

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES
MARINE LIEUTENANT GENERAL
SAMUEL T. HELLAND

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the United States Marine Corps are exceptional.

Our country has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to keep this country free and safe. United States Marine Lieutenant General Samuel T. Helland is one of these individuals.

Lt. General Helland earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth and holds a Master of Science Degree from Troy State University. He is a graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Lt. General Helland started his military career by enlisting in the Army in 1968. He served three years with the U.S. Army Special Forces, leaving after a combat tour of duty in Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group (ABN), Military Advisory Command (Special Observations Group). Lt. General Helland graduated from Marine Officer Candidate School in 1973, and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1974. He is qualified as a CH-53 pilot.

Lt. General Helland has served in many different capacities over the years; Lt. General Helland served with the Amphibious Units, Aviation Combat Elements, and Joint Task Forces. He has participated in exercises and contingency operations ranging from the Arctic Circle, throughout the Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas, the Persian Gulf, and the Horn of Africa.

His assignments include Staff Officer for the Logistics Officer for the Marine Aircraft Group 26, Operations Officer for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461, MAG 40, Joint Staff Officer in the J-7, Command of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), Deputy Commander JTF-Shining Hope, US Joint Forces Command, Norfolk VA, US Marine Corps Forces South, Commanding General Fleet Marine Forces South, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation. In May 2004, Lt. General Helland assumed command of Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa. From August 2005 to July 2007, Lt. General Helland commanded the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Miramar San Diego, California. In July 2007, he assumed duty as Deputy Commanding General I MEF Camp Pendleton, CA before assuming his present assignment as Commanding General I MEF; Commander, Marine Corps Forces Central Command.

His decorations include the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, Meritorious Serv-

ice Medal with gold star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon with one star, and various service and unit awards.

Lt. General Helland's tireless passion for service has contributed to the betterment of this country. On the occasion of his retirement and on behalf of the people of the United States whom he has served with courage and honor, we commemorate the service of Lieutenant General Samuel T. Helland.

H. RES. 627

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thanks for the service of the men and women of the 81st Brigade Combat Team and all of the Washington National Guard.

In August of 2008, over 2,400 Washington State Guardsmen and women in the 81st BCT mobilized for deployment. After several weeks of training at Fort McCoy, the unit deployed for ten months of service in Iraq.

The 81st BCT's primary missions in Iraq were providing security to convoys, protecting U.S. forces, and engaging in provincial reconstruction. They performed these missions admirably, and the unit returned home in August of 2009.

Unfortunately, one soldier in the 81st BCT, Specialist Samuel Stone, was killed in Iraq earlier this year. I am deeply sorry for the loss that his friends and family must feel. We will not forget his sacrifice for our country.

It is an honor to represent so many of the men and women who make up the 81st BCT, the Washington National Guard, and the Air National Guard as well as the families who support them.

Over 11,000 members of the Washington National Guard have been mobilized since September 11, 2001, for service in Iraq and in response to domestic emergencies such as Hurricane Katrina. Their service helps keep our nation strong and free.

I congratulate the 81st BCT on the occasion of their return from Iraq. I thank them and all our men and women in uniform for the sacrifices they make on behalf of our country.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES "ROCKY"
ROBINSON, JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of James "Rocky" Robinson, Jr.,

founder of the Bedford Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps (BSVAC) and an inspiration to the community of Brooklyn.

James ("Rocky") Robinson, Jr. was born on July 15, 1940, in Marietta, North Carolina, to Betty and James Robinson. When he was still an infant, his family moved to Brooklyn, New York, where Rocky was raised. After attending Eastern District High School in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, Rocky served five years in the United States Army. His army duty included serving as a member of the Honor Guard, posted at the Arlington National Cemetery, where he stood guard during the visits of Jackie Kennedy and her children to John F. Kennedy's grave.

After leaving the military, Rocky joined New York City's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) where he served the city for more than 30 years, before retiring in 2000. His career with EMS was marked by many accomplishments. In 1977 he was promoted to Lieutenant, and in 1994 he became a Captain. Through his work with EMS, Rocky witnessed the crisis in emergency medical services in New York's minority communities. To respond to these crises, in 1988 Rocky co-founded the Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps ("BSVAC"), America's first minority volunteer ambulance corps.

The remarkable story of Rocky and BSVAC has been told in print, on the radio and on television. BSVAC first began operations with no ambulance and no volunteers, at a point when the response time in Bedford-Stuyvesant for city ambulances averaged about 30 minutes. In the beginning, Rocky and his partner, Spec. Joe Perez, responded on foot to the calls they heard on their police radio. Eventually, BSVAC established a record-breaking ambulance service that has responded to over 400 emergency calls a month with an average response time of less than four minutes.

Through BSVAC, Rocky has worked tirelessly to help the Bedford-Stuyvesant community. Rocky designed a comprehensive emergency medical training program including trauma troopers, First Responders, and youth corps. To date, thousands of local residents have been trained to save lives in emergencies. In addition, hundreds of young people have completed the youth corps program (basic EMT training); almost 100% of the graduates have become EMTs or have otherwise pursued careers in medicine as a nurse, physician's assistant, or doctor. Although he has concentrated his efforts on Bed-Stuy, Rocky has reached out to other minority communities, from Harlem to Los Angeles, providing emergency medical training and assistance in setting up programs. Closer to home, in 1993, Rocky responded to the first World Trade Center incident with BSVAC; he also responded on 9/11 when BSVAC volunteers saved a firefighter's life.

Rocky's ability to inspire led him to being chosen to address the Republican National Convention in Houston, Texas in 1994. For his remarkable accomplishments and ongoing efforts, Rocky has received numerous awards,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

including: Robin Hood Foundation Hero of the Year Award, New York City Award, American Institute for Public Service Jefferson Award, Points of Light Award (Awarded by George Bush), and Maxwell House Hero Search Award. Among the many honors he has received, Rocky was selected to carry the Olympic torch down Fifth Avenue in New York City, en route to Atlanta, in 1996. Rocky's status as a hero was even recognized by the children of Wilkes Country Elementary School in North Carolina, who named him as their black hero in 1998. (Choosing him by a landslide over the other candidates, including Michael Jordan). Of all the honors and awards that Rocky has earned, he describes his greatest reward as the satisfaction he enjoys from seeing young people succeed in medical careers after training with BSVAC.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing James "Rocky" Robinson, an "on-call," unselfish community servant.

HONORING THE POINTS OF LIGHT INSTITUTE

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in the history of an organization that has made a difference in the lives of many Americans and many communities across the nation—the Points of Light Institute.

Twenty years ago, a newly-inaugurated President George H.W. Bush challenged us to "bring in the generations, harnessing the unused talent of the elderly and the unfocused energy of the young . . . to spread like stars throughout the Nation, doing good." It was this challenge that became the foundation of the Points of Light initiative. President Obama dramatically expanded this movement with his leadership of the bipartisan Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, legislation that I sponsored, which was signed into law earlier this year.

The Points of Light Foundation recently merged with Hands On Network to form the Points of Light Institute. This organization has been transforming American lives and communities around the nation, offering tangible and meaningful ways for people to serve.

In 2008, the Points of Light Institute and its 250 Hands On volunteer action centers engaged over 1.2 million volunteers in service and managed over 520,000 volunteer projects. The value of this service is over \$600 million, a remarkable contribution to the health and welfare of American communities from Seattle to Miami.

One of Points of Light's affiliates is the Long Island Volunteer Center headquartered in my Congressional District. Daily, this great local organization connects individuals and groups to help nonprofit organizations expand programs and services that improve the environment, mentor at-risk youth, assist the elderly, help hungry and homeless people, and enhance appreciation of cultural arts.

Congratulations to Points of Light on this 20 year anniversary and for the many acts of service that have improved the lives of those

in need in our midst. We all look forward to many more years of inspiring work.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my thanks and recognition to Points of Light Institute.

A TRIBUTE TO ERMA A. WINSLOW

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Erma A. Winslow, a dedicated educator and community servant.

Erma Winslow is a retired administrator and guidance counselor for the New York City Board of Education. Ms. Winslow was a counselor and assistant to the principal at Joan of Arc Junior High School, a guidance counselor at Junior High School 258, and a guidance counselor at Richmond Hill High School. While working for the Board of Education, Ms. Winslow was committed to providing quality counseling to elementary, middle, and high school students. Ms. Winslow's areas of expertise are in education, special education, guidance and counseling, curriculum development, recreation, library and media services.

Ms. Winslow holds a Master's Degree in Health Education from Columbia University, a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Fordham University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Health and Recreation from Talladega College in Alabama. She was founder and chair of Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Block Association. She is also the recipient of a community service award and a guidance counselor award for her tireless service to the New York City Board of Education.

Erma has successfully counseled junior high and high school students, assisting them in meeting their academic, personal and social needs, so they could be active in the communities in which they live.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Erma A. Winslow.

A TRIBUTE TO TERESA COAXUM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Teresa Coaxum, a tireless leader in the community.

Born and raised in Walterboro South Carolina, Ms. Coaxum began her career at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina at the age of 16. Shortly after her first semester she moved to New York and completed her Bachelor's degree and later her Master's degree at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Ms. Coaxum would later graduate from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government's Senior Managers in Government Executive Program. Always one to know the true importance of education, Ms. Coaxum is also a graduate of Coro Leadership New York XV.

In Ms. Coaxum's former job, she served as Project Manager of Community Relations under Brooklyn District Attorney, Charles

Hynes. There she addressed the needs of residents in Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Stuyvesant Heights, East Flatbush, and Bushwick by successfully coordinating community agencies, organizations, churches and elected officials in major initiatives such as ComALERT (Community and Law Enforcement Resources Together), a district attorney program that assists people on probation and parolees in getting jobs, training and education in Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Ms. Coaxum has worked tirelessly to empower New York residents through her commitment to community and human services. In her current position, she works countless hours directing community outreach and planning in NYC, assisting in the management of Senator SCHUMER's eight regional offices, as well as advising the Senator and his Washington, D.C. staff on key policy issues.

Ms. Coaxum is a lifetime member of the NAACP. She serves on several committees such as John Jay College of Criminal Justice Alumni Association as the 2nd Vice President, Interfaith Medical Center Auxiliary, Church Women United, Community Board 8, Partnership for Youth and Community Empowerment, Brooklyn Blizzard Youth Organization, The Women's Caucus for Ed Towns, and Brooklyn Young Democrats.

In recognition of her loyalty and service, Ms. Coaxum was selected as one of The Network Journal's "Top 40 under 40 Dynamic Leaders" in June 2009, and as one of City Hall News' "Rising Stars 40 under 40". She received the John Jay College Alumni of the Year Award, various community service awards from Concord Family Services and the 77th, 79th, 81st, 83rd Precinct Community Councils. Among her many honors and recognitions, she has also received The Harriet Tubman Humanitarian Award and Proclamations from Senator Carl Andrews and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, as well as Special Recognition from Congressman EDOLPHUS "Ed" TOWNS, and Citations from Assemblyman Vito Lopez, New York City Councilmembers Erik Dilan and Diana Reyna, and former Councilman James E. Davis for dedication and hard work in the community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this relentless and dynamic community leader.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ANDRÉ RAMÓN SOLEIL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Reverend André Ramón Soleil, a seasoned lawyer, artist and entrepreneur with an extraordinary life story.

Reverend Soleil was raised in New Hope Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, New York, a church founded by his great-grandparents during the great migration of African-Americans northward to New York from North Carolina in the early 1900s. He was a member of the choir, an usher and a Sunday school teacher. At age 12, André confessed Jesus as Lord, was baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. At 13, Pastor Belk recognized God's call on

André's life and began training him for ministry as an "acolyte".

Mr. Soleil is a talented artist and his drawings, paintings and craftworks have been displayed at cultural events and museums since his pre-teens. Mayor Michael O'Laughlin honored the 15-year-old Soleil by appointing him to the Niagara Falls Council of the Arts for his role in many school and community productions in semi-professional and professional regional productions of *The Wiz*, *Pippin*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, to name a few.

In 1985, André Soleil came to New York at 17 and attended Parsons School of Design, majoring in illustration and painting. In 1989, André Soleil's son, Donald, was born. While looking for work after the closing of "Little Wing", Reverend Soleil took a part time job at the New York Public Interest Group, Inc. Soon after Reverend Soleil was promoted to Department Director, he began his career in activism, law and politics. Reverend Soleil was appointed by then Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger to Manhattan's Community Board 12. Mayor Giuliani next appointed Mr. Soleil to the position of Executive Liaison in the Mayor's Office of Legislative Affairs to the Public Health, Human Rights, General Welfare and Cultural Affairs Committees of the New York City Council. Subsequently, Governor George Pataki appointed Mr. Soleil to the Executive Chamber staff as Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. A year later, in 1996, Reverend Soleil completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from LaSalle University, cum laude.

Mr. Soleil attended City University of New York School of Law at Queens College from 1999 to 2002, where he then became President of the Class of 2002 and Editor-in-Chief of the New York City Law Journal in 2000. In 2000, America's Black Law Student Association elected André National Executive Director of the National Black Law Student's Association's 73 Chapters and 8,000 members; and in 2001, these students elected him to the Board of Governors of the National Bar Association. In 2002, Reverend Soleil graduated, achieving his Juris Doctorate and his Master of Arts degree in Business Administration and Media Management, with honors from Metropolitan College of New York.

In 2003, Reverend Soleil returned to the work of Jesus Christ and His church. In 2004, Bishop Dr. Wesley J. Wiley and the Elders of the Resurrection Temple of Our Lord ordained Mr. Soleil as a Reverend. Rev. Soleil then entered Columbia Evangelical Seminary to obtain his Doctorate of Ministry. In 2003, Reverend Soleil was admitted to the Bar of the State of New York and founded his law firm, Soleil & Company, P.C., which was opened out of his apartment's living room. In six years, Soleil & Company, P.C. now employs four attorneys, six staff members, and is known for innovative litigation, criminal defense and mortgage/foreclosure defense work. Soleil & Company, P.C. has taken Mayor Bloomberg to task as lead counsel in the matter of *Cohen v. Bloomberg*, a citizens' lawsuit to block the Mayor's destruction of the term limits law, and has developed a reputation for innovative legal practice in criminal, real-estate, civil rights and family law practice.

Rev. Soleil founded Christian Way, Ltd. in 2007, a non-profit advocacy and research group dedicated to the development, protection and promotion of Christianity as a way of

life. He also hosts a daily early-morning radio bible study program, "Breakfast with the Bible," that is carried by Massachusetts and Texas based radio and Internet broadcasts.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend André Ramón Soleil.

A TRIBUTE TO LANCE GOODWIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lance Goodwin, a devoted community servant who has done so much for our community by establishing Trucked Out, Inc., a parent organization for a number of clubs. Lance's vision expanded to form Trucked Out Divas SUV Club and Trucked Out SUV Social Club. These clubs partner with politicians, police precincts, churches, and community organizations for the betterment of their neighborhoods.

Mr. Goodwin attended New York City public schools and graduated from George Westinghouse High School. Upon graduating, Mr. Goodwin opted to work so that he could have an income which would make him more independent. After several jobs, he landed an ideal job with the phone company Bell Atlantic, now Verizon. It was during this time that he started the Trucked Out SUV Club with the help of friends. He envisioned him and his friends making a difference in the lives of those they encountered on a daily basis. The members of Trucked Out SUV Club consider themselves to be blessed to be able to afford their vehicles in which they ride and established a model of responsible living for their peers. Lance also saw the need for strong male influences in the lives of children at his son's High School PTA meetings.

Trucked Out's members are all firm believers in the saying "each one teach one". Trucked Out has sponsored a variety of community events over the years and will continue to do so every year, most notably, their Back to School Giveaway, a Halloween Party for the women in need of shelter. Trucked Out gives out over one thousand toys each holiday season and hosts several teen parties at its clubhouse so our teens have a place to go and enjoy themselves without fear of violence. Trucked Out is also a sponsor of the New York Warriors kid's football team.

Whether it is to protest an act of violence, a crime against a member of the community, a vigil to remember the life of someone or to go to a funeral to give support to a grieving family, Trucked Out will continue to help out in any way it can in our communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lance Goodwin.

IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1327,

the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009. Iran's ambition to become a nuclear power is unquestionably clear, and now is the time for debilitating sanctions that will curtail this dangerous path.

Despite the assertions of Iranian leaders that they seek to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes alone, their actions and obfuscation suggest otherwise. Further, President Ahmadinejad has continued to cause international frustration through comments he made at the United Nations summit in September. His efforts also go far beyond words. On numerous occasions, Ahmadinejad has tested mid to long range missiles, and in February 2009, Iran launched a low-orbit rocket that is the necessary first step to firing an intercontinental ballistic missile. Further, intelligence sources point to Iran's ready capability of firing short, medium, and long range missiles that endanger our brave men and women deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I therefore do not support President Obama's cuts to missile defense in the FY10 National Defense Authorization Act. In fact, I believe that we are putting our friends and allies at risk, as well as the eastern shore of the United States. However, if this chamber is forced to rely so heavily on economic sanctions, we must encourage and enable American divestment from Iran to squeeze their economy to a point that will rein in their dangerous ambitions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN BILL DE BLASIO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Councilman Bill de Blasio, a tenacious leader in the community and an inspiration to all of New York.

Bill de Blasio understands the importance of education. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies from New York University; he then attended Columbia University and earned a Master of Arts degree in International and Public Affairs.

Councilman de Blasio began his impressive political career in New York City government in the 1989 David Dinkins mayoral race. Following the campaign, Mr. de Blasio served as an aide in Dinkins' Administration, where he worked on projects such as the Safe Streets, Safe City initiative to reduce crime throughout New York City. While working at City Hall under Mayor Dinkins and later with the City Council, he learned first hand how city government works. He used this knowledge in the passage of key legislation establishing New York City's domestic partnership program. Later, Mr. de Blasio would eventually manage Hillary Rodham Clinton's successful run for Senate.

From working for the parents of Community School District 15, where he helped spearhead some of the most comprehensive reforms in the city, such as capping first grade class size at 20 students and establishing universal Pre-Kindergarten; to serving as the highest-ranking official in the New York/New

Jersey region for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Mr. de Blasio fights the tough fights and wins. As a member of the New York City Council, he continues to serve the people of New York, and specifically the residents of Brooklyn's 39th Council District. Mr. de Blasio's most recent accomplishment is becoming the New York City Democratic Party's Public Advocate-Elect.

Throughout Mr. de Blasio's career, the common thread that runs through is his desire to better the quality of life for all New Yorkers by improving public education, creating affordable housing and fighting discrimination based on race, religion, physical disability or sexual orientation. He has been instrumental in directing increased federal funding for affordable housing, senior citizen housing and economic development in the region.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing New York City Councilman Bill de Blasio, who is expected to be our City's Public Advocate. He is a dynamic community leader and true public servant.

A TRIBUTE TO EDNA M. JOHNSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Edna M. Johnson, a model citizen and extraordinary leader in the community.

Edna Johnson was born and raised in a small steel mill town in Clairton, Pennsylvania, the youngest of nine children. Ms. Johnson began singing at the age of seven and, because of her love of music, Ms. Johnson began singing in several different locales, including church and eventually as member of the group "Naomi Shelton and the Gospel Queens".

After graduating from Clairton High School, she relocated to New York City. She found solace with her church family when she joined Broadway United Church of Christ, where she served as Deacon, Trustee and Steward. Never forgetting the importance of education that her parents instilled in her, Ms. Johnson's church family assisted her with attending Pace University. She would later receive her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

Ms. Johnson has always understood the importance of service, working as a parent organizer in the public schools and as a tenant organizer. She was the first to successfully implement the Neighborhood Revitalization Program with New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. While living in Manhattan, she became chairperson of the Tenant Association in Clinton Towers for five years. She also chaired the 79th Precinct Community Council for six years, where she helped facilitate a more cohesive relationship between the people and the local police.

Always eager to serve, she is currently a member of Community Board 3 and has received several citations for perfect attendance. In her first year on the Board, she was Chairperson of the Police, Fire and Safety Committee. Ms. Johnson now serves on the Health Hospital and Social Science Committee. She also serves as first Vice President for Northeast Brooklyn Housing Company Inc. and Second Vice President for the African American Planning Commission Inc.

Ms. Johnson currently serves as Special Assistant to the Honorable EDOLPHUS "Ed" TOWNS, navigating federal agencies on behalf of hundreds of constituents and serving as a liaison to the broader community.

In recognition of her services, she has received citations from Congressman EDOLPHUS TOWNS, City Councilmember Annette Robinson, The New York City Police Department, The 79th Precinct Council, The Brooklyn Job Corps, A.I.D.P. at P.S.26, Hebron Baptist Church, Greater Cross Road Baptist Church, Bridge Street Development Corporation, The Bedford Stuyvesant Community Block Association and The National Night Out Committee.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Edna M. Johnson, a tireless community organizer, and dedicated servant of the public.

EXTENDING AUTHORITY TO BUILD VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R.

3689, a bill to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center will pay a further tribute to the men and women who defended our nation's freedom by serving in the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. Currently, there are three other monuments that mark the sacrifice paid by these brave individuals on the National Mall. They are the Three Soldiers statue, the Vietnam Women's memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Just last year, there were over 3.8 million visitors to these memorials, and I believe that constructing a visitor center to facilitate their passion for our veterans is a noble cause.

The visitor center will become one of the largest war memorials in Washington, DC at 25,000 square feet. It will be built underground in front of the Lincoln Memorial and may include a movie theater, a three-dimensional battle scene, mementos left at the memorial, and a wall where pictures of slain soldiers will be displayed on their birthdays. The center will surely prove to be a fantastic tribute to the service and sacrifices made by veterans of the Vietnam War and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the brave men and women who have sacrificed for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our nation's service men and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Creating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center is another act of appreciation for our veterans and a reminder of the superior job our troops perform for America at home and abroad. It is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.