

and has worked on a series of videotapes on financial aid for students. The videotapes aired on Public Broadcasting Stations in the New York tri-state area. For many years she was a consultant to ESPN on selecting the High School Athlete of the Year. Deborah is currently a member of the Brooklyn Borough President's Task Force on BCAT, President of the Rutland Road Block Association and a member of numerous other organizations.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Deborah Battle Pointer and her commitment to the children of Brooklyn, New York. I also want to thank Ms. Pointer for sharing her gifts with the rest of us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful and talented woman.

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MOURNING THE LOSS OF DAVID  
BROWN

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true public servant of South Carolina's Second Congressional District. David Brown, chief executive officer of Beaufort Memorial Hospital of Beaufort, South Carolina, passed away Monday, March 19, 2007. Brown fell ill last month and was hospitalized at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, where he passed.

Brown ably led the hospital during a time of tremendous growth. The facility is now twice the size it was when Brown took over in 1996. During his tenure as CEO, Brown developed a long-term affiliation with Duke University Health System in heart and cancer care. Most recently, he worked with Beaufort to bring additional workforce housing to the area and led the hospital's expansion of services across the Broad River.

Brown, son of Emerson M. Brown and the late Winifred Ryan Brown, was born in 1951 in Germany, where his father was assigned as a U.S. foreign service officer. Brown also lived in India, the Netherlands, and Canada and attended high school in Switzerland and in Maine. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1974 and a masters of business administration with honors in 1976, both from Boston University.

Brown began his career in healthcare in 1976 as assistant executive director of Prince George's County Foundation for Medical Care in Landover, Md., and became executive director within a year.

In 1982 he joined the Greater Southeast Community Hospital in Washington as vice president for professional services. Before leaving the Washington area in 1996, Brown became president and CEO of the Greater Southeast Community Hospital Foundation, which operated two hospitals as well as long-term care facilities, home health agencies, pharmacies and other health care-related businesses.

Brown is survived by his daughter, Caitlin Ryan Brown; son, Ryan David Brown; father, Emerson Brown of Reed City, Mich.; sister, Catherine W. Brown of Washington; and brother, Christopher G. Brown of Columbus, Ohio.

A TRIBUTE TO CLAUDETTE  
AUDIGE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn, New York resident, Ms. Claudette Audige. Claudette Audige was born on December 7, 1962, in Kingston, Jamaica. She has been a resident of New York for more than 21 years. Ms. Audige is the wife of Andre Audige and the mother of 3 beautiful children, Chase, Chad and Jodie.

Claudette Audige has been an experienced loan consultant for more than 20 years. She is noted for her wisdom and compassion for encouraging home ownership. She has inspired and helped many people to save their homes as well as purchase a home.

Most of Mrs. Audige's extensive community involvement has been with young people. She was a counselor at Good Samaritan Church, in the Bronx, and St. Michaels, in Sheldon, New York. Her community activities include participation in the McDonald's sing along concert series, a drug awareness campaign, and the neighborhood gang violence awareness program. The assistance she provides for children goes beyond the call of duty since she works closely with the youth in her community.

She is sensitive to the needs of homeowners and it is out of that compassion that led her to become a financial consultant. In addition, the high rate of housing foreclosures among her friends and family was another incentive for her to embark on this profession. Claudette gives workshops to new homeowners and advises them of their financial status. Due to her own past financial hardships, she has developed a flair for assisting people to accumulate wealth through the power of prayer and financial wisdom. Financial empowerment guides and motivates Mrs. Audige to teach others to accumulate wealth and prosperity.

This extraordinary woman goes above and beyond the call of duty and is commendable to the standards befitting the praised, virtuous woman described in Proverbs.

Her motto is "if I can help someone let not my living be in vain." Claudette Audige strives to educate the young and the old to possess the knowledge of financial wisdom. She believes that everyone can own a home with the proper education.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to recognize the impressive works of Claudette Audige as well as her commitment to the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman for all that she does for current and prospective homeowners.

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RECOGNITION OF THE HUNTINGTON VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Huntington Veterans Af-

fairs Medical Center (VAMC) located in Huntington, West Virginia. I am so proud to report that the Huntington VAMC was named the "Best Performing Facility" for 2006.

This is a well deserved honor for the dedicated employees of the Huntington VAMC who work so hard to ensure that our Nation's veterans receive the quality they deserve. This honor is even greater considering this is not the first time the Huntington VAMC has been singled out for its high quality care. Just two years ago, this center received similar recognition from the VA.

It is wonderful to know that the veterans who call West Virginia home have such a top-notch medical facility to provide care. As we all recognize, our veterans are our heroes and these heroes deserve only the best care available.

It is important that we remember our veterans have given so much to the future of our country and have asked for so little in return. Our veterans, as our soldiers today, remain foremost in the thoughts and prayers of all West Virginians.

I am honored that the Huntington VAMC is in my district. I hope that this entire body will take a minute to congratulate the hard-working men and women of the Huntington VAMC and to honor the sacrifices that our brave servicemembers have made and continue to make.

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A TRIBUTE TO AY'TASHA T.  
HANTON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Ay'Tasha T. Hanton. Ms. Hanton is the proud daughter of Edna M. Fulton, and Willie E. Hanton Sr., stepdaughter of Maudine Hanton, who she affectionately calls "Mom." Ay'Tasha was born in New York City as the only daughter of seven children. Ay'Tasha's father expired when she was 1½ years old. Without the relationship of her father, she faced many challenges. With the loving support of her mother, family and friends, she matured into a strong, independent woman.

A nine-year employee of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, Ay'Tasha has extensive knowledge in Finance Administration, Policy and Procedures, Performance Improvement, Graphic Design, Community Affairs and Healthcare Administration. In April of 1998, her career in health care began when she became the Coordinating Manager of Chemical Dependency Outpatient Services and the Mental Health Geriatric Program at Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center serving the Fort Greene Community. As an Assistant to the Sr. Associate Director, Ay'Tasha worked diligently to aide the Chemical Dependency patients who strived daily to maintain sobriety from their addictions. She also worked attentively to aide the Geriatric population as they faced the uneasiness of Mental Health.

In October of 2005, Ay'Tasha was re-assigned as the NYS OASAS (Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services) Administrator of Chemical Dependency Inpatient and Outpatient Services at Woodhull Medical

Center, where she studied the communities' statistics.

Recognizing her statistical talents, Ay'Tasha was given additional responsibilities by the Associate Executive Director of the Division of Chemical Dependency for the North Brooklyn Health Network in the newly established Performance Improvement Department, helping the Assistant Director in strategizing ways to support the population suffering from substance abuse addictions.

Her most recent opportunity towards climbing the corporate ladder came in March of 2006 when she was assigned to assist the Associate Director of Psychiatry in restructuring Woodhull's Psychiatric Emergency Department. As the Administrative Manager of Psych ED, Consultation and Liaison Services and the Chemical Dependency Inpatient Detoxification Units, Ay'Tasha is also faced with the daily challenge of aiding the Psychiatric patients as well as encouraging, mentoring and challenging her staff to heightened levels, while advocating for the Williamsburg and Bedford Stuyvesant communities.

Throughout her HHC career under the umbrella of the Department of Psychiatry, Ay'Tasha has been a member of many committees such as Cumberland's Open Access Team, Billing/Finance, Information Technology and Community Affairs.

Ay'Tasha's walls are lined with many awards, certificates, and presentations as a testament of her hard work. She has also received extensive continuing education in Healthcare Professionalism such as Managerial, Administrative Assistant, Graphic Design, and the list continues. Ay'Tasha's most heartfelt accomplishment is her Associate of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from Bethel Bible Institute. Ay'Tasha is presently seeking her Bachelors Degree in Health Administration.

Ay'Tasha understands the importance of children. She nurtures her nieces, nephews, godchildren and a host of other youth. Not only is she an inspiration to children, Ay'Tasha mentors young women in her community. Ay'Tasha encompasses the true identity of a role model in today's society.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Ay'Tasha T. Hanton for her commitment to her community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful person and the great things she has done.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 23, 2007*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I stand in opposition to H.R. 1591, a measure that would set dangerous and unprecedented timelines for U.S. troop withdrawal from Iraq.

On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the United States of America, killing thousands of innocent people in a horrific fashion and forever changing America's role in the fight against global terrorism.

Just days later, President Bush and leaders of this Congress together affirmed America's commitment to leading a global war on terrorism. Our goals are to bring those responsible for 9/11 to justice while working to prevent future acts of terrorism.

Since then, the bravery of our troops, the courage of our leaders, and most importantly the vigilance of the American people have helped prevent further attacks on American soil.

Our strategy of taking the fight to the terrorists is working. Our continued efforts in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom are making a real difference, both there and here at home. We are moving closer to the day when the Iraqi army and police force will be adequately prepared to take full control of their country.

What day will they be prepared to do so? Our military commanders might have a good idea. Leaders of the Iraqi military might know. Neither have set a date certain—neither have published a time line for withdrawal, because they understand the danger in doing so.

As a Member of Congress, I do not know the exact day this withdrawal should happen. In short, I believe it should be on the day when we have achieved our objective. As a Congressman, I expect continued, measurable progress toward that day—and, like every American, I hope that day is soon. But it is too early to tell what day that is; if telling emboldened our enemy and put our troops in harm's way, I wouldn't tell.

Yet according to the measure before us today, a majority of my colleagues apparently believe they know the exact day. They've picked a day when—whether the job is finished or not—we will pack up and go home.

This is bad public policy, it is bad military strategy, and it cuts the very legs out from under the soldiers who have so bravely fought the battles to keep America safe. The road to this day has been long, sometimes difficult, but largely successful. If we remain committed to leading the fight to keep the American people safe from terrorism, then we owe it to our military commanders to help them finish their job without arbitrary and capricious intervention from politicians.

Mr. Speaker, the timelines for troop withdrawal are not the only bad idea in this legislation. Woven into a bill that is designed to fund our military is more than \$20 billion in non-emergency spending on such items as peanut storage and spinach farmers.

Millions of Americans wake up and go to work each morning to provide for their families and help make America a better place. As the saying goes, they work hard, play by the rules, and pay their taxes.

These are the families I keep in mind each time I cast a vote on public policy.

This measure contains hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars being diverted from national defense to pork-barrel spending to benefit the pet projects of certain interests.

Like many Americans, I am outraged by the reports that Democrat leaders are promising this and additional pork-barrel spending in exchange for Democrat votes for this measure.

Each of these dollars came from taxpayers, and taxpayers deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, there are good things in this bill, like funding for our troops in battle, im-

proved health care for our soldiers and veterans—things I am proud to support.

However, when weighing the good and bad in this measure, the pro-family, pro-troop, pro-American vote is easy to identify. That vote, in this case, is “no,” and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the measure.

A TRIBUTE TO AIDA T. WILSON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Aida T. Wilson. Aida T. Wilson was born in Panama City in the Republic of Panama. She is the eldest of five children born to Olga and Charles Tyrell. After completing high school at Santa Familia School for Dressmaking in Panama City, she was immediately employed by Maloul Brothers for five years in Colon, City of Panama.

Ms. Wilson migrated to the United States in 1956 and immediately began to further her education by attending several adult education programs while employed as a seamstress. She was later employed by one of New York City's most prestigious department stores Lord and Taylor. After serving in several positions she became their Merchandising Auditor. She retired in 1994 after 37 years of service with the company. Following one year of retirement, she was hired to work on a part-time basis at Community Board 5 in East New York as a Community Service Aide and has maintained this position for the past 11 years.

Ms. Wilson has been a communicant of St. Laurence Church RC for the past 30 years. She has served on their Board of Trustees; as member and past President of the Laorencian Guild (Rosary Society); Chairperson of the Liturgy Committee; Treasurer of the Church AARP Chapter; and presently a Lector at Sunday Masses and a member of the Parish Pastoral Planning Committee. Mrs. Wilson is an active member and Past President of the Brooklyn New Lots Lions Club and Part District Treasurer for the Lions of District 20 K1 (Brooklyn and Queens). For her lionistic activism, she has been recognized with many awards and citations including the Distinguished Service Award for Community Service, Lion of the Year, Knights of the Blind Award and the highest recognition by an association, The Melvin Jones Fellowship.

Aida Wilson is married to Lloyd G. Wilson, (retired MTA Motorman). This union brought forth a son Rodney, and a daughter Sharon who have blessed them with six grandchildren: Tyrell and Cherrell Wilson, Jazine Miller, Eryka, Elissa, and Jessica Hill. A step granddaughter Kristin Reid Hill, son-in-law Eric Hill and daughter-in-law Angela A. Wilson.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this pillar of our community for all of her good works and kind gestures.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Aida T. Wilson.