effective fighting force. That system of justice must be mobile, be able to react to unique military offenses, and be administered by those who understand the environment in which it functions. Air Force JAGs have preserved such a system for Air Force members, whether stationed at home or at remote sites worldwide. Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Lena B. Medley, for her exemplary community service, and dedication to educating the children of the Brooklyn community.

Ms. Lena B. Medley, is an unsung American Hero. She undertook the arduous task of saving a school and a community, six years ago when she became the Principal of Thomas Jefferson High School. Ms. Medley restored pride and injected self-esteem into a school that was thought of as failing. The heroic actions initiated by Ms. Medley began when Thomas Jefferson High School was placed on a list marked for take over and subsequent closing by the New York State Education Department in 1993. As of December 1997, Thomas Jefferson High School was removed from the Schools Under Registration Review (SURR) List due to Ms. Medley's dynamic leadership.

Ms. Medley implemented several programs; (1) the Ninth Grade Preparatory Academy for Math and Science, which emphasized biology, sequential mathematics and technology. (2) the Marine Corps Junior ROTC—which strengthened character, helped form habits of self discipline, leadership and (3) the academy of Success—which graduated more special education students into the mainstream than in the schools history. Because of Ms. Medley's vision to have these unprecedented programs in an inner-city high school located in East New York Brooklyn, she has transformed this school successfully.

Ms. Medley holds degrees from Tennessee State and Fordham University. She has studied at Lehman College, Hunter College, and Harvard University. Ms. Medley is a 34 year veteran of education who cared enough to make a difference in the life of a child. She is truly an American Hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 15, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed chamber to pay tribute to the Jamesport Fire Department and to join the volunteer firefighters, emergency medical personnel and grateful people of this Long Island community as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the fire department's founding.

I would like to tell my colleagues about Jamesport, a special place where neighbors look out for neighbors and every resident possesses a special pride in their hometown. In a service that exemplifies selfless heroism, the men and women of the Jamesport Fire Department perform above and beyond the call of duty each and every day. Compensated only by the satisfaction that their efforts surely save lives and protect property, these volunteers have answered every alarm for 50 years. I am proud and honored to count these brave firefighters among my friends and neighbors.

Moreover, I am proud to join with the Jamesport Fire Department in honoring five charter members for their 50 years of faithful service that keep their neighbors, friends and even their own children safe and secure. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me on this 50th anniversary in saluting the courageous, devoted volunteers of the Jamesport Fire Department. May God keep them safe as they have worked to keep safe the Jamesport community.

HONORING MS. JEANETTE RUFFINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 15, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jeanette Ruffins for her exemplary community service, and her numerous contributions to the Brooklyn community.

Ms. Ruffins is currently the Executive Director of Genesis Homes, a 150 apartment, low income housing complex in East New York, Brooklyn. Genesis Homes is a low income housing complex that includes the Nelson Mandela Community Center. Ms. Ruffins oversees the daily operation of a Day Care Center, Primary Care Medical Services, G.E.D., Adult Basic Education, and a Boys & Girls Club site. The Boys and Girls Club provides recreation and leadership development for youth ages 6–18.

Ms. Ruffins has extensive experience in case management as well as social service administration and management. She has many years of experience with issues of victimization and domestic violence, including more than three years of experience with the Queens Safe Homes Program operated through the District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Ruffins has a Bachelors degree from Northwestern University and a Masters in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ms. Jeanette Ruffins, who has helped the underprivileged of our community, and has served as an excellent role model for countless individuals.