

hand deliver the required documents for his son's application to West Point admissions officials, Patrick was waitlisted and instead attended Iona College.

Patrick K. Dowdell proved to be both resilient and determined, and sought admission to West Point the following year while he excelled at Iona and was elected as Freshman Class Representative in the student government. Supported by teachers, neighbors and friends offering praise and letters of support, Patrick again asked for my nomination, with his father leading the charge.

When the dust of September 11, 2001 settled, Patrick Dowdell and his family learned that Lt. Kevin Dowdell was last seen entering the burning towers to help his fellow citizens and had been lost. Patrick Dowdell, as determined as ever to serve his country and make his dad proud, volunteered in the clean up efforts and continued to pursue his dream of attending West Point.

Patrick K. Dowdell was designated as my principle nominee in 2001 and was a member of the 2006 West Point graduating class. In President Bush's commencement speech last month to the first class to enter the academy after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Patrick had the honor of being the only cadet singled out for praise by the President. In the words of the President, "We live in freedom because young Americans like Patrick and all the cadets here today have stepped forward to serve."

Patrick is now looking forward to serving his country and continuing to honor his father's memory. He also serves as a source of encouragement to his younger brother James Dowdell, who has followed in their father's footsteps by joining the New York City Fire Department, serving in Ladder 174 and providing support to his proud mother, Rose Ellen Dowdell.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate Patrick K. Dowdell upon the completion of his studies at West Point and upon his commission as a second lieutenant.

A TRIBUTE TO MARTHA RODRIGUEZ-TORRES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Martha Rodriguez-Torres, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, NY, community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Martha Rodriguez-Torres was born and raised in Brownsville, Brooklyn and is one of five children born to the late Carmen Rodriguez. In spite of being raised in a one-parent household, her mother made certain that education and community involvement were a priority in her home. Martha has her bachelor of science from Boston College, a master of science and a professional diploma from Long Island University and was a member of the Harvard University Principal's Institute.

After working in several school districts throughout the city, Martha became the prin-

cipal of PS 156, the Waverly School of the Arts where she accepted the challenge of leading a low performing school with only 17 percent of the children reading at or above grade level. Today, the school is one that stands as a model for others. The school has become a nurturing environment for both students and teachers and the reading scores at the school have more than tripled.

Martha is respected by both her superiors and peers and has served as a mentor principal and was a member of the Chancellor's Distinguished Faculty, where she trained new principals. Martha worked with Hunter College in the design and implementation of a new program for the training of future administrators.

It is through Martha's dedication, tenacity and courage that she has been able to make a positive impact on her school community and it is because of these very qualities that she now serves as a local instructional superintendent in Region 5 as well as the community superintendent for Community School District 19.

Martha is to be applauded for refusing to let her humble beginnings be an impediment for success, not forgetting from where she came and for continuing to serve those with challenging circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Martha Rodriguez-Torres as she offers her talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Martha Rodriguez-Torres's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FILIPINO MIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the more than three million Filipino-Americans and Filipino immigrants across the United States on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Filipino Migration to the United States. This is a significant milestone in the storied tradition of Filipinos in our Nation ever since the first fifteen farm workers, called sakadas, were recruited by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association, arriving in Hawaii on December 20, 1906. They were to become the precursors to millions of other contract workers, who soon came to build America in the succeeding years.

It was in 1919 that Filipino leader Pablo Manlapit organized the first labor union to demand higher wages and better working conditions for the farm workers of Hawaii. He was to be joined by other Asian farm workers, especially those coming from Japan. Though in 1920, some 12,000 farm workers from the sugar plantations were cruelly evicted and thrown out of work; their rugged determination and gritty character typified their conviction that America must live by its creed of equal opportunity and simple justice for all.

The downtrodden and the disenfranchised—these defined the miserable conditions to which those first immigrants were mercilessly subjected. What better way to memorialize those hardy spirits than to invoke their courage under fire during this Centennial of their epic journey to self-hood and recognition. They came to forge a better life and contribute to the building of America in Hawaii's sugar cane and pineapple fields, in the canneries of Alaska, and throughout the verdant farm lands of California and other west coast States.

In his stirring novel, *America is in the Heart*, Carlos Bulosan, the Filipino writer par excellence, described the first Filipino immigrants' abject exclusion from American society when he wrote: "I know deep in my heart that I am an exile in America . . . I feel like a criminal running away from a crime I did not commit. And this crime is that I am a Filipino in America." Despite this inglorious past, their pioneering efforts and resilient spirit were drawn by their genuine belief in America's spirit of idealism as the land of opportunity and promise.

I am confident that under the aegis of this Centennial, America will join Filipino-Americans in recognizing the untold sacrifices of the early Filipino migrants whose faith in God and whose work ethic sustained them in their ordeal. In converging this celebration with the indomitable spirit of those pioneers, we hope to be enlightened and enriched by the messages they wrote through their silent struggles to be recognized and appreciated. It is on this historic occasion that I congratulate the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), the Philippine-American Federation of South Florida (PhilAmFed) and other bonafide groups for their steadfast efforts in sensitizing us to the contributions that Filipino immigrants gave and continue to give to buttressing America's stature as the envy of world today.

Filipino-Americans in my District, and millions of others across this great Nation, may take heart in Mr. Bulosan's prophetic words: "America is not a land of one race or one class of men. We are all Americans that have toiled and suffered and known oppression and defeat . . . America is not merely a land or an institution. America is in the hearts of men that died for freedom; it is also in the eyes of men that are building a new world. America is a warning to those who would try to falsify the ideals of free men. All of us, from the first Adams to the last Filipino, native born or alien, educated or illiterate—We are America!"

Indeed, this Centennial is a proud reminder of the nobility and quiet dignity of Filipino Americans whose predecessors migrated to America 100 years ago, paving the way for countless others.

A TRIBUTE TO MIGUEL A FELICIANO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Miguel A. Feliciano, a distinguished member of the business and civic communities. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope by colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

A young successful entrepreneur and avid community activist, Miguel Feliciano has resided in Brooklyn, New York since moving from Puerto Rico in 1956.

Mr. Feliciano is known for his friendly, energetic and dynamic style. Servicing our community for over 25 years, Mr. Feliciano has left his mark on the real estate and banking fields. He is the president of Feliciano Properties Inc., and executive vice president of Equitable Funding, a licensed mortgage bank with offices in the neighborhood of City Line, Brooklyn.

Mr. Feliciano's honors include: Chairman of the Board of Managers of North Brooklyn YMCA, Recipient of the coveted YMCA of Greater New York Volunteer of the Year Award, Founder of the Brooklyn East Sports Federation, servicing our youth since 1987, Commissioner of the Pedrin Zorilla Baseball League, Member of New York City Community Planning Board #5, Treasurer of the East New York Urban Youth Corp, Former President of the Liberty Avenue Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Feliciano demonstrated his leadership skills early on when he helped organized the youth at Our Lady of Presentation, a Catholic Church in Ocean Hill Brownsville the community where he was raised. He is a staunch supporter of his Hispanic heritage as shown by his participation and support in the annual celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany (three Kings Day) held on January 6th at the Twelve Towns YMCA.

Mr. Feliciano attended Thomas Jefferson High School in East New York Brooklyn and later graduated from Bernard Baruch College in 1977 with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree with a major in Accounting. After obtaining his degree, he went into the banking and financial services business. Mr. Feliciano later applied his business acumen as District Business Manager for the Board of Education in District 12 in the borough of the Bronx before embarking on his own.

Mr. Feliciano is a dedicated loving husband and father who strives to be a role model for all his children and the children of his community.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Miguel Feliciano as he offers his talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of our local community.

Mr. Speaker, Miguel Feliciano's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

CAROLINE SPARROW HART MAKES HER MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Webb Hart and Virginia Sparrow Hart on the birth of their first child, Caroline Sparrow Hart. Caroline was born on Friday, June 9, 2006 and weighed 7 pounds and 5 ounces. Faye joins me in wishing John and Virginia Sparrow Hart great happiness during this very special time in their lives.

As a father and grandfather, I know the joy, pride, and excitement that parents experience

upon the entrance of their child into the world. Representing hope, goodness, and innocence, a newborn allows those around her to see the world through her eyes . . . as a new, fresh place with unending possibilities for the future. Through a child, one is able to recognize and appreciate the full potential of the human race. I know the Harts look forward to the changes and challenges, that their new daughter will bring to their lives while taking pleasure in the many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch her grow.

I welcome young Caroline into the world and wish John and Virginia all the best as they raise her.

A TRIBUTE TO PASTOR TYRONE STEVENSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pastor Tyrone Stevenson, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, New York community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

Pastor Tyrone Stevenson is blessed by the unique privilege to serve the Lord in the community where he was born and raised. As his purpose in life manifests itself, he has the distinct honor to be the Senior Pastor of Hope Christian Center in Brooklyn, New York.

Pastor Stevenson is fueled by his God-given mission to disciple those whom we touch that they may in turn disciple those they touch for generations to come. As such, his preaching and teaching is geared towards transforming his congregates into equipped disciples.

Pastor Stevenson has been married to the love of his life, Terrie Lane Stevenson, and from their union, God has blessed them with two beautiful daughters, Emoni and Hannah.

After graduating from Forest Hills High School, Pastor Stevenson enlisted in the United States Navy and was discharged with honors after eight years of service. After which, he was a successful mortgage banker, writing millions of dollars in residential loans.

In 1994, Pastor Stevenson and his wife joined the First Baptist Church of Glenarden, in Landover, Maryland, under the leadership of Pastor John K. Jenkins, Sr. It was there, in 1995 that Pastor Stevenson yielded his life and responded to the call of ministry. As he grew in the Lord, Pastor Stevenson faithfully served his spiritual father, Pastor Jenkins, and witnessed the hand of God move in his life as the Lord propelled him forward in fulfilling His mandate. Pastor Stevenson has traveled tirelessly teaching and proclaiming the Word of God. On August 26, 2001, Pastor Stevenson answered the call of God to pastor. Shortly after that an opportunity arose for Pastor Stevenson to revitalize his home church in Brooklyn, New York.

Pastor Stevenson is now celebrating another milestone in his working legacy of dedicated and faithful service to the Lord. Because he dares to believe in God, his life and lifestyle serves as an example to those he leads.

Pastor Stevenson is a much sought after preacher. God uses him in a tremendous way

to minister directly to the hurts, issues and challenges of people with whom he comes in contact. God's effectiveness is manifested through the response of the unsaved to the preached Word.

Pastor Stevenson gives thanks to the Lord who has enabled him because God has counted him faithful by placing him in the ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Pastor Tyrone Stevenson, as he offers his talents and services for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor Tyrone Stevenson's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BEATRICE REEVES

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform my colleagues about the passing of a great lady of Miami and an anchor of one of Miami's great families: the late Beatrice "Bee" Reeves. Her sudden passing last Saturday, June 10, 2006 has truly left a deep void in our midst.

Mrs. Reeves represented the best and the noblest of our community. In her quiet but dignified way, she dedicated a major portion of her life to service in groups like the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Links, and the MRS Club, where she served as a past president. Her mission in life girded her belief that understanding of and compassion for the less fortunate defined her life-vocation as a gifted Christian and as a community leader who never sought the limelight.

She also loved to play bridge, and she was a member of the Tuesday and Saturday bridge clubs. From the stories I have heard about her enthusiasm and skill, you definitely wanted to have Mrs. Reeves playing on your side.

She was a multi-talented servant of the people, a civic activist, and an indefatigable community-builder, always thinking of others in her endeavors. The genuineness of her stewardship on behalf of our community was buttressed by her utmost consecration to her vocation as God's faithful servant, bringing hope and optimism to countless ordinary folks whose lives she touched so deeply, never holding anyone at arm's length.

This remarkable lady was our community's friend and confidante. I am deeply saddened by her passing. She will indeed be an indelible reminder of the noble commitment and quiet power of friendship she extended to anyone who came to her for help and advice. Her faith was deep and genuine, and her love for our community evoked her dynamic friendship and thorough understanding of the struggles and travails we have had to endure throughout all the years. No one who knew her—and was struck by her sunny disposition and optimism—went away not acknowledging the presence of a caring and compassionate community leader.

This Friday, June 16, 2006 a funeral mass will be celebrated at Miami's Episcopal Church