

"Duchess Unlimited" where she worked as a Wedding Coordinator and coordinated anniversaries and other types of social events at cost.

Marsha joined the Mt. Ollie Baptist Church in 1959 under the leadership of the late Rev. R.D. Brown. She sang in the Junior Choir, was an original member of the Buds of Promise, a member of the Junior Usher Board and later joined the Young Adult Choir. Rev. Brown appointed Marsha to the Senior Trustee Board to "observe." She was the youngest female trustee. This was a major accomplishment for Marsha, for little did she know that God was preparing her for the future. In 1989 she was elected as the first female Chairperson of the Board and is still serving in that capacity today. She has given 20 years of service to the trustee board.

At present Marsha works as the Director of Housing/Food & Beverage for the Office of Conventions and Meetings for the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. She was appointed to this position by the President of the Convention in 1995. She is a member of the religious Conference Management Association and Coalition of Black Meeting Planners. She is also a member of the National Council of Negro Women.

Marsha began her work as a member of the Brooklyn District of the New York State Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc. in the 1970's under the leadership of Bishop Albert L. Jamison, Sr. as Chapter representative. Marsha gave great support and dedication to the late Brother Larry Brown and the late Minister Allen D. Jamison as Borough Presidents of the Brooklyn District. After their passing she then was appointed Borough President. The Brooklyn District took on new life and direction under her leadership.

Marsha is also a Charter Member of the famous Tri-boro Mass Choir of which she credits the choir's annual prayer and fasting shut-in as her introduction to her spiritual growth and her enhancement to her personal relationship with God.

Marsha was appointed by Bishop Jamison as his Executive Director to the Chairman of the Board for the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc. also she is the Administrative Assistant to the New York State Chapter.

Her love for her church family and retired Pastor and his wife, Rev. Dr./Mrs. Spurgeon E. Crayton is consistently enthusiastic; the bond between them has always been a positive one.

Her love and dedication for church work is untiring. Her motto: "If I can help somebody as I pass along then my living shall not be in vain."

OTTOMAN EMPIRE DOCUMENTS
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, recently, the New York Times reported on a recently published book *The Remaining Documents of Talat Pasha* by Turkish author Murat Bardakci. The book details Pasha's methodical reordering of the disappearance of nearly 1 million Armenians in a 2-year period. Pasha served as interior minister to the Ottoman Empire and

helped orchestrate the Armenian Genocide. Like the Nazis, Pasha kept detailed population figures of the Ottoman Empire's Christian ethnic minority, the Armenians.

Before 1915, 1.2 million Armenians lived in what today is modern Turkey. By 1917, the number was down to 284,000 Armenians. Bardakci received these original lists of population figures from Pasha's wife, Hayriye Talat, in 1983. However, he waited to include them in his book until he felt Turkey was ready to receive them.

As the New York Times reported in November of 1920, Talat Pasha used to say, "the only way to dispose of the Armenia question is to kill the Armenians." As Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau made many courageous efforts to stop the ethnic cleansing of the Armenians, as well as alert Americans to the genocide that was taking place. Morgenthau, who dealt with Talat in Istanbul, believed strongly that Pasha was fully responsible for the killings of the Armenians.

These figures in Bardakci's book provide further evidence that those who masterminded the genocide against the Armenians were obsessed with exterminating all the Armenian people. Talat Pasha's meticulous figures bring to mind the Nazis who kept records of 17 million victims, including the Jews who were exterminated during the holocaust. In aggregate, the Nazis kept 50 million pages of documents now available for the families of those who lost loved ones, scholars, and the public.

Unfortunately, Bardakci does not believe that the Armenian Genocide took place. Like his government, he is an outspoken denier. However, he believes that Turkish people should be exposed to historical documents. Bardakci is correct that Turkey needs documents. This week's Times article astutely notes the chilling silence that swept over Turkey in response to these figures. Turkey needs to come to terms with its past.

It is with sadness that it may take the figures of the man who orchestrated the genocide to convince the Turkish government and the Turkish people that 90 years ago the Ottoman Empire committed genocide against the Armenians. I am hopeful that Turkey will soon unclench its hold on its people's memory and openly discuss the Armenian genocide; instead of using words like "alleged" or funding a multi-million dollar lobby in the United States to distort fact.

It has taken a while, but Americans look back constantly on our own history. We question why we enslaved millions of Africans. We question why we slaughtered millions of Native Americans. We discuss it in our schools. We reflect on our history. Doing this helps our nation deal with its past and enables us to learn and heal.

Not only does Turkey deny the Armenian Genocide, it asks Americans to deny it as well. It asks the United States Congress not to honor the victims of the genocide. The Armenian Diaspora exists today because of the genocide. Why should Armenian-American voices be silenced? Why are the voices of those who want to end the vicious cycle of genocide being hushed? Why do we allow ourselves year after year to be threatened by Turkey?

These are our constituents who lost loved ones in the Genocide. We must honor their memory and not be bullied by Turkey.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATILDA M. GARCIA IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Matilda Martinez Garcia, a devoted advocate for Hispanic Americans in Florida. Ms. Garcia exemplifies the power of women to make a difference in their communities.

Ms. Garcia is a third generation Floridian whose grandfather came from Spain to Tampa via Cuba. Ms. Garcia serves as a liaison between the Tampa government and the Hispanic community as a council member of the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council. She also serves on several boards including the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council, LULAC and the University of Florida's Mental Health Institute.

Ms. Garcia is a member of the Tampa Hispanic Heritage Board of Directors, which is comprised of Hispanic Americans with varied roots who share pride in being Hispanic. The organization serves to share rich Spanish language, culture, and traditions with the community during Tampa's Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

Ms. Garcia served as the Former State Director of The League of United Latin American Citizens. LULAC's mission is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States. In 2007, Ms. Garcia spoke at a LULAC convention seminar on the historic and ongoing contributions that Latina leaders have made to the civil rights struggle in the U.S. and the development of LULAC as a civil rights organization. Women's leadership has long been a cornerstone of the Latino community.

As a member of the Florida Institute for Community Studies (FICS) Board of Directors, Ms. Garcia speaks to children about her life growing up in Tampa as the child of Spanish immigrants and the challenges facing the Hispanic community.

In 2001 the Department of Child and Family Studies created the Matilda Garcia Initiative, or "Latin American Research Scholars Exchange," to ensure continued collaboration between the Department of Child and Family Studies and Latin American researchers and practitioners. The Matilda Garcia Initiative provides the Institute with a means for strengthening the level of exchange with Latin America through the funding of these and other activities. Ms. Garcia's support has encouraged a new vision of future collaboration between the Department of Child and Family Studies at FMHI and a wide variety of Latin American academic institutions and organizations.

In 2002, The Community of Tampa Bay proudly awarded Ms. Garcia the Silver Medalion Humanitarian Award. This award is given to members of the community who have helped to promote dialogue and respect among cultures, religions, and races.

At the age of 89, Ms. Garcia attended the 2008 Democratic National Convention as Florida's oldest delegate. At the convention Ms. Garcia inspired Florida's delegates with her