

## TRIBUTE TO CLENTE FLEMMING

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 1, 1999*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Clente Flemming for nearly 30 years of service in the banking industry. Through dedication and hard work, Mr. Flemming rose through the ranks to become Senior Vice President overseeing Personnel for Bank of America in North and South Carolina. At the end of this year, he retires from that impressive career to launch a new consulting venture in which I am sure he will enjoy similar success.

Clete Flemming began his career in 1970 as a third shift clerk at what was then Bankers' Trust. From there he quickly became a shift supervisor and then moved into the auditing department in 1974. But Mr. Flemming realized that to further his career he must pursue academic achievements beyond his work at Palmer Junior College. He enrolled in the University of South Carolina and earned a B.S. in Business Administration in 1979.

After that, his career with the bank took off. He joined the personnel department and became Vice President of Employee Relations. With that move, Mr. Flemming became the bank's first African American Vice President. In 1990, he was elevated to Senior Vice President Carolinas Personnel Executive, a position he will hold until the year's end.

Mr. Flemming has utilized his position to hire and train other talented African Americans. When he joined the banking industry, it was not very diverse. However, he has been in a position to serve as a mentor and expand the ranks of minorities at all levels.

Once officially retired from Bank of America, Mr. Flemming plans to use his expertise in personnel matters to help small businesses with their personnel policies and benefits. As a consultant he plans to help others achieve success. In addition to those efforts, Mr. Flemming has plans to open an employment agency focused on finding jobs for the underemployed.

Clete is married to the former Ojeta Irving and they have a daughter, Joy, and a son, Eric.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me and my fellow South Carolinians as we pay tribute to Clente Flemming for 30 years of blazing a trail for African Americans through the banking community. He is an excellent role model and we all wish him continued success in his new ventures.

## COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 1, 1999*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the fifth-largest private institution of higher education in Illinois, Columbia College Chicago, as it starts the 1999–2000 school year. Columbia College Chicago is an undergraduate and graduate college in downtown Chicago whose principal commitment is to provide comprehensive education in

the arts and communication within the context of enlightened liberal education.

Founded in 1890, Columbia continues its dedication to communication arts as well as to media arts, applied and fine arts, theatrical and performing arts, and management and marketing arts. More than one-third of Columbia's 8,500 students are minorities—the largest enrollment of any arts and communications institution in the country.

Dr. John Duff, President of Columbia College continues to develop the foundations of a Columbia education which includes small class sizes that ensure close interaction with a faculty of working professionals who bring the working world into the classroom. The College provides a sound liberal arts background for the developing artist or communicator and supports students' employment goals through a full range of career services.

Outside the classroom, students participate in activities that include the College's student newspaper, radio station, electronic newsletter, two student magazines, cable television, three theaters, dance center, photography and art museums, and film and video festival.

Columbia is an integral part of its community, sponsoring and working with over two dozen diverse organizations, ranging from the African Film Festival to the Chicago Jazz Ensemble. Dozens of other independent organizations are involved regularly with one or another program or department of Columbia. This nurturing of diversity is Columbia's hallmark.

Today, Columbia remains secure in its mission and traditional commitments to opportunity, diversity and career-cognizant arts and media education in a liberal arts context. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Columbia College Chicago, a unique Chicago institution, which draws both its strength and identity from the city and its students.

## IN HONOR OF JIM CRAVENS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 1, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim W. Cravens as he is honored as Veteran of the Year by the Lincoln Post No. 13 Polish Legion of American Veterans for his outstanding service and dedication.

Jim Cravens began his career of service in the Air Force in February of 1959 as a draftsman and served until 1961. During his retirement he joined the Local Junior Chamber of Commerce and pursued his lifelong hobby of derby racing by working with the local youth in building racers. His youthful enthusiasm has truly been inspiring to everyone he has encountered.

In 1963, Jim Cravens began his work with the Cleveland Board of Education in the Architectural Department. Later, because of his community and political involvement, he was elected president of his neighborhood group and the Local War Democratic Club. In 1979 he was elected to the Cleveland City Council and in 1982 Jim Cravens started his work with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

Jim Craven's participation with the Polish Legion of American Veterans began in 1992 when he was a social member, then was later

asked to take the position of 2nd and 1st Commander and now he holds the position of commander. As commander, Jim Cravens has worked hard to pay off old death benefits, improve the post both inside and out, and put it back on sound financial ground while taking care of other duties. In addition to his service to the Polish-American veterans, Jim was a member of the Polish Americans Inc, the Polish American Congress, the Amateur Athletic Union USA, and is still serving as ward leader of Cleveland Ward 12 as well as vice president of the Merchant Guild of the Slavic Village.

My fellow distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Jim W. Cravens as he is honored by the Polish Legion of American Veterans as Veteran of the Year.

## TRIBUTE TO EDUARDO CASTELL

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 1, 1999*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the achievements of Eduardo Castell, a resident of the Park Slope neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York.

"Eddie", as he is known amongst his colleagues and friends, has committed himself to a life of public service. Even as an honor student at Connecticut College, he served on that College's Board of Trustees as a Student Representative. He later joined the staff of our colleague, the late Congressman Ted Weiss, where he was instrumental in the passage of legislation that required credit reporting agencies to list delinquent child support payments on individuals' credit reports. This law, strongly supported by women and children's advocacy groups, has been instrumental in identifying and correcting the abusive practices of "dead beat dads".

He joined the staff of Congresswoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ where he rose from the position of Legislative Director to Chief of Staff. During his tenure with Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ, Eddie drafted legislative proposals on education, housing, banking, and insurance including a "hate crimes" initiative which funds organizations education and prevention in schools. He was also instrumental in bringing nearly \$20 million in Federal monies for economic development to Brooklyn.

Currently, Eddie is Special Assistant to William C. Thompson, Jr., President of the New York City Board of Education, a position he has held since 1997. In this capacity, he advises President Thompson on education policy and administrative oversight of the nation's largest school system. Eddie has led efforts to expand minority procurement and contracting and to explore alternatives for building new schools. He was also involved in the passage of a citywide school uniform policy.

Never one to limit his community activism, Eddie serves on the Board of Directors of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a Brooklyn-based not-for-profit housing and business development organization. He is a former Advisory Board member of the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation. He and his wife, Jennifer, have one son, Carlos.

I salute Eddie Castell for his commitment to a career of public service.