

The poet John Dryden (1631–1700), once said, “So softly death succeeded life in her/ She did but dream of heaven/and she was there.”

Mary Bianchini will be sorely missed not only by all her family and friends, but by the countless people she has helped throughout her life. As we mark the passing of Mary ‘Bee,’ our good friend, this outstanding citizen, with her gentle heart, we convey our condolences and prayers to her family as we reflect upon her lifetime and service to us all.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE SCHLESINGER

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2001*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of the Director of the City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department (MWWWD), Mr. Dave Schlesinger.

Dave is retiring after more than a decade of service to the City of San Diego. During that time he was responsible for managing the planning, design and construction of facilities associated with the upgrade and expansion of the Metropolitan Sewerage System which provides wastewater treatment services to 1.9 million residents from the fifteen cities and districts in the greater San Diego area.

As director of MWWWD, Dave headed a team of more than 1,000 employees and full-time consultants, that are also responsible for wastewater collection services for the City of San Diego. The MWWWD treats the wastewater generated in a 450-mile-square-mile area stretching from Del Mar to the North, Alpine and Lakeside to the East, and South to the Mexican border. I worked with Dave on a number of projects critical to San Diego. He was a key member of the team that successfully attained legislative approval of the so-called 301(h) waiver for the Point Loma waste treatment plant. This action saved literally billions of dollars for the taxpayers of San Diego. Without Dave’s technical expertise and political acumen, we would not have been successful in this effort.

Dave’s talents were also critical to last year’s Congressional approval of the Bajagua project to treat Mexican sewage. Dave helped to develop the innovative public-private partnership that promises to solve a 50-year-old problem plaguing San Diego. We always relied on Dave’s “sense of the possible”—both politically and technically—to get over the many obstacles we faced over several years.

Dave is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where he received a Bachelor of Science degree. He also holds a Masters degree in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. He is a registered professional engineer in the Civil Discipline. He has had nearly 30 years of experience in planning, engineering and construction project management and facilities management. Prior to his service with the City of San Diego, he served as a U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer for 25 years. He retired with the grade of Captain. Dave is a member of the Society of American Military

Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers and the Navy League of the United States. He is also involved in numerous technical and professional societies in the San Diego area.

The City of San Diego will greatly miss the services of Dave Schlesinger.

IN HONOR OF DAVID C. FORBES,  
SR.

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Reverend Doctor David C. Forbes, Sr., Senior Minister and Pastor of Christian Faith Baptist Church, on the occasion of his receipt of a doctorate in sociology from the University of Virginia. Doctor Forbes was one of eight children born in Raleigh, North Carolina to a Pentecostal Bishop and a sainted mother. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Shaw University, a Master of Social Work degree from Adelphi University and Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary. He has also been awarded several honorary degrees, including a Doctor of Divinity by the Richmond Virginia Seminary, Doctor of Humane Letters by Shaw University and Doctor of Divinity by Shaw Divinity School.

Doctor Forbes was active in the civil rights movement during the 1960’s having served as the North Carolina representative for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Doctor Forbes came to the gospel ministry after an extensive career in education, which included teaching at the elementary and university levels. He was also involved in counseling and social program administration. In addition to the ministerial role, he was Assistant Professor and Director of Admission, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University for some twelve years. From 1979–1984 Dr. Forbes served as Pastor of St. Peter Baptist Church, Glen Allen/Richmond, Virginia; and from 1983–1990 Senior Minister and Pastor of Martin Street Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina. Dr. Forbes currently serves as Consultant to the President and Dean of The Shaw Divinity School.

Doctor Forbes has also volunteered on numerous committees and boards. He currently serves on the Human Services Taskforce of The North Carolina Local Government Partnership Council, the Board of Building Together Ministries, Board of The United Way of Wake County, and the South-East Raleigh Improvement Commission. In addition, he has a number of publications to his credit. In fact, he is in broad demand as an evangelist, church development consultant, workshop facilitator and keynoter.

Dr. Forbes is married to the former Hazel Baldwin of Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina. He is the father of three children, a son, Reverend David C. Forbes, Jr. founder and Pastor of the Columbus Christian Center, Columbus, Ohio, and two daughters, Mrs. Cheryl Forbes Lassiter, a banker in Raleigh, and Denise Colene Forbes, a music teacher in Bronx, New York. Dr. Forbes proudly answers to “Pa

Pa” and “Grand Pa” to five grandsons and four granddaughters.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Doctor David C. Forbes, Sr. has devoted his life to serving his community his church and his people. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today as he is awarded a truly hard-earned honor. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHOENIX  
HOME LIFE MUTUAL INSURANCE  
COMPANY

**HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2001*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, 1851 was an extraordinary year. Our country was 75 years old and on the brink of Civil War. In the midst of all the chaos, a small group of Hartford, Connecticut’s leading businessmen, religious leaders, cultural and civic leaders, applied for a charter for the formation of The American Temperance Life Insurance Company, which would become Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Company.

On Thursday, Phoenix celebrates its 150th anniversary. It has survived the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Great Depression, two World Wars and the societal upheaval of the late 20th century. Phoenix has endured because the company has always met the needs of its policyholders and customers while upholding its standards of integrity, and industry and community leadership.

Phoenix has through the years been a leader in product innovations: it was the first to insure the temperate, the first to lower rates for women (based on actuarial science), the first to offer policies that covered total families, not just individuals, and the first to lower rates for nonsmokers.

Phoenix has been a leader in business practice innovations: Phoenix was the first to require full-time dedicated agents and led the drive to make the sale of insurance a profession. Phoenix was also the first to develop a publication for its field force and the first company to use direct mail marketing.

Phoenix has been recognized ten times by Working Mother magazine as one of the Top 100 companies for working mothers. It was recognized for its efforts in providing childcare, workplace flexibility, leave for new parents, and advancement of women.

But perhaps most importantly, Phoenix’s Chief Executive Officer, Robert W. Fiondella, has proven that the values of community and citizenship made good business sense. Phoenix encourages its employees to volunteer through a policy that allows them to devote 40 hours of company time per year to community activities, provided it is matched by the same amount of personal time. The company also rewards its top 20 professional advisors through its Donor’s Award, a program that enables them to designate up to \$2,000 to a local charity. Since its inception, the award has benefited many organizations, including the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Lou Gehrig Baseball and the Make A Wish Foundation.