

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.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Eva Arrighi, for her exceptional service to the community.

HONORING RICHARD LEE
LAWRENCE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Richard Lee Lawrence, a devoted servant to the Roanoke Valley and the legal community of western Virginia, who passed away unexpectedly on March 19, 2012.

Born and raised in Roanoke, Richard was an active member of Scout Troop 21, where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He was always proud of this achievement. He regularly spoke about how important his scouting skills were to his overall education.

A graduate of Jefferson High School, Roanoke College, and Washington and Lee School of Law, Richard also served in the United States Marine Corps. He was a passionate student of American history, particularly the American Civil War, and also greatly enjoyed immersing himself in the various cultures of the world.

Above all else, Richard was dedicated to his work. He took great pride in the fact that he worked each day since his first newspaper job as a young boy. Despite being a pillar of the legal bar in the Roanoke Valley, Richard was never too busy to mentor young lawyers, including myself and my wife. As a boy, Richard was unfortunately the target of many bullies. Thankfully, he turned that resentment into a desire to fight for the "little guy." Many contend he will be best remembered for his dedication to the people who did not have an advocate or a voice.

While I knew Richard as a lawyer and friend, I was unaware of his dedication to attending church on Sundays. The priest at Richard's funeral made note that over the last five years he could count the number of times Richard had missed church on one hand. Always open and candid about his shortcomings, Richard's faithful devotion is humbling.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Richard's family and friends. I am honored to pay tribute to his many contributions to the community. His legacy and influence will be long remembered across the Roanoke Valley and throughout Southwest Virginia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF GERRY CASHIN

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, in any successful office, there is always one person you need to be able to trust to make sure that things are done in the right way and on time. From the beginning of my service in Congress, that person in my office was my executive assistant,

Geraldine "Gerry" Cashin. On the occasion of her retirement, I want to offer my personal thanks to Gerry for the dedicated and loyal service that she has given to me, the people of Alabama, and the citizens of our nation. Gerry was first with me in my law practice in Alabama and when I was elected to the House, I knew that I wanted her to come to Washington to help me with the challenge of setting up a new congressional office. Her organizational skills and personal concern for constituents helped our office to quickly establish a reputation for service and responsiveness. Gerry set a high standard with her dedication to her work and her attention to detail, and many of my staffers who have gone on to success in future endeavors have given credit to the lessons they learned from Gerry. Almost every day, the seemingly "impossible" was asked of Gerry and she unfailingly delivered, perfecting along the way such wry and legendary office phrases as "I'm sorry that happened" and "Never give a man something you haven't made a copy of." During the great challenges in Congress during recent years—from 9/11 to the financial crisis—Gerry stood as a rock of stability and a voice of calm and continuity. She has friends all over Capitol Hill and in Birmingham, and my wife Linda and I consider her to be part of our family for her many years of loyal service and heartfelt friendship. While the institutional knowledge that Gerry acquired cannot be replaced, my office's loss is the gain of her daughters Amanda and Diane and her grandsons John and Tom, with whom she will happily be spending much more time, and perhaps a gain for her tennis game as well. It is a pleasure for me to extend this public and well-deserved tribute to a servant of the people and a very dear friend, Gerry Cashin.

ELBRA WEDGEWORTH

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 the Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth for receiving the Community Impact Award from Metro Volunteers.

As an East Denver native, Elbra Wedgeworth has been a leader in Denver City Government for the past twenty-six years. In addition to her government service, some of her volunteer activities include Host Committee Member of the 2022 Denver Winter Olympics, 2011 Denver Region Sustainable Communities Executive Committee and founder of the African American Cultural Consortium and several other Boards and Councils.

The Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth is a highly admired individual who deserves recognition from the community for her leadership and the example she sets for others through her selfless service to those in need.

I extend my deepest congratulations to my friend the Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth for this well deserved recognition by Metro Volunteers. Thank you for making our community a better place for all of us.

HONORING JENNIFER L. SMITH

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and I want to take a moment to recognize the retirement of Jennifer L. Smith, CBO's Associate General Counsel. Ms. Smith is retiring after more than 32 years of service to the Congress.

She began her career at the Senate in 1979. While working for the Secretary of the Senate, she attended law school at night and became one of the Senate's Assistant Parliamentarians. She served as an Assistant Counsel for the House Budget Committee, the General Counsel for the Senate Budget Committee, and the Deputy General Counsel for CBO. In 2006, she returned to the Senate Parliamentarian's Office as the Senate Precedents Editor, and in 2010 returned to CBO as the Associate General Counsel.

In each of her roles, Ms. Smith worked tirelessly to ensure that the decisions of each office were carefully researched, well reasoned, and fully documented.

As an attorney for CBO, Ms. Smith ensured that CBO's estimates of legislation were based on a solid understanding of the law. Her skills as an attorney have been highlighted in the diverse issues she has worked on while at CBO, ranging from immigration to social security to lease-purchase issues. Her knowledge of appropriations law, copyright law, and the ethics rules of the House of Representatives rivals those of the most acknowledged experts in those fields.

Ms. Smith's excellent work has been recognized throughout her career. In 2005, as CBO's Deputy General Counsel, she received a CBO Director's Award for outstanding performance. And she has received a number of other awards recognizing her outstanding contributions at CBO.

Ms. Smith has exemplified CBO's high standard of professionalism, objectivity, and nonpartisanship. She has been a wise counselor and a frequent mentor. As important as the quality of her work, Ms. Smith's value as a colleague is unmatched. Her unfailing sense of humor, dependability, loyalty and her prowess on the softball field will not be forgotten.

We thank Jennifer Smith and commend her for her many years of dedicated, faithful, and outstanding service to CBO, to Congress, and to the American people. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED
STATES COMMISSION ON AN
OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY
ACT OF 2012

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as the cherry blossom season begins, bringing thousands of Americans here, I rise to reintroduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act of 2012. The bill expresses an idea I began working on when the