

Two presented with Guardian Angel Awards

The Dominion Post.

Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer, D-Monongalia, was presented with the state's first Guardian Angel Award — a handmade glass angel — at the West Virginia Women's Commission's 25th anniversary celebration.

Retiring Delegate Vicki Douglas, D-Berkeley, was also honored.

"This award symbolizes the very special way we regard Delegate Fleischauer," Commission Chairman Wendy Thomas said. "Ever since she entered the Legislature, we have been able to count on her to be a strong advocate for the commission."

Fleischauer, an eight-year member of the state House of Delegates, was lauded for her work on economic issues affecting women.

"She spearheaded the campaign in the Legislature for pay equity," said Commission Vice Chair Elaine Harris. This resulted in the 1998 Equal Pay for Equal Work for State Employees bill. Harris said Fleischauer followed up every year to make this pay equity a reality.

Since the bill passed, Fleischauer has served as co-chair of the Equal Pay Commission and secured money in last year's budget to begin making adjustments for differences found by the commission.

Commission staff also pointed to Fleischauer's work on domestic violence prevention, including increased funding for domestic violence shelters, and women's health issues, including the campaign to prevent osteoporosis.

