

with the University of Delaware College of Marine Studies at Lewes, DE. He was Vice President of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and active in similar civic organizations.

TRIBUTE TO HON. RENEE JONES WEEKS

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to recognize the Honorable Renee Jones Weeks for her many years of service to the community and to congratulate her upon her retirement from the Chancery Division, Superior Court of New Jersey (Essex Vicinage). Appointed to the Bench on July 14, 1989, Judge Weeks has served in the Family Part, Criminal Part and Civil Part. She has also served in two counties, Essex and Union during her tenure.

Judge Weeks has been actively engaged in various organizations throughout her career. She was a Co-Incorporator of the Garden State Bar Association, Co-Founder and First President of the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey and Past Secretary of the Garden State Bar Association. She also served as Vice President of the National Bar Association, President of the Women's Division of the National Bar Association and Financial Secretary, Chair-Elect and Chair of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association.

A graduate of Rutgers Law School in Newark, New Jersey and Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, Ohio, Judge Weeks has served on several committees of the New Jersey Supreme Court. She is the recipient of numerous awards and was the first Black Trustee of the Essex County Bar Association. Judge Weeks is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, a past Board Member of the New Jersey State Opera and a former Court Liaison to CASA (the Court Appointed Child Advocacy Program).

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that Judge Weeks is an excellent role model for women and minorities in the legal profession. She will leave a lasting impact on those who were fortunate enough to benefit from her guidance. I am pleased to join all those in attendance at a Retirement Party in her honor in wishing her a wonderful retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SERGEANT RONNIE O'NEAL BROWN

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Sergeant Ronnie O'Neal Brown, a nearly 20-year-veteran of the Polk County Sheriffs Office, who recently passed as a result of injury suffered in the line of duty. He worked tirelessly to provide the citizens of Polk County with safety and service.

Sergeant Brown was hired as a detention deputy in October 1989 and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in April 1997. He was most recently assigned to the South County Jail in Frostproof, Florida as a supervisor in Delta Platoon.

Sgt. Brown was injured in the line of duty on Sunday, August 30, 2009, after responding to a disturbance in an unruly prisoner's cell in the South County Jail. On Monday, September 7, 2009, he passed away.

During his nearly 20-year career, Sgt. Brown was known for his professionalism, attention to detail, positive influence on those around him, and his excellent work ethic. His personnel file is filled with accolades and letters of recognition for his hard work and dedication to the agency and to his fellow agency members. In May 2007, he and two other detention deputies were awarded a Meritorious Service Medal for providing CPR to an unresponsive inmate in the jail. It is quite clear that Sgt. Brown demonstrated a passion for law enforcement and commitment to helping others, qualities that enabled him to become a respected and model member of the Polk County Sheriffs Office.

Sgt. Brown was a loving husband, proud father, and devoted friend. He is survived by his wife Albertina Brown, a detention deputy assigned to the inmate booking area in Bartow, Florida, and one daughter.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Sgt. Brown's extraordinary life and many accomplishments within the Polk County Sheriffs Office. I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to him before the United States House of Representatives. Sgt. Brown was an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation. It is with deep respect and admiration that I commend him for his contributions to his community and the many lives that he touched while serving as a shining example of his legacy.

HONORING DENNIS L. MARTIRE

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Dennis L. Martire, Vice President and Regional Manager of the Laborers' International Union of North America. Throughout his career, Mr. Martire has shown exceptional leadership and has worked tirelessly for laborers.

In 1990 Mr. Martire began his career as an International Representative for the Laborers' International Union of North America, LIUNA, Jurisdictional Disputes Department. Since then, Mr. Martire has assumed various leadership positions within LIUNA. He became Assistant Director, and then Director, of the Laborers' Construction Department. In March 2000, Mr. Martire became Assistant Regional Manager of the Mid-Atlantic Region of LIUNA, and was elected Vice President and Regional Manager just 2 years later.

In addition to Mr. Martire's role within LIUNA, he also serves on various committees, boards, and organizations committed to advancing the laborers' cause. Mr. Martire serves as a Trustee on several organizations,

such as the Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America, the LIUNA National Health and Welfare Fund, and the Laborers-AGC Education and Training Fund. Mr. Martire also serves as the Chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Laborers' Employers Cooperation and Education Trust, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Organizing Coalition, and the Mid-Atlantic Laborers' Political League.

In recognition of Mr. Martire's hard work and dedication, he will be presented with the Labor Man of the Year Award at the Friends of Labor Committee of Laborers' Local 332 Annual Black Tie Charity dinner.

Mr. Martire's impressive career with the Laborers' International Union of North America showcases his commitment and drive to promote the wellbeing of LIUNA and its members. His work clearly exemplifies his personal mission to improve working conditions and provide all laborers with well-paying, secure jobs.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND BRANDO IBARRA

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention to the work of an outstanding individual, Reverend Brando Ibarra, who was recognized on Friday, September 25, 2009 for his ten years of dedicated service to the people of his community.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for he has been a true public servant and someone whose spiritual commitment has enhanced countless lives.

Father Brando was born on November 14, 1970, in El Doncello, Colombia. He came to the United States and earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Seton Hall University. He went on to graduate with a Masters of Theology degree from the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelien Seminary, in Illinois.

He was ordained into the priesthood by Bishop Frank J. Rodimer on September 25, 1999 at St. John's Cathedral in Paterson, New Jersey. He served his Deacon Internship as a Parochial Vicar and Temporary Administrator at Saint Margaret Parish in Morristown, New Jersey for the next seven years. In 2006, he was called on to serve as Parochial Vicar of St. Gerard Majella Church in Paterson. In 2007, he was appointed Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church, where he remains. Father Brando became a citizen of the United States of America on January 14, 2009.

His dedication to his ministry and to helping others reaches far beyond the Parish of St. Anthony of Padua. He is a member of the Paterson Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Spiritual Advisor of Hispanic Cursillos de Cristiandad, and a member of the Diocesan Vocation Board. He is a Chaplain for the Morris County Jail, and is a member of the Pas-saic Alliance Advisory Board Committee.

Father Brando is committed to nurturing and supporting others in their work in ministry. He is a staff member and lecturer in theology for the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown. He serves as the President of the Association of Colombian Priests in the USA, and is a Board Member the National Association of Hispanic Priests.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing

the efforts of individuals like Reverend Brando Ibarra.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Father Brando's family and friends,

all those who have been spiritually enriched by him, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service of Reverend Brando Ibarra.