

Brooklyn College. He resides in Forest Hills, Queens, with his wife Cheryl and daughter Alexis.

At an early age in his adult life, Mr. Simmons sensed his calling as a voice and servant to the youth, and the underprivileged of the New York City community. As a former kindergarten teacher, Mr. Simmons found immeasurable pleasure in aiding our young in developing a firm foundation for education and self-esteem. As a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Mr. Simmons was able to continue his desire to serve as a mentor and role model. As a participant in the fraternity's Adopt-a-School project, sixth-grade boys at P.S. 144 in Harlem were exposed to positive male role models, participation in commencement programs at various colleges and universities as well as tutorial programs. Mr. Simmons has also served and participated in the Melvin C. Patrick Career Day Programs.

For more than two decades, Mr. Simmons has worked in the managed care industry, affording him the opportunity to continue to work with youth organizations, various community-based organizations and being an advocate for the underserved families and individuals of New York. As regional marketing manager for Fidelis Care New York, the largest and a leading state-wide non-profit managed care organization; Mr. Simmons has used his position to work with politicians, faith-based organizations and other associations to serve as a conduit for the provision of health insurance benefits and other human services to many families and individuals in New York. Mr. Simmons has been honored and recognized for his selfless contributions to the New York City community.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again recognize Mr. Albert J. Simmons, Jr., for his tireless work with the citizens in need of New York City.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful man of substance and the great things for which he stands.

TRIBUTE TO SAM LICKLIDER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the career of Sam Licklider. Sam Licklider has served as the senior vice president of governmental affairs for the Missouri Association of Realtors for 40 years.

Mr. Licklider joined the Missouri Association of Realtors in 1968 after graduating from Westminster College in Fulton, MO. As the organization's head of legislative affairs, Mr. Licklider spends his time fighting for realtor issues at the Missouri capitol. He is widely regarded as being one of the Missouri Association of Realtors' biggest assets.

Sam Licklider and his wife, Jane, currently reside in Jefferson City. They have two children and four grandchildren. I trust that Members of the House will join me in wishing Sam Licklider and his family the best of luck in the days ahead.

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE TOOMER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Christine Toomer for her contributions to the nursing profession and to the Brooklyn, NY, healthcare community.

Christine Toomer was born September 11, in Kingston, Jamaica. In 1972 she moved with her family to Brooklyn, NY. Christine knew at an early age she wanted to help people, so she enrolled in the Clara Barton High School for Nursing. After high school, Christine attended Borough of Manhattan Community College and later, Long Island University. While attending LIU, Christine found employment as a nurse extern. Eventually, Christine graduated from LIU and passed her nursing board certification exams.

Christine is a dedicated nurse and has spent several years at Interfaith Medical Center always putting her patients first. In the mid-90s, her hard work and dedication was recognized and Christine was promoted to assistant head nurse of the Tuberculosis Unit. Christine continued to demonstrate her dedication to nursing and in 2006 she was honored as Nurse of the Year. In April 2007, she was named Employee of the Month. She also became an active member of the American Nurses Association and the New York State Nurses Association.

Christine is not only a wonderful nurse, but also a committed mother of two sons. She is a devoted daughter and granddaughter who oversees the care of her disabled mother and ailing grandmother.

Christine believes that nursing and teaching others the proper way to monitor their health is her purpose in life. The many contributions she has made to the Brooklyn healthcare community are evident. Her love for nursing continues to make her an asset to the profession.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to once again recognize the impressive achievements that Christine Toomer has made in the healthcare field and the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman of substance and the great things she stands for.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, we know what is possible for our Nation if we choose to move seriously and quickly down the path to energy independence. We know what this choice means.

Energy independence means demanding more efficiency and smarter technology for our cars, homes, businesses and industry. Energy independence means investing in our communities and creating the resources and workforce necessary for expanding markets. It

means developing new technologies that create new jobs through America's economic backbone: our innovation industries.

If we want to make opportunity real for more Americans—if we want to keep our Nation strong even as our new economy continues to change—there is no better way to do it than by investing in a new energy future.

The Energy Independence and Security Act meets our obligations as a nation at every point along the spectrum: promoting renewable energy, growing our economy, creating new jobs, lowering energy prices, and beginning to address global warming.

We are taking on an initiative more ambitious than ever, to be sure, but nothing less will secure our Nation's energy future.

Of course, our energy challenges have never been more urgent—threatening our environment, our economy, and our national security—but we have been dealing with many of these issues for quite a while: As far back as 1925, Henry Ford touted ethanol as the fuel of the future.

Well, more than eight decades later we still have some work to do when it comes to potential solutions like biofuels, especially in my region of the country. There are still no E85 fueling stations in Connecticut, and the first public biodiesel station in the State opened just last week.

We must understand that despite some of the current drawbacks of corn-derived ethanol, biofuels are a critical first step—not so much a panacea or a solution, but a transition into a more sustainable process toward cellulosic ethanol.

But the real question is: How do we respond? How do we in New England respond when access remains limited? And how do we as a Congress respond right now, as families and businesses across America struggle with skyrocketing gas prices and escalating home heating costs. Do we bury our head in the sand or do we aspire to achieve something great. If we give consumers and businesses the opportunity to be it part of a real transformation, our entire Nation will reap the benefits.

It is already happening: Last year, I was very proud to help unveil the first large-scale biodiesel plant in my State, in the town of Bethlehem. Today, the BioPur Company is producing over 400,000 gallons of pure biodiesel annually and plans to double production within a year to meet the growing demand.

Spurring that kind of change is why I came to the Congress, and I believe it is at the core of our mission on the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee which I chair.

With this year's House Agriculture Appropriations spending bill we made significant new investment—\$1.2 billion; a 215 percent increase over the president's request—to promote renewable energy, strengthening research and education to make biofuels a priority and moving us further down the path to energy independence.

And we can do that again today by passing the Energy Independence and Security Act, providing a historic commitment to the home-grown biofuels that will fuel our cars and trucks: diversifying our energy crops from coast to coast with a robust increase in the renewable fuels standard; requiring 9 billion gallons of renewable fuels in 2008 and progressively increasing to a 36 billion gallon requirement by 2022; incentives to boost their production and increase the number of flex fuel and hybrid vehicles.

And, of course, we are taking the long overdue step to increase vehicle efficiency standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020—Providing the automobile industry the certainty it needs, while offering flexibility to automakers and ensuring that we keep American manufacturing jobs and continue domestic production of fuel efficient vehicles.

The Union of Concerned Scientists, UCS, reports that these higher standards will cut oil imports by 1.1 million barrels per day in 2020. That is about half the amount we currently import from the entire Persian Gulf. If these standards had already been in place this year, the average driver would have used 160 fewer gallons of gas, and saved \$500. But let's not look back, when we can move forward and embrace tomorrow's great challenges.

This is an investment in the generations to come. But we also have it responsibility to working and middle class families today. A 2006 study from the National Renewable Energy Lab, NREL, identified the shortage of skills and training as a leading non-technical barrier to renewable energy and energy efficiency growth. The NREL study identified a number of critical unmet training needs, including lack of reliable installation, maintenance, and inspection services, the shortage of key technical and manufacturing skills, and failure of the educational system to provide adequate training in new technologies.

That is why this bill authorizes \$125 million to establish national and state job training programs in the renewable energy and energy efficiency fields, training a quality workforce for "green" collar jobs—such as solar panel manufacturer and green building construction worker.

In Connecticut we have already seen the local job growth that comes with investment and innovation in biofuel and fuel cell technology. Now, for example, this bill provides an 8-year extension of a tax credit for investments in fuel-cell properties with a credit of \$3,000 per kilowatt capacity—expressed in the tax code as \$1,500 per half kilowatt capacity—or 30 percent, whichever is less. Looking forward, we know that major investments in renewable energy could create 3 million green jobs nationally over 10 years.

And we are doing it responsibly. This legislation does not add to the deficit and all revenue offsets resulted from bipartisan negotiations.

It is time to stop talking about energy independence and start moving toward it. The American people get that and they want us to act today. It is no wonder this bill has won the support and praise from such a broad coalition of environmental, business and labor organizations—from farm groups to faith groups, from the United Auto Workers to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. For years, President Bush has talked about breaking our addiction to fossil fuel, State of the Union after State of the Union. But now that he actually has an opportunity to make good on that promise, it seems he would rather make a hollow political gesture with his veto pen.

We deserve better. This bill represents a critical turning point and bold statement: On the path toward energy independence, the status quo is not an option. There is nothing America cannot achieve if we put our minds to it, harnessing our future to our own spirit of ingenuity and innovation.

A TRIBUTE TO PEARLINE LOUNDS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pearline Lounds. Pearline was born on the island of Jamaica in the West Indies, where she has six brothers and sisters. It was there she received a formal education in home economics. Pearline later relocated to England, working at South Mead Hospital as a nurse's assistant, which gave her an opportunity to help support her family in Jamaica until her return. However, she decided instead to relocate to New York.

Pearline continued her education, attending New York City Technical College where she graduated with an associate's degree in applied science. She furthered her studies at York College of the City University of New York, earning a bachelor's degree of science and graduating with a 4.0 grade point average. Pearline later went to work at Sephardic Nursing Home as a nurse's aide. She left there for an opportunity as a social worker for Project Chance and as a social worker for Bushwick Community Services as well as Safe Horizon.

Pearline is a champion for peace. She is a member of the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace, and in 2001, the United Nations honored her with the title of Ambassador for Peace. Pearline is a board member of New York's Family Center and is known as "Mama P" in the community, consistently encouraging young people to be themselves. She is a mother, friend, counselor, leader and guide.

Pearline is married with 7 children; 24 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren, 2 of whom have been in her care for the past 7 years.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this wonderful and caring woman who has always put the needs of her family and her community before her own.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Pearline Lounds.

HONORING THE WILLIAM FLOYD VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker. I rise to congratulate the extraordinary efforts of the William Floyd High School Varsity Football Team, for yet another flawless and record-setting season.

It was around this time last year that I rose to recognize the William Floyd High School team for an undefeated season and for winning the Long Island High School Championship, along with the coveted Rutgers Trophy. One full season later, and the Colonials are enjoying a winning streak of 33 consecutive games. This is a historic and unprecedented achievement in the 126-year history of Long Island high school football.

The William Floyd Colonials have been a dominating force for 3 consecutive years of

perfect 11–0 seasons. Their exploits have garnered even national recognition, as a recent Sports Illustrated poll ranks the powerhouse team 25th in the entire country.

I am honored to represent William Floyd High School athletes who not only display great athletic prowess, but also a commitment to winning with class and sportsmanship. Competitive athletics teaches our students a host of valuable life lessons and I have long been an advocate of sports and extracurricular activities, as they complement, and contribute to academic excellence.

It is an honor to read the names of Coach Paul Longo's team into the RECORD.

First his coaching staff: Gil DeCicco, Pete Friedman, Robert Jackolski, Pete Lesiewicz, Brian Babst, Ernie Villatore and Mike Agostino.

Now the players who make up one of the most feared lineups in Long Island football history: Mat Golden, John Amato, Jarel Johnson, Krys Valentin, Nick Sidaras, Ricky Kruger, Joe Sidaras, Luke Miller, Matthew Vigliotta, Rey Marciano, Brian Zippel, Steven Murphy, Nick Verderosa, Keith McCormack, Rahmel Cook, Marcus Muelthaler, Kevin Lacey, Tom Antinucci, Vaughn Magee, Jonathan Romeo, Brandon Walsh, Jon Hernandez, Brock Jackolski, Fernando Vasquez, Malik Green, Tom Penney, Jonathan Elbedawy, Jon D'Amico, Billy Keane, Chris Mocera, Pablo Ortiz, William Melin, Nick Astore, Wayne Magee, Dom Buffa, Anthony Hernandez, Sam Feerer, Tom Mocera, JJ Santiago, Joe Johnson, Calvin Forbes, Chris Cordovano, Brendon Turill, Brandon Clark, Andrew Giovine, Andrew Incantalupo, Dan Bayer, Nick DiGiorgi, Brandon Fardella, Guy Loomis, Matt Seib, Andrew Lingg, Mike Presseison, Alex Winters, Tom Lindley, Stephen Diaz, Donald Strand, Joe Miranda, Jon Korn, Eric Koenigsdorf, Nico Gonzalez, Jesse Kelley, Orion Folborg, Joe Mensch, Ricky Stoner, Robert DeSilva, Tim Cork.

The entire William Floyd community is justifiably excited and proud of the achievements of this team. These young student athletes represent what is good about high school sports, and it is my privilege to serve as their Congressman.

Go Floyd.

TRIBUTE TO BROOKLYN'S FIDELITY CHAPTER NO. 54 ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn's Fidelity Chapter No. 54, Order of Eastern Star. The Fidelity Chapter has been outstanding in its service to the Brooklyn community for nearly 70 years. I am privileged to have such a dedicated group of individuals in my district.

On the Seventh day of November, 1938, Roland R. Johnson, Worthy Grand Patron of Eureka Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star of the State of New York, Prince Hall Affiliation, by virtue of the authority vested in him, did grant and issue a warrant to Fidelity Chapter No. 54 to be held in Brooklyn, New York; Samantha Taylor, Worthy Grand Matron,