

school, a practice that begins as early as kindergarten. African-American males are more likely to be classified as mentally retarded or suffering from a learning disability, more likely to be placed in special education and more likely to be absent from advance placement and honors courses than any other student group. These statistics are distressing and inexcusable.

Sadly, the dismal state of African-American males, by far the most vulnerable and neglected population, has become all too familiar. Frequently, the severity of these statistics and the ways African-American men cope with tremendous barriers and challenges are brushed over or ignored altogether. Sometimes we blame the males themselves, insisting they subscribe to a culture of deviancy or refuse to "act white" by doing well in school. Other times we acknowledge that there are grave inequalities but fail to provide resources to adjust for gaps.

The policy forum, which featured experts including: Jeffrey Robinson, Principal, Baltimore Talent Development High School; Robert Balfanz of the Center for Social Organization of Schools at Johns Hopkins; James Forman, Jr., professor at Georgetown University Law Center; Amy Wilkins of The Education Trust; and Governor Bob Wise of the Alliance for Excellent Education moved past simply highlighting the litany of issues facing African-American male youth to make recommendations designed to instigate lasting and relevant positive change now. Among these recommendations were increased funding and support for mentor programs; uniform calculations of graduation rates, calling for States to equalize funding by leveraging Federal dollars, and expanding the length of the school day. Many of these themes are reinforced by Mr. Jackson's article, which insists we teach all Black boys to read at grade level by third grade and to embrace education, provide positive role models, and investing as much money in educating black boys as we do incarcerating them.

I applaud and support the efforts of both David J. Johns and Phillip Jackson who have contributed greatly to a much needed conversation about the state of African-American males in America today.

AMERICA HAS LOST A GENERATION OF BLACK BOYS

(By Phillip Jackson)

There is no longer a need for dire predictions, hand-wringing, or apprehension about losing a generation of Black boys. It is too late. In education, employment, economics, incarceration, health, housing, and parenting, we have lost a generation of young Black men. The question that remains is will we lose the next two or three generations, or possibly every generation of Black boys hereafter to the streets, negative media, gangs, drugs, poor education, unemployment, father absence, crime, violence and death.

Most young Black men in the United States don't graduate from high school. Only 35% of Black male students graduated from high school in Chicago and only 26% in New York City, according to a 2006 report by The Schott Foundation for Public Education. Only a few Black boys who finish high school actually attend college, and of those few Black boys who enter college, nationally, only 22% of them finish college.

Young Black male students have the worst grades, the lowest test scores, and the high-

est dropout rates of all students in the country. When these young Black men don't succeed in school, they are much more likely to succeed in the nation's criminal justice and penitentiary system. And it was discovered recently that even when a young Black man graduates from a U.S. college, there is a good chance that he is from Africa, the Caribbean or Europe, and not the United States.

Black men in prison in America have become as American as apple pie. There are more Black men in prisons and jails in the United States (about 1.1 million) than there are Black men incarcerated in the rest of the world combined. This criminalization process now starts in elementary schools with Black male children as young as six and seven years old being arrested in staggering numbers according to a 2005 report, *Education on Lockdown* by the Advancement Project.

The rest of the world is watching and following the lead of America. Other countries including England, Canada, Jamaica, Brazil and South Africa are adopting American social policies that encourage the incarceration and destruction of young Black men. This is leading to a world-wide catastrophe. But still, there is no adequate response from the American or global Black community.

Worst of all is the passivity, neglect and disengagement of the Black community concerning the future of our Black boys. We do little while the future lives of Black boys are being destroyed in record numbers. The schools that Black boys attend prepare them with skills that will make them obsolete before, and if, they graduate. In a strange and perverse way, the Black community, itself, has started to wage a kind of war against young Black men and has become part of this destructive process.

Who are young Black women going to marry? Who is going to build and maintain the economies of Black communities? Who is going to anchor strong families in the Black community? Who will young Black boys emulate as they grow into men? Where is the outrage of the Black community at the destruction of its Black boys? Where are the plans and the supportive actions to change this? Is this the beginning of the end of the Black people in America?

The list of those who have failed young Black men includes our government, our foundations, our schools, our media, our Black churches, our Black leaders, and even our parents. Ironically, experts say that the solutions to the problems of young Black men are simple and relatively inexpensive, but they may not be easy, practical or popular. It is not that we lack solutions as much as it is that we lack the will to implement these solutions to save Black boys.

It seems that government is willing to pay billions of dollars to lock up young Black men, rather than the millions it would take to prepare them to become viable contributors and valued members of our society.

Please consider these simple goals that can lead to solutions for fixing the problems of young Black men:

Short term—(1) Teach all Black boys to read at grade level by the third grade and to embrace education; (2) Provide positive role models for Black boys; (3) Create a stable home environment for Black boys that includes contact with their fathers; (4) Ensure that Black boys have a strong spiritual base; (5) Control the negative media influences on Black boys; and (6) Teach Black boys to respect all girls and women.

Long term—(1) Invest as much money in educating Black boys as in locking up Black men; (2) Help connect Black boys to a positive vision of themselves in the future; (3) Create high expectations and help Black boys live into those high expectations; (4)

Build a positive peer culture for Black boys (5) Teach Black boys self-discipline, culture and history; and (6) Teach Black boys and the communities in which they live to embrace education and life-long learning.

NOTE: As the Executive Director of The Black Star Project, Phillip Jackson has become a national leader advocating for community involvement in education and the importance of parental development to ensure that children are properly educated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on the rollcall vote for the final passage of H.R. 1257, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act (rollcall vote No. 244), in order to return to my district to survey damage from the recent floodwaters that have severely affected many of my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the rollcall vote for final passage of H.R. 1257, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act (rollcall vote No. 244).

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE HAMPTON

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize and honor a devoted friend and dedicated public servant, George Hampton, who retires from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—or UMDNJ—on March 30th of this year.

George Hampton was born and raised in Newark and rose from a humble beginning to earn a degree in Urban Planning from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and—through peaceful but assertive protest efforts, help gain a foothold for generations to come for minority populations and helped diversify Rutgers' Newark Campus faculty. Later he even joined the faculty as an adjunct professor.

Mr. Hampton would go on to serve the city of Newark in several administrative positions, become a consultant to the Greater Newark Urban Coalition and as executive assistant to the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; and serve as the President of the Regional Health Planning Newark Sub-area Council, as Board Chairman of Newark Emergency Services for Families, and as Board Chairman of the Newark Collaboration Group.

As Vice President of UMDNJ, Mr. Hampton has fulfilled a statewide responsibility for implementing the University's community service mission and extending UMDNJ's services to the community in the urban centers that serve as host to the University's several campuses in New Jersey. He has successfully directed the University's efforts to make a positive community impact throughout the state.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to

join me in honoring George Hampton. I am proud to have had him in my Congressional district and wish him never-ending success in his future endeavors.

Thank you, George Hampton, for your decades of dedicated service to the community.

HONORING BESSIEFRANCES J.
MEADOR

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Bessiefrances J. Meador of Riverdale, New York. The residents of California's 9th Congressional District remember Beth as a brilliant woman, an astute politician, a dedicated community activist, an accomplished attorney, and a loving friend to many. Beth passed away on March 30, 2007.

Beth spent her early years in Independence, Missouri and Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 1955, she and her family returned to the Kansas City area. There, they joined the Olivet Institutional Baptist Church where Beth was very active as a youth and young adult.

Upon her graduation from Sumner High School in 1961, Beth began her undergraduate studies at the University of Kansas. After earning her B.A., she obtained her law degree from the University of California at Berkeley, and was admitted to the bar in California and New York.

Beth led a distinguished career in the legal profession, serving in a number of important roles. She was an administrative attorney in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York, and also maintained a private law practice. Beth worked as a litigation compliance officer for the New York City Child Welfare Administration and as Minority Business Specialist for the State of New York and the New York City Transit Authority. She previously worked as Assistant Director in the Office of Legal Services of the State Bar of California. In the last years of her life, Beth was a teacher in the New York City Public School System.

Beth was active in politics throughout her life. Living in Oakland, California in the 1970s, she ran for the State Assembly, and was actively involved in many local campaigns. She participated in the 1972 National Black Political Convention in Gary, Indiana, as well as numerous State and national political conventions. Delegates always sought her counsel, for as much as she was an idealist, she was also very practical in seeking strategies and initiatives for making the United States a better country.

Always actively involved in her community, Beth was centrally involved in a number of organizations. An accomplished concert pianist, she contributed her talent as the youth music director at the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, where she was also a member. Beth belonged to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Coalition of 100 Black Women.

On a personal note, Beth was my roommate for a year, and I was privileged to benefit from her wise counsel, her musical genius, and our thought-provoking discussions. After Beth moved into her own apartment, as a generous

gesture of gratitude she gave me a beautiful set of dinnerware which I use to this day. Her memory and her love are deeply etched in my heart and in the hearts of many.

The last time I saw Beth was in September 2006, when we celebrated my sister Mildred's birthday in New York City. We enjoyed our evening with Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL, who welcomed us with open arms and generous hospitality to his district in Harlem. Beth was delighted to be with Congressman RANGEL and enjoyed the evening tremendously. Little did we know that these would be our last moments together.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great human being, our beloved Beth Meador. We extend our deepest condolences to Beth's family, and our deepest gratitude for sharing this great woman with us. She will be deeply missed. May her soul rest in peace.

CELEBRATING THE PROMULGA- TION OF MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an article titled "Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce Joins New York City in Promoting Minority and Women Owned Businesses," published in CaribNews on the week ending April 3, 2007.

The article celebrates the partnership between the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and the great City of New York and efforts to increase the number of and provide necessary support to minority and women owned businesses. The partnership has been forged in an effort to help minority and women owned businesses become certified to provide goods and services to the City of New York. According to the article, "companies that become certified obtain greater access to and information about contracting opportunities, receive technical assistance to better compete for those opportunities, and benefit from inclusion in the City's Online Directory of Certified Firms." Each of these benefits is essential to the success of minority and women owned businesses, many of whom face considerable challenges in starting and sustaining their operations.

I applaud the partnership between the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and the great City of New York and look forward to the continued growth of minority and women owned businesses in New York City.

GREATER HARLEM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
JOINS NEW YORK CITY IN PROMOTING MINOR-
ITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS

Harlem, USA—The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce (GHCC) has joined with the NYC Department of Small Business Services in a partnership to help Minority and Women Owned Businesses become certified to provide goods and services to the City of New York. The New York City Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Program certifies, promotes, and fosters the growth of the City's minority and women-owned businesses. Companies that become certified obtain greater access to and information about contracting opportunities, re-

ceive technical assistance to better compete for those opportunities, and benefit from inclusion in the City's Online Directory of Certified Firms.

GHCC began actively promoting this initiative in the Fall of 2006. Early outreach activities included the Miller Urban Entrepreneur Series at Terrace In The Sky Restaurant on December 9, 2006 and the End of Year Reception at Pier 2110 Restaurant on December 20, 2006.

On February 20th the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce hosted a special workshop on the importance of M/WBE's being certified with the city at the Marriott Marquis Hotel on Broadway and 45th Street prior to its Quarterly Membership meeting. That workshop was the first in a series of seminars and individual training sessions that will take place through June 2007 in an effort to get more Minority and Women Owned Businesses to be certified with the city and make it possible for more minority companies of all kinds to do business with NYC.

Firms based in New York City or certain surrounding counties are eligible for certification if they have been in business for more than one year and are at least 51 percent owned by a member of an ethnic minority group or a woman. Certified M/WBEs have access to free business assistance and seminars to help them make the most of their certification status. All companies are listed in a searchable public online directory that purchasing officers and contracting agencies use to find the goods and services they need. GHCC begins hosting individual training sessions on M/WBE certification with the City every Thursday and Saturday starting through June.

INTRODUCING THE SECURE VISA WAIVER TRAVEL ACT OF 2007

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Secure Visa Waiver Travel Act of 2007. Dating back to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) has been a highly successful program that allows nationals of designated countries to travel to the United States visa-free for up to 90 days for temporary business or tourism. VWP countries are required to grant reciprocal visa-free travel to Americans. The VWP has been a boost for tourism and commerce between the United States and the 27 countries that currently participate. For this reason, many other countries hope to join the VWP. There is strong support within the Administration, the business community, and among our allies and friends for Congress to take up legislation to expand the VWP.

I also support expansion of the VWP, and that is why I am introducing this bill. The VWP has been beneficial to American tourism and businesses. However, the VWP also has serious security vulnerabilities; both "shoe-bomber" Richard Reid and convicted al-Qaeda operative Zacarias Moussaoui traveled under the VWP. As we consider ways to expand the VWP, I believe security considerations must be foremost in our minds. The United States must enhance partnerships with VWP countries to ensure that terrorists and those who would violate our laws cannot travel visa-free. I believe my bill accomplishes this.