

IN HONOR OF MS. ROBINSON, MS.  
KORALJA, MS. GARDENER

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 15, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gloria Robinson, Gloria R. Koralja and Audrey Taylor Gardener, three individuals who are retiring from the Jersey City Head Start Program after years of outstanding service. Head Start programs across the country provide educational opportunities for kids from lower income families. These teachers, administrators, and social workers working with the Head Start Programs are heroes for bringing America closer to its ideal of equal opportunity for all.

Gloria Robinson has invested her time and energy over the years into helping others. In 1996 she initiated her career in social service by working as a Program Aide in A. Harry Moore Gardens Head Center and went on to

serve as SHARE coordinator at the Center. Ms. Robinson gained more experience as she became certified as a group leader for Looking At Life Parent Education and as she completed Literacy Volunteers of America tutor training. Ms. Robinson went on to initiate AHM pocket park in Lincoln Park. In addition, she fought for the elimination of PJP landfill and for necessary pulmonary testing for children in AHM housing development. Ms. Robinson has been involved with Head Start since her training for Head Start at New York University in 1996.

Gloria R. Koralja, also a woman of great service, began her work with Jersey City Child Development Centers in 1985. She served as a classroom teacher and head teacher for preschool Head Start children. Ms. Koralja knows the value of a good education. She received a science degree from Philippines Normal College in 1963 and continued her learning as she received a degree in Child Counseling from Jersey State College in 1973. Besides her work with children and with Head Start as an organization, Ms. Koralja also spends her

time as a member of St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church in Jersey City. For 12 years, she has invested her time and caring into the Jersey City Head Start Program.

Audrey Taylor Gardener has worked with Jersey City Child Development Centers since 1966. Her work at the Centers included organizing parent committees, assisting families with social problems and taking care of many of the needs of her students inside and outside of the classroom. Ms. Gardener received her degree in Urban Studies at St. Peter's College in 1981. She is presently involved in many other activities including serving as President of Trinity American Lutheran Church Women and being a member of Chapel Avenue Block Association.

I thank these women for their effort, hard work and caring. They have provided tremendous support for their students, the Jersey City Head Start Program and the families they have touched over the years. Thank you for your outstanding services to Jersey City.