans a short 6 months after they graduate. The class of 2010 faced an unemployment rate for new college graduates of 9.1 percent, the highest in recent years.

That is why I am introducing the "Student Loan Grace Period Extension Act" which will extend the grace period for Federal Subsidized and Federal Unsubsidized Student Loans from 6 months to 12 months after the student graduates. This bill will provide students with a necessary window after graduation where they can conduct their job search without the financial constraint of monthly student loan payments after 6 short months. Given the recent recession and our slow economic recovery, it only makes sense to give those young people just entering the work force a fighting chance to find a job and start earning before they begin repaying their loan obligations.

By passing this bill, we will ensure that our college graduates are not prematurely burdened with student loan payments before many of them may be able to find gainful employment in their field.

HONORING HELEN AGUIRRE  
FERRÉ

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I rise to honor one of South Florida's finest award-winning, bilingual journalists, Helen Aguirre Ferré. Having profound experience in journalism, she dominates various media platforms including, TV, radio, and print media.

Having more than two decades of experience, Mrs. Aguirre Ferré currently serves as the Opinion Page Editor for *El Diario Las America*. Her father, Horacio Aguirre, an exceptional leader in South Florida, founded *El Diario*, Florida's oldest independent Spanish-language newspaper. For more than half a century, *El Diario* has maintained a high level of intellect, professionalism, and integrity. Mrs. Aguirre Ferré is also a political guest analyst for Univision, where she frequently appears on "Despierta America" and "Al Punto." She also co-hosts Univision's "Prohibido Callarse," a highly rated daily political talk show, and moderates the weekly public-affairs series *Issues* for WPBT2, a South Florida PBS station.

Her accomplishments go beyond her professional career; Mrs. Aguirre Ferré co-founded Operation Saving Lives, a humanitarian effort responsible for sending money, medicines, food, and clothing to hurricane victims in Central America. She is the first woman to chair Miami Dade College's Board of Trustees and she serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Additionally, Mrs. Aguirre Ferré is a member of the International Women's Forum, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Inter-American Institute for Democracy, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, Mercy Hospital's Angels of Mercy, the Mater Center, and the American Nicaraguan Foundation.

She has received numerous awards from various organizations, including the Cuban American National Council, Barry University, Saint Anselm College, the American Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, the Women's History Coalition, the American Nicaraguan Foundation, the Cuban Women's Club, the Latin Chamber of Commerce of the

United States (CAMACOL) and Hispanic Media 100, among many others.

Mrs. Aguirre Ferré has earned the respect and trust of our community in South Florida, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dear friend and accomplished individual. I wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

FLYERS KEEP NORTH CAROLINA  
BASKETBALL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, North Carolina has a long and distinguished list of college basketball National Champions. This year, however, there is only one school from the Old North State that will earn the right to hoist a National Championship banner. No, I do not mean the North Carolina State University Wolfpack, nor the Duke University Blue Devils and not even the University of North Carolina Tarheels. Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in congratulating the Sandhills Community College Flyers upon their rise to the 2012 National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Championship.

Their 30-6 season ended with a commanding defeat of Cedar Valley College, from Dallas, Texas, by a score of 101-86. Outstanding play from Guard Daquain Towns, tournament MVP, and the tremendous coaching of Mike Apple led the Flyers, in only their third season, past teams in the play-offs from the Bronx, New York, Brookdale, New Jersey, and Prince George's County, Maryland. On March 17, the Sandhills Flyers became the first team from North Carolina to win a Division III National Championship and our office is proud to represent this fine group of young men. Each member of the Flyers deserves recognition for this outstanding achievement and they are:

Michael Collins, TJ Gill, Raheem Joliffe, Chris Morrison, Daquain Towns, Dre Huntley, Chris Vinson, Trevor Cole, Mike Dorsey, Raheem Washington, Michael Robinson, TJ Jones, Tramaine Pride, Louis Craft, Kermeriaz Harrington, Erick Ewing, Markell Lotharp, Demontre Jones.

Coach: Mike Apple.

Athletic Director: Aaron Denton.

Congratulations also go out to Dr. John Dempsey and the Sandhills Community College family for putting together an organization that preserves North Carolina's premier basketball tradition while adding a new National Champion to our history books.

ALYSIA MORA-PINA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alysia Mora-Pina for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alysia Mora-Pina is an 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her

determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alysia Mora-Pina is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alysia Mora-Pina for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO EVA ARRIGHI, 29TH  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2012

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Woman's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our Nation's most distinguished women.

Today, I stand to laud the tireless efforts of Eva Arrighi, a 22-year resident of Temple City, California, whose zealous approach to community service has benefited many people and organizations. Born in Cologne, Germany in 1931, Eva arrived in the United States in 1955 along with her husband Ivo, son Dan, and daughter Frances. After residing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Cleveland, Ohio, and Rosemead, California, respectively, Eva and her family moved to Temple City.

Throughout the years, Eva has maintained an active spirit for all her passions in life, and is involved with the community as a member of many organizations as a dedicated volunteer. Ms. Arrighi has been a volunteer and member of the Boy Scouts of America, particularly with Troop 169 Temple City, where her grandson achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Eva volunteers for church activities at St. Peter's in Los Angeles, St. Anthony Catholic Church in San Gabriel, and St. Luke Catholic Church in Temple City, where she always lends a helping hand to assist at the St. Luke's Fiesta. The School of Fashion & Design in Alhambra has also benefited from Eva's devotion, as she contributes many hours working with physically and developmentally challenged students. Currently, Ms. Arrighi is an Ambassador for the Temple City Chamber of Commerce, where she assists in decorating for Chamber activities and provides food items and gifts for the Chamber's social mixers. She is also a member of organizations such as the Temple City Women's Club, Friends of Foster Children and the Historical Society of Temple City.

Ms. Arrighi is known for her generosity. She spends many hours knitting and crocheting countless items and selflessly gives everything away as gifts. Some of her creations include scarves, hats, baby blankets, slippers and socks. She donates to various fundraisers, community raffles, Chamber employees, Methodist Hospital Foundation and the School of Fashion & Design, to name a few.