

While working at Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, she met her husband-to-be, M. Carl Holman. In 1945, Mariella and Carl married and returned to Atlanta to begin a family; they were proud to raise their children—Kerry, Karen, and Kent—in the heart of the Civil Rights Movement. Her husband, a professor at Clark College in Atlanta, helped co-found the Atlanta Committee for Cooperative Action (ACCA) and became the editor-in-chief of *The Atlanta Inquirer*, which developed into a leading, weekly journal and voice for equality and justice in our nation. In the 1960s when Carl joined the staff of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, the family moved to Washington, D.C., where he eventually served as the president of the National Urban Coalition.

Throughout their marriage, Mrs. Holman was the backbone of their beautiful family and home, while maintaining her own career as a skilled educator and an activist in her own right. She taught French at Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta, and continued to teach in Washington, D.C. at Hart Junior High School until her retirement in the 1980s. In her classroom, she opened the minds of countless young people to a global language and community beyond the United States; she brought Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean to their front door through her creative and passionate instruction.

For years, Mrs. Holman also provided wise counsel to the architects—the movers-and-shakers—of the Civil Rights Movement. She opened her home to organizers for strategy meetings, and her hospitality, cooking, and warmth fed stomachs and reignited spirits. When her beloved husband passed away in 1988, Mariella continued to be the grounding, central force of her family, friends, and community for 26 years. Last week, on March 17, 2014, Mrs. Mariella Holman passed away surrounded by loving family and friends. Although I know that she lived a long and full life, I was still heartbroken to hear the news.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to her children—Kwasi (Kerry) G. Holman, Kinshasha (Karen) Holman Conwill, and Kwame (Kent) Holman; grandchildren—Monifa, Kevin, Donovan, and Camille; seven great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchild; brother, Lloyd, and his wife, Muriel, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and countless loving family members and friends. They were guided and grounded by this beautiful and strong matriarch, and today each and every one of them is in my thoughts and prayers.

Mella—as she was called by all who knew and loved her—will be truly missed. She touched so many with her warmth, her spirit, her cooking, and her timeless class, and I am proud to have known and loved this great and wonderful lady.

HONORING MS. YRIS TAMARA PEREZ AGUILERA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Yris Tamara Perez Aguilera, an out-

standing individual and someone who has been an inspiration to the Cuban community.

Ms. Aguilera was born in Cuba, and joined the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement in 1999. This organization was formed by families of Cuban political prisoners to fight for their freedom. Ms. Aguilera's brother, Mario Perez Aguilera, was a political prisoner at that moment.

In 2009, Ms. Aguilera helped found the Rosa Parks Feminine Civic Rights Movement, and is currently the leader of the group. This movement carries out weekly public demonstrations in different provinces of Cuba to pray for the martyrs of the Cuban dictatorship. The movement also performs humanitarian campaigns to help homeless women and children. Through Ms. Aguilera's endless efforts, tenacity, and spirit the movement is able to find these homeless people food and shelter, despite resistance from Cuban authorities.

During the public demonstrations of the group, Ms. Aguilera and other members of the Rosa Parks Movement have been brutally beaten and have suffered from arbitrary detentions and even death threats by the Castro regime. Ms. Aguilera herself has been threatened with sexual assault in Santa Clara by State Security agents. Ms. Aguilera has participated in conferences and meetings around the world in order to denounce human rights abuses on the island, and continues to work tirelessly for the freedom of its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Yris Tamara Perez Aguilera for her continued efforts against the regime in Cuba, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NANCY ROBBINSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Nancy Robinson. A native of Orlando, Mrs. Robinson has served on the Orange County School Board representing District 6 since 2008. As a School Board Member, she serves on the Communications and Legislative Committees. She also represents the Central Florida School Boards Coalition on the Congress of Regional Leaders through myregion.org. Mrs. Robinson became a Florida School Board Association (FSBA) Certified Board Member in June 2010, and serves on the FSBA Board of Directors and Legislative Committee.

Mrs. Robinson grew up in the district she represents and attended Orange County Public Schools. She graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations/Speech Communications. She is also a member of the inaugural class of the Orlando Business Force's Central Florida Political Leadership Institute.

Passionate about serving her community, Mrs. Robinson is on the Board of Directors for the Urban Think! Foundation, which supports literacy programs for inner-city Orlando students. She has also served on the Destiny Foundation's Greater Orlando Food Outreach

Advisory Board, the Mayor's Education Action Council, Orange County Public School Foundation's "Count Me In" Steering Committee, and the Edgewater High School Task Force for Renovation. Mrs. Robinson has been involved in the schools that her children have attended for the past 19 years as both a PTA officer and mentor.

Mrs. Robinson's family lives in the College Park area of Orlando. She and her husband, Bill, have three children, one who recently graduated from the University of Georgia, one who attends Auburn University, and an Edgewater High School student.

I am happy to honor Nancy Robinson, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF KATHLEEN "KAT" BUTLER GORDON

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Kathleen "Kat" Gordon. Mrs. Gordon is a former South Carolina and Orange County, Florida educator. She was elected to the Orange County School Board in November 2000 and became School Board Vice Chair in 2013.

Mrs. Gordon has been a resident of Orange County since 1968. She was a librarian and counselor in Orange County for 25 years. She has also taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Central Florida (UCF) and at Valencia College. In addition to her career in education, Mrs. Gordon worked full-time in the business world for six years as a licensed mortgage broker, life insurance agent, and a registered securities representative.

In 2005, she earned Board Member Certification from the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) and also served on FSBA's Board of Directors. Mrs. Gordon is a former Board Member of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Black Caucus and is the former Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Mrs. Gordon has been honored by numerous organizations. In 2006, she received the Junior Achievement's Educator of the Year Award. In addition, she received the Humanitarian Award at the 2006 Annual Scholarships and Volunteers Awards Dinner sponsored by Orange County Mayor Richard T. Crotty and the Board of County Commissioners.

In 2007, Mrs. Gordon was named Teacher of the Year for the New Beginnings Education Center in Osceola County. She also received the Distinguished Dove Award for being selected Osceola County's Vocational Teacher of the Year, the Denn John MS Minority Educator of the Year award, and Osceola County's Ida S. Baker Minority Educator of the Year award. In October 2007, the College of Education at UCF named Mrs. Gordon as one of its "Alumni of the Decades" as part of its 40th anniversary celebration.

In 2008, Mrs. Gordon received an award from the Osceola Classroom Teachers Association for her dedication and service to cultural diversity within Osceola District Schools.

Mrs. Gordon has served on the Governor of Florida State Dropout Task Force. In 2009, President Obama appointed her to be a member of the Selective Service System Local Board in the state of Florida serving Region II. Also in 2009, Mrs. Gordon received the General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. Four Star Major Award for community service.

In addition, Mrs. Gordon has been awarded by her church, Saint Mark A.M.E., and by the

Carter Tabernacle CME Church for her civic and social involvement.

Mrs. Gordon received her bachelor's degree in library science from South Carolina State University, and her master's degree in guidance and counseling and certification in administration and supervision from UCF. Mrs. Gordon is currently pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy in Education with a Specialization in Organizational Leadership.

Mrs. Gordon is the widow of the late Reverend James D. Gordon, Jr., and the mother of three Jones High School graduates.

I am happy to honor Kat Gordon, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TIFFANY MOORE RUSSELL

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Commissioner Tiffany Moore Russell. A native of Orlando, Florida and a product of Orange County's public school system, Commissioner Moore Russell is an alumna of Dr. Phillips High School. She received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of South Florida and a J.D. from Florida State University College of Law.

In November of 2006, she made history by becoming the youngest County Commissioner ever elected to serve on the Orange County Commission. In her role as the Commissioner for District 6, she oversees a budget of over \$5 billion and more than 8000 employees. Commissioner Moore Russell is committed to remaining accountable and accessible to each and every constituent, increasing recreational and career opportunities for youth, creating stable and viable neighborhoods, and strengthening Orange County's economy by increasing the availability of jobs and minority business opportunities.

Commissioner Moore Russell has been a community advocate for many years, both as an elected official and a private citizen. Prior to her role as Commissioner, she served on the Orange County Community Action Board, where she was elected Chairman and Vice Chairman. She also accepted volunteer appointments to both the Orange County Board of Zoning and Adjustments and the Orange County Citizens Review Board. She has also served on numerous boards including Orange County's Commission on Aging, Value and Adjustment Board, Youth and Family Services Board, the Downtown Orlando CRA/DDB Board, African American Chamber of Commerce, 2008 Electoral Canvassing Board, International Drive Master Transit and Improvement District, METROPLAN, and the Florida Association of Counties.

Her love for the Central Florida community is evident through her desire to initiate local community programs. Family Hope Day is a program designed to promote community partnerships, neighborhood unity, and a safer, more caring community for the residents of the Washington Park neighborhood. The Annual Summer Safety Event was established to prepare students for a safe, positive, and productive summer vacation. The Pine Hills Clean Sweep is organized to remove debris and trash from the streets in an effort to make the Pine Hills neighborhood a better place to live. The Commissioner's W/MBE Townhall Meetings are citizen driven forums that allow local business owners to discuss topics related to doing business in Orange County. In addition,

Commissioner Moore Russell initiated the E-Zone Workshop, "School Days Are Here Again" Back to School Rally, "Holiday Senior Brunch," and "Holiday Extravaganza" programs.

Commissioner Moore Russell is a member of the local chapter of the NAACP, the Florida Bar, the Orange County Bar Association, the Virgil Hawkins Chapter of the National Bar Association, the Paul C. Perkins Bar Association, the Central Florida Women's Lawyer Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Life Center Church of Eatonville, Florida. In addition to serving on the commission she is an Associate Counsel with the Law Offices of John DiMasi. Commissioner Russell is married to Anthony K. Russell, Jr. and they are the proud parents of Anthony K. Russell, III.

I am happy to honor Commissioner Tiffany Moore Russell, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NANCY CAROLA PLATTE JACOBSON

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Nancy Carola Platte Jacobson. Nancy was born at the end of World War II. Her father, William Neal Platte, a metallurgical research engineer, worked in the aircraft industry. She is a first-generation German-American, as her mother, Ursula Carola Brunhilt Bruck, was born in Germany. Her German grandparents were present in her life for many years. From them, Nancy acquired a deep appreciation for our democracy and America's place in history.

Growing up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Nancy received an excellent public education. She remains grateful to mentors like her world history teacher, Ronald Hoover, who recognized her capabilities and pushed her to achieve, and Frau Martha Rose, who taught Nancy her mother tongue, German, in high school.

Nancy went on to major in German, with minors in French and English, at the University of Pittsburgh, finishing Magna Cum Laude in 1966. It was her great good fortune and honor to be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Germany for the year following her graduation. World War II had ended barely 20 years earlier, and the Berlin Wall had been up for only a few years. During her time in Germany, Nancy spent a life-changing week in East Berlin.

Nancy lived and worked in the Washington, D.C. area in 1968, a tumultuous time in American history. After moving to Florida in 1969, she became a certified paralegal and managed a law office. In mid-life, Nancy returned to school and obtained her law degree from the University of Florida in 1984.

Although Nancy acknowledges the fortunate circumstances of her birth, she has often said she was less fortunate to be born female at a time when women's choices were restricted by law and social convention. Nancy believes that we as a country lose when society stereotypes and restricts any segment of our population based on race, gender, ethnicity, orientation, or other labels.

Now retired, Nancy has devoted the past decade of her life to civic activism and citizen lobbying to achieve social and economic justice for all and to restore and strengthen our democracy. Galvanized by the contentious election of 2000, Nancy worked with many others on election integrity and protection

issues in Florida. She later worked to pass the "Fair Districts" amendment to Florida's state constitution in order to reduce the disenfranchisement of Florida's citizens through gerrymandering.

Nancy is also an elected member of the Democratic National Committee, representing Florida since 2008. Nancy has always been grateful to her husband, James R. Lussier, for his support of her civic and political activism. Without his support, Nancy would not have been able to accomplish a fraction of what she has achieved and what she hopes to achieve going forward.

I am happy to honor Nancy Carola Platte Jacobson, during Women's History Month, for her civic activism and efforts toward social and economic justice.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,555,984,029,917.02. We've added \$6,929,106,981,003.94 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DIRECT THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY TO ACCEPT A STATUE DEPICTING PIERRE L'ENFANT FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PERMANENT DISPLAY OF THE STATUE IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, in this month in which Pierre L'Enfant was hired to design the plan for the District for Columbia in 1791, I introduce a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Pierre L'Enfant from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in the United States Capitol.

Pierre L'Enfant was born in France in 1754. He was an engineer and an architect, and he traveled to the United States to serve with the United States in the Revolutionary War. In March 1791, L'Enfant was hired to develop the design for the District of Columbia. L'Enfant's design for the city was so remarkable that it remains and is cherished today in the nation's capital and throughout this country. L'Enfant's design envisioned a federal and residential city with diagonal streets propelling from Congress and the President's home, beautiful boulevards on local streets and neighborhoods, and open spaces for monuments, memorials and historical structures, all of which largely