

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD R.  
BUERY, JR.

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2013*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as the Nation commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, and observes the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, I rise today to honor Mr. Richard R. Buery, Jr. The son of a retired New York City public school teacher and a retired lab manager, Richard was born and raised in the East New York section of Brooklyn, where he knew early on he wanted to level the playing field for the young men and women he played with growing up.

As a freshman at Harvard University, he began to volunteer at an after-school program at a nearby public housing complex at Roxbury, Massachusetts. It was here during this summer experience where Richard began to see the opportunity and need to develop quality youth programming for underserved communities. After attending and graduating from Yale Law School, Richard worked as a staff attorney at the Brennan Center for Justice, and later became a law clerk to Judge John M. Walker, Jr. of the Federal Court of Appeals in New York City. Even with his success as an attorney he still felt the need to serve young people in underserved communities remained.

Displeased with what was being offered as youth programming in East New York, in 2002, he co-founded and served as the Executive Director of Groundwork, Inc. His mission for the organization was clear, he wanted it to respectfully serve and support the young people in East New York in the manner that he believed his friends needed to have been supported when he was growing up. Under his leadership Groundwork grew to become a comprehensive youth development organization that served more than 3,000 youths and whose annual budget grew from \$1 million to \$6 million dollars.

His success in the youth development world led to the Children's Aid Society selecting Buery in October 2009 as its tenth President and Chief Executive Officer. He is the first African American to lead the venerable New York charitable organization, whose mission is help children in poverty succeed and thrive. As the President and CEO, Mr. Buery has used his prior experience at Groundwork to enhance the development of the Children's Aid Society's Bronx flagship program—the Next Generation Center. Located in the 15th Congressional District the Next Generation Center is a community-based service and youth development program geared to provide the necessary social support mechanisms young men and women need to transition safely to adulthood. Many of the participants are Bronx at-risk youth who have aged out of the foster care system.

The young men and women of the Bronx who participate in the programming provided at the Next Generation Center know they have an ally in Richard R. Buery, Jr. They know he will not quit on them, label them or turn them away.

Mr. Speaker, it fills me with hope as I reflect on Mr. Buery's service to the residents of New York City and to the constituents of the 15th Congressional District, that we have an enormously talented leader whose commitment to changing the lives of those young men and women has no boundaries. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the past, present and future accomplishments of Mr. Richard R. Buery, Jr.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF RITA EIKA JONES

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Rita Eika Jones, who passed away on February 1, 2013. Throughout her long and distinguished career in education and civil service, Rita Eika Jones served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals throughout Northwest Florida. The loss of a great woman and unparalleled public servant is felt not only here at home, but across the state of Florida.

Ms. Jones was a lifelong resident of the Panhandle and began her commitment to the Lord at twelve years of age, receiving confirmation at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church. Ms. Jones inherently understood that education is the key to success and she spent the majority of her professional career passing her knowledge on to her students. An alumnus of Booker T. Washington High School's class of 1948, Ms. Jones furthered her education by obtaining a mathematics education degree at Bethune-Cookman University. With a passion for learning and a thirst for knowledge, she continued to develop her edification by attaining advanced degrees from a myriad of universities. She earned a graduate degree from Northwestern University and Harvard University, as well as a doctorate degree from Florida State University in design and management of elementary and secondary schools. While completing the course work for her doctorate degree, Ms. Jones studied administration and supervision at Florida A&M University, community school research and small business at the University of West Florida, finance at Clyde Gore Real Estate School, and mathematics and computer technology at Case Institute of Technology.

Ms. Jones' fervor for teaching and bettering the lives of others led her to Escambia County School District, where she served with unwavering dedication as an educator, principal and supervisor for forty-one years, and as a Pen-

sacola City Councilwoman for two terms. Devoting herself wholeheartedly to her profession, she played an active role in improving the school district through staff development, student recognition and achievement, needs assessment, annual report planning and writing and several other key areas.

Northwest Florida, the Escambia County School District, and the many students whose lives were touched by Ms. Jones, mourn the loss of a kind and devoted woman. Her contributions and service to the community and this great Nation will forever be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the exemplary life of Ms. Rita Eika Jones. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers to her entire family and friends. She will be truly missed by all.

PRESERVING 6-DAY DELIVERY

**HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2013*

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, many Americans rely on six day mail delivery for essential services. Adjusting this system by even one day could prove to be a problematic change, especially for small businesses looking to advertise or engage in commerce through first-class mail.

While I realize the United States Postal Service is facing tremendous financial burdens, taking away a staple of our Nation's most affordable delivery system is a bad business choice. I have been an advocate for preserving six day delivery, cosponsoring H. Res. 30 which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the USPS should take all appropriate measures to ensure continuation of 6-day mail delivery service.

Further, this course of action will result in the loss of jobs for the tremendously hard workers of the postal service. I have had the unique experience of working side by side with a Letter Carrier and have seen firsthand just how demanding their job can be. Given the economic situation and significant job losses our country is already facing, 5-day delivery is a step in the wrong direction.

I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to ensure we preserve 6-day delivery and strengthen the Postal Service.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN WILMA

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2013*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mr. John Wilma of Hayward, California, who passed away on January 25th. John was known as a tremendous family man, a business and community leader, and was a friend

• 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.

to countless individuals that he touched through his service to the people of the East Bay.

John was an active member of our community, serving in several local community groups. He was a proud member of the Hayward Rotary Club for 32 years and served as its president from 2002–2003. In 2005, John was honored as Outstanding Hayward Rotarian of the Year. John also was a member of the boards of the Hayward Chamber of Commerce, the Alameda County Fair, and the Rowell Ranch Rodeo Association.

John operated his small business in Hayward, alongside his beloved wife Robin, since 1976. He always was willing to donate his professional time to many, including the motorcycle units of the Hayward Police Department and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. For his outstanding business practices, John was honored with the Hayward Chamber of Commerce's Inaugural Businessperson of the Year Award in 1989.

John always lived his life by the Rotary International motto of "Service Above Self." A few years ago, John and his family helped start The Dictionary Project, wherein local Rotarians would visit each third grade classroom in Hayward and provide these students with a dictionary to assist them with learning, reading, and academic advancement. This is but one example of John's dedicated service through which he touched and improved the lives of so many of those around him.

John is survived by his wife of 43 years Robin Wilma, daughter Lieutenant Colonel Alisa R. Wilma, brother Charles Wilma, sister-in-law Cindy Wheeler, and brother-in-law Christopher de St. Croix. I am honored to be paying tribute to John today. His tireless efforts and generosity in service to the East Bay community will be missed.

#### CBC HOUR: IMMIGRATION REFORM

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2013*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me thank all of my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for highlighting the importance of immigration reform for our community and our country.

Recognizing immigration reform as a key civil rights issue, the CBC continues to be at the forefront of this important topic.

As someone who represents a district with rich cultural diversity, I have witnessed firsthand the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

I have seen families separated by a backlogged visa system, students denied the opportunity to contribute to the country that gave them the tools to succeed and innovate, and LGBT couples unfairly singled out and denied the opportunity to live together within the borders of this country.

Mr. Speaker we need immigration reform because our system is broken. We need it for family unity, for accountability, for fairness and equality, and for the good of our country and economy.

Most importantly we need to create a roadmap to citizenship for the men, women, children, and students living in our country.

These individuals, Americans in every sense of the word but on paper, are just the latest generation of immigrants to contribute to the cultural diversity and vitality of our Nation.

They are hardworking, they are dedicated, and they came here in search of better lives for themselves and their families; their lives are modern-day tales of the American dream and that echo the experiences of the parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents of each one of us.

And now we are at the brink of reforming this broken system and creating one that reflects our values of hard work, family unity, and equity.

Immigration reform will change things for the better, including in those communities that aren't usually at the forefront of this debate: immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean.

And while these immigrant communities aren't typically acknowledged, they have made tremendous contributions to getting us where we are today.

Take for example Shirley Chisholm, my dear friend and mentor, whose father was born in British Guiana and mother in Barbados.

She became the first African American woman elected to Congress and was one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus. She was also the person who inspired me to take part in the political process when I was just a young college student.

And there are others, like Colin Powell, who was born to Jamaican parents and rose to the ranks of four-star General and Secretary of State.

And Harry Belafonte, the "King of Calypso," was also born to Jamaican parents.

And Maureen Bunyan, a well-known news anchor and founder of the National Association of Black Journalists and the International Women's Media Foundation, who was born in Aruba. And the list goes on and on.

I am also proud to say that my own district is home to a growing community of immigrants and their families from places like Ethiopia, Eritrea, and the Caribbean.

They are active contributors to the East Bay region, as well as to a vibrant immigrant community that highlights their distinct cultural backgrounds while emphasizing a strong sense of local unity.

With a new immigration system, members of these communities will finally be able to unite with close family members, many after years and even decades of separation, same-sex binational couples will be able to express their love and obtain status equal to that of their neighbors without being separated by a border wall, and we will have an immigration system that people will go through rather than go around.

We also need to make sure that the new system protects and assists workers by increasing the enforcement of workplace standards and antidiscrimination laws.

It must also include more robust programs for job training, including adult education opportunities and programs for low-wage workers.

Lastly, it must make it easier for individuals to compete for jobs and provide resources to take the workers where the jobs are.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to make this new system a realization and to better the lives of the immigrant groups in my district and throughout the country.

Thank you again to my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for continuing this discussion and working toward a bipartisan solution.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF WILLIAM "BILL" SHERMAN WEEKS

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2013*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a real American hero and proud resident of the Eighth District of Texas, William "Bill" Sherman Weeks, who was laid to rest in the Houston National Cemetery this week.

It was very fitting that so many from our community joined Mr. Week's friends and family to honor this amazing man who offered over thirty years of service in defense of this nation.

As someone who was playing American Legion baseball and going on Boy Scout campouts at age 14, I can't help but be amazed by Bill Weeks, who at 14 donned this nation's uniform to serve in World War II.

Bill Week's service didn't end with the War to End all Wars; he went on to serve in the Korean War and two tours in Vietnam. His military service has been honored with over 22 ribbons and medals including the Bronze Star with Valor, the Korean Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnamese Honor Medal presented by the Vietnamese government. On top of all of that, he was also awarded a Purple Heart.

Mr. Weeks retired from the Air Force in 1974 as Chief Master Sergeant, and settled in Shenandoah where this devoted family man enjoyed his retirement, especially his time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In an interview with one of our local newspapers, the Conroe Courier, Mrs. Weeks described her husband of 20 years as "...very modest and reserved, not only about himself but also about his time spent serving his country."

"As I'm going through things, I'm sure I'll still find stuff that I didn't know he did," said Mrs. Weeks.

That, my friends, is what's right about America. Bill Weeks was the best of Americans because he showed us what makes a hero with his actions and those actions spoke more than any words ever could.

Americans love their nation and the freedoms we cherish. Some, like Bill Weeks, loved this nation enough to lend this nation the best years of their lives. A hero isn't someone who wins a battle, but who serves others. Mr. Weeks was a great American and a hero.

Our nation is forever in his debt as we are to the millions of Americans who volunteer their service to our nation. We pray God's comfort for this family and honor the memory of this Airman, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who has left such an amazing legacy.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
HELEN DIANE FOSTER

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2013*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, since Dr. Carter G. Woodson first initiated the idea of Black History Month in 1926, Americans have celebrated the contributions of African-Americans to our country's great history. Their contributions know no boundaries and can be felt in literature, arts, sciences, politics and every other facet of American life.

As the Representative of the Fifteenth Congressional District of New York, I have had the opportunity and pleasure to know and work with New York City Councilmember Helen Diane Foster.

Standing on the shoulders of the brave African American women who fought so hard for their rights, Councilmember Foster is a beacon of inspiration and role model for women of all races. She was born in the Bronx and is the second child of educator Helen Foster and former Councilmember Pastor Wendell Foster. At a very young age she was taught the importance of hard work, civility and public service.

Before running for office, Councilmember Foster attended and graduated from Howard University and the CUNY School of Law. She worked as the Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, served as Assistant Vice President for Legal Affairs at St. Barnabas Hospital. She also happens to be a proud member of the nation's oldest Black sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In November 2001, Councilmember Foster was the first African-American woman elected to the New York City Council from Bronx County. Throughout her tenure as a member of the New York City Council, she has become well-known for her strong work ethic, no nonsense stances on local issues and robust legislative agenda.

It is leaders like Councilmember Foster who are today's inspiration for future generations of African American women. We honor her, along with all of the courageous African American women, past and present, for their courage and tenacity to help create better communities and a better nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in remembering the many strong African American women who have shown us what equality is and how as Americans we all must come together to fight for equality of all races and genders. Today we honor a woman who stands amongst them. Join me in paying tribute to New York City Councilmember Helen Diane Foster and the great African American women who have come before and currently stand beside her.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2013*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Of-

fice of the Comptroller of the Currency. The OCC is the oldest regulatory agency in the federal government.

President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the National Currency Act on February 25, 1863. The National Currency Act created a new system of locally owned, federally-chartered and -supervised financial institutions and a new position in the Treasury Department, the Comptroller of the Currency, to oversee their safety and soundness.

The National Currency Act became law during the Civil War, which by 1863 had already proven far more costly in blood and treasure than anyone had imagined at the war's outset. Because the act required newly chartered banks to purchase U.S. government bonds to secure their obligations, it brought millions of dollars to the Treasury, helping to ensure that the troops and those who furnished their food and equipment would not go unpaid.

But for Lincoln, Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase, and their allies in Congress, the system ushered in by the National Currency Act was also the fulfillment of a dream to truly unite the country into a vast national market in which a reliable money supply flowed freely from state to state and region to region, stimulating commerce, communication, and a sense of mutual engagement in the enterprise of growth and prosperity for all.

For the past 150 years, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has aided in advancing the great American enterprise. Over that long period, national bank examiners and those who support their work have exemplified professionalism and integrity.

With skill, steadiness, and good judgment, the men and women of the OCC have helped steer the nation's banking system through crisis. During the Great Depression, OCC examiners worked day and night to reorganize banks and reopen them to the public. The banking system went on to play a major part in financing the American war effort between 1941 and 1945, and the rebuilding of the war-torn world thereafter. During the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009, the OCC helped shore up the banking system and its recovery, so that banks could resume the vital functions they perform in support of America's businesses and communities.

Since 2011, the OCC has also been responsible for the supervision of federal savings associations, whose support of housing finance has made it possible for millions of Americans to enjoy the benefits of home ownership.

Now, whereas Congress approved, and President Abraham Lincoln signed, the National Currency Act of 1863, creating the federal banking system and the position of Comptroller of the Currency; and whereas the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has served the people of the United States with distinction, ensuring a safe and sound national banking system to support American business, consumers, and communities, Congress hereby congratulates the OCC on its 150th anniversary and wishes it continued success in the accomplishment of its important mission.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2013

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2013*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I reintroduce a bill, the District of Columbia District Attorney Establishment Act of 2013, to give District of Columbia residents another element of the self-government enjoyed by all other American citizens. The bill would establish the Office of the District Attorney for the District of Columbia, headed by a district attorney elected by D.C. residents, to prosecute major local criminal laws of the District. Under the Home Rule Act, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, a federal entity, is responsible for prosecuting major local crimes here. The bill effectuates a 2002 advisory referendum, approved by 82 percent of D.C. voters, to create an office of the district attorney, headed by a locally elected district attorney.

There is no law enforcement issue of greater importance to D.C. residents, or on which they have less say, than the prosecution of local crimes here. A U.S. attorney has no business prosecuting the local criminal laws of a jurisdiction, an anachronism that is out of place in 21st century, home-rule D.C. The goal of the legislation is to put the District on par with every other local jurisdiction on local criminal law matters. Under the bill, the locally elected district attorney would become the city's chief legal officer. The U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia would continue to handle federal matters, like the other U.S. attorneys in our country. As presently constituted, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia is the largest in the country, only because it serves as the local city prosecutor. The U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia needs to be freed up to handle national security and other vital federal cases, particularly in the post-9/11 nation's capital.

Amending the Home Rule Act to create a local district attorney would be an important step toward our goal of achieving true self-government. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION ON AMERICANS LIVING ABROAD ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2013*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, our 4-6 million constituents scattered across the world promote our culture and strengthen our nation's global influence as they live and work abroad. For years I have worked to ensure that overseas Americans can fully exercise their rights as U.S. citizens by having their voices heard loud and clear by Congress. Five years ago, I formed the Congressional Americans Abroad Caucus because I wanted to bring awareness and focus to the concerns of those residing abroad. U.S. citizens remain just that, citizens, regardless of

where they choose to live and should not be ignored by virtue of residence.

Our constituents living and working abroad have consistently voiced concerns about the impact federal policymaking has on the issues directly affecting them like voting, immigration, access to financial institutions, and taxation. The time has come to take a look at the importance of federal policies for our overseas community rather than continuing to ignore the calls from our abroad constituents. That is why today I am introducing the Commission on Americans Living Abroad Act, which creates an Executive Commission with the main purpose of examining those concerns. The Commission creates a 15 member panel to examine the impact of federal policymaking on U.S. citizens abroad. The resulting study would then be used by Congress and the Executive Branch when considering the best steps we can take to engage the abroad community and ensure their voices are heard. This process will ensure clearer awareness of the federal issues impacting Americans abroad and will open a path for coordination with those communities towards more robust representation.

We must take a real and comprehensive look at how we, as Members of Congress, respond to U.S. citizens living abroad. Each of our constituents has a right to have their interests represented and to have a role in the political process. The Commission on Americans Living Abroad would establish a foundation from which we can work to better serve the needs of our global constituents. I welcome and urge my colleagues to lend their support to this bill.

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#### HONORING HAZEL WEISS

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2013*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Hazel Weiss as she retires from 29 years of service to the people of Alameda County, including her tireless efforts to provide permanent supportive housing and services for those in need. I join our community in celebrating the many ways in which her life's work has contributed to the success and wellbeing of countless people throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

Holding a bachelor's degree in American Social Organization, a Master of Arts in Health Services Administration, and a Master of Science in Assistance Dog Education, Ms. Weiss has shaped a multi-faceted career, which has never ceased to offer creative solutions for vulnerable populations.

Over the course of nearly three decades working with Alameda County, Ms. Weiss served as Senior Program Specialist for the Health Care Services Agency's Alcohol and Drug Programs Department; she was instrumental in creating sober living environments as Program Director for the Alameda County Shelter Plus Care Program; and was the Com-

munity Development Agency's Housing and Community Development Manager.

Moreover, as Director of the National Shelter Plus Care Coalition, which she initiated in 1999, Ms. Weiss oversaw 300 national members advocating to secure full federal renewal funding to permanently house and support homeless people with disabilities. Among her myriad commitments, she administered funding for Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) and served as a member of the Ryan White Care Act Community Care Planning Council.

For many years, Ms. Weiss also served on the Planning Committee of Alameda County's annual Disability Employment conference, as well as on a variety of committees, commissions, and nonprofit boards of directors to promote disability awareness and the equal treatment of persons with disabilities. Ms. Weiss exercised the rare talent of fulfilling local needs while also promoting advocacy on a national scale. Her nationally recognized work in Supportive Housing for homeless people made her a familiar face at the Federal level, calling for increased funding and support.

On a personal note, I was always impressed by Hazel's passion and vitality during her many visits to my Washington, DC office accompanied by her service dogs, first Hams, and later, Virgil. She is truly a remarkable woman who has gone above and beyond in working to make universal access to care and housing a reality for all.

Her dedication to improving others' lives is evident from her countless community affiliations and activities, including her personal commitment to the City of Berkeley Commission on Disability, the Disability Constituency Committee for the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and the Board of Directors of Community Resources for Independent Living. In addition to being a published author, an adjunct faculty member and lecturer, and a volunteer for dog-related therapeutic programs, Ms. Weiss has spent her career leading bold initiatives for the common good. She has truly created pathways out of poverty while being a champion for equal opportunity and human dignity each day.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Ms. Hazel Weiss, I salute you for 29 years of outstanding service to Alameda County and people across this great nation. I congratulate and thank you for your unparalleled service to our community. You have touched many lives in profound ways throughout your career, and we wish you and your loved ones continued prosperity and happiness as you transition to this exciting new chapter of life.

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#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DONALD A. MILES

#### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 8, 2013*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, the theme of Black History Month 2013 is "At the Cross-

roads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington." In the 100 years between their emancipation and the success of the civil rights movement, African-Americans were subjected to the abuse of slavery and the exclusion from benefits attributed to American prosperity. In spite of the civil and political barriers facing them, African-Americans worked diligently to achieve full equality with other Americans.

Therefore it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise to honor an outstanding public servant who has served the Bronx community for over 25 years. Judge Donald A. Miles, a child of North and South Carolina parents, and the eldest of two children, is presently a Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York in Bronx County.

Before beginning his life in the courtroom, the New York City Public Schools-educated Miles received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, with a minor in Sociology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and earned a Master of Science Degree in Social Work from Columbia University. His background in social sciences led him to Lincoln Hospital where he worked as a Certified Psychiatric Social Worker.

I imagine it was this experience at Lincoln Hospital, serving and supporting many of the underserved and under-resourced in the South Bronx that led Judge Miles to pursue his Juris Doctorate, from the Antioch School of Law in Washington, DC. Though there is much to extol in Judge Miles' rise from a private practice attorney to Principal Law Clerk at the Bronx Supreme Court and on to his current position as Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York in Bronx County, today it is important to focus on Judge Miles' commitment to improving the position of the African-American community.

He is currently a member of the Bronx County Bar Association, Black United Leadership in the Bronx, Scholarship Committee of the Black Bar of Association of Bronx County, and when he finds the time he volunteers as a judge for the Thurgood Marshall Mock trial competition. I also take personal pride in having Judge Miles serve as a member of my military academy recommendation committee. His participation in these committees and groups helps empower African-Americans in Bronx County.

Mr. Speaker, the Bronx is proud to be the home of many African-American leaders. Individuals like Judge Donald A. Miles continue to open doors and set high standards for generations of African-Americans. During Black History Month, we pay tribute to and thank him for his work on behalf of the people of the Bronx, and I ask you and my colleagues to join me.