

populations who often go without health care due to geographic isolation and economic or social status. Local AHECs work tirelessly to ensure that no Floridian is without timely access to quality health care, and last year alone more than 1,700 medical students from the USF AHECs provided more than 215,000 hours of care to an estimated 350,000 patients.

Not only have AHECs have supported the education of future professionals, but they have supported more than 400,000 health professionals caring for the medically underserved with programs designed to enhance their skills, knowledge, and quality of care. AHECs have awarded 1.1 million contact hours of continuing education programs to current health professionals. AHECs extend the academic resources of health professions training programs into rural and medically underserved communities throughout the United States by creating partnerships between the health science centers that train health professions students, residents, faculty, and practitioners and the local providers that care for our nation's increasing number of medically underserved citizens.

Madam Speaker, through community-based interdisciplinary training programs, AHECs identify, inspire, recruit, educate, and retain a health care workforce committed to underserved populations. To that end, I would like to take this opportunity to officially recognize National AHEC Week, March 23 through March 27, 2009.

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A TRIBUTE TO GLORIA COOKE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gloria Cooke, President of the AARP National Organization and community activist.

Gloria Cooke was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Gloria attended Franklin K. Lane High School, and completed her education at Kingsborough College where she majored in computer technology.

Ms. Cooke attends Mt. Zion Baptist Church faithfully, under the direction of Pastor Dan Craig.

Gloria was a care giver for her mother and brother before they expired.

Gloria's love of her life is her only son Charles.

Ms. Cooke entered into the work force and became a leader in the banking industry for a period of 36 years. She worked for Bankers Trust for 25 years, and Chase Manhattan. She also is a member of Penn Wortman Senior Center. Gloria is a community activist and enjoys volunteering to help her community, neighbors and friends to help them in anyway she can.

Ms. Cooke is the President of the AARP National Organization; she was given the position in the AARP Chapter which was founded by Director of Penn Wortman and Pink Senior Center Liz Sanders. The AARP Chapter serves the East New York community.

Her favorite hobby is travelling to the Caribbean Islands at least three times a year which inspired her to become a travel agent.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA NICOLE HOWARD

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Barbara Nicole Howard, a Health Department Representative and distinguished public servant.

Barbara Howard is a Health Department Representative for the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Public Health Detailing Program. The Public Health Detailing Program works with primary health care providers to improve patient care around key public health challenges in the areas of NYC with healthcare disparities. Ms. Howard provides medical providers with clinical tools and patient education materials via one-on-one relationships to improve health outcomes in the community.

Barbara Nicole Howard was born in the Bronx, New York to Henry and Barbara Howard. The family moved to Staten Island shortly thereafter due to the need for a larger apartment and the 1970's housing shortage. Through the years, she volunteered at soup kitchens, homeless shelters, HIV/AIDS programs, special needs children's organizations, and hospitals; developing a heart for servicing the community.

Ms. Howard obtained a Bachelor's of Art Degree in Sociology and a minor in Urban Affairs from Hunter College. After completing her studies, she worked in Brooklyn for the Legal Aid Society as a Forensic Social Work Assistant finding alternatives to incarceration for clients. She was then afforded the opportunity to work with the NYC Health and Hospital Corporation's Discharge Planning Program at Riker's Island for the mentally ill population as a Discharge Planner. She also had several promotions and worked as Supervisor of Discharge Planning / Community Liason. Ms. Howard enrolled in Baruch College's Executive Master of Public Administration program. Afterwards, Ms. Howard recommitted to public service as Provider Liason for the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Early Intervention Program. After three years with the Early Intervention Program, Ms. Howard devoted herself to public health and began to work with the Public Health Detailing Program.

Although, she continues to live in Staten Island, Ms. Howard has made Brooklyn her second home. She works, worships, and has many friends within Brooklyn. Ms. Howard is currently an active member of the Brooklyn Tabernacle in downtown Brooklyn.

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A TRIBUTE TO VANESSA HUGHES

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vanessa Hughes.

Vanessa Hughes was born August 17, 1959 to Rose and Leonard Reid Sr. She is the middle of five children and has two surviving brothers, Jeffrey and Bruce, one sister Shelissa, and a deceased brother Leonard Jr.

Ms. Hughes attended neighboring schools, P.S. 260 and JHS 211. She has worked to support her community throughout her life. Known for her energy and enthusiasm, Ms. Hughes is the founder of the Community Based Operations for All Neighborhoods, a community civic group whose motto is "Building Better Communities One Block at a Time."

The need for community, social, recreational and education programs was the structure for the implementation of C.B.O.F.A.N. A strong advocate of children oriented activities and programs, Ms. Hughes implemented an "Annual Mardi Gras Health and Awareness" event which brought local programs such as the public library, Office of Environmental Management and Parks Department to the community to explain the services they offer.

As the current Grievance Committee Chairperson of the Breuklen Tenant Association, Ms. Hughes acts as a liaison between the community residents and the management of the Breukelen Housing Development by keeping abreast of the needs of the community and forwarding them to the proper people to have them resolved.

As a community activist, Ms. Hughes can be found working with the Breukelen Community Head Start Program, Breukelen Community Center, elected officials, neighborhood businesses and her C.B.O.F.A.N. to ensure that the needs of her community are met for the betterment of the community.

Please join me Madam Speaker in recognizing Vanessa Hughes' passion for public service.

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A TRIBUTE TO LEORA KEITH

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Leora Keith.

Mrs. Leora Keith is a widow and mother of four biological daughters. She is the adoptive mother of two and a past foster mother. She is a retired early childhood educator who served thirty seven years with the New York City Board of Education. Mrs. Keith encouraged countless children and their families, as she guided them towards successful careers.

Mrs. Keith has been a member of the Upper Room Full Gospel Baptist Church for more than thirty years, where she has served on the Usher Board, as church clerk, worked with the youth and sings in the Senior Choir. Through her work with her congregation, she has inspired many with her commitment to family, community and church.

Mrs. Keith is affiliated with the Order of Eastern Star under the Star of Bethlehem Grand Chapter where she held the titles of Matron and a Deputy Grand Matron. She is a lifelong member of the National Council of Negro Women Inc., where she served as Vice President of the Brooklyn section. A member of the Brooklyn Reading Association, The New York Alliance of Black School Educators, Board member of the Nascent Victorian Place Cultural Center, which is a non-profit multi-cultural center, dedicated to building links between communities. She is currently President of Tompkins Houses Resident Association Inc., where she partners with the Fresh Air

Fund and Literacy Teen Reading partner program. Mrs. Keith is also a member of the Cabs Home Attendants Service Inc., and Continuous Quality Improvement committee.

Leora Keith received a Bachelor Degree in Professional Studies from Pace University's Manhattan campus with a concentration in reading. She has master credits from Touro Graduate School of Education and Psychology in Early Childhood and Special Education.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the extraordinary level of passion and commitment towards the betterment of our youth that Leora Keith has given us.

A TRIBUTE TO CARMEN LOURDES MARTINEZ

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Carmen Lourdes Martinez, Director of the Community Action Center in the Office of the New York City Comptroller.

Carmen was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; she immigrated to Brooklyn, New York at the age of eight and is a product of the New York City public school system. She is a graduate of the City University of New York, having obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Medgar Evers College and continued her graduate studies in Public Administration at Brooklyn College.

Carmen is currently Director of the Community Action Center in the Office of New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. Since joining the office on May 18, 1992, Carmen has rendered service to over 87,000 constituents, run the Comptroller's Foreclosure Intervention Hotline, and served as Management Co-Chair of the Comptroller's Quality of Work Life, Employees Recognition Committee.

Carmen's many personal awards and recognitions include: Aegis Society, Inc. The Federation of African-American Civil Service Organizations, Inc. Merit Award; National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Distinguished Alumni Award; Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Inc. 21st Century Visionary Award; Brooklyn Borough President Outstanding Achievement Award; Bedford Stuyvesant Community Legal Services Corporation Outreach Self-Help Program Valedictorian and Outstanding Scholarship Award.

Outside of work, Carmen volunteers her time to grassroots activities designed to advance the community. She is a Charter Member and a member of the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Metropolis Lions Club; a Charter Member and former member of the Board of Directors of the Central Brooklyn Federal Credit Union; Former Member of the Board of Directors of the Central Brooklyn Partnership; participant in the New York City Department of Education's Kids and the Power of Work Program and volunteers as a judge for the New York City Working in Support of Education, Quality of Life Program. Recently Carmen completed her third term as President of the Alumni Association of Medgar Evers College.

Carmen reared three children as a single mother, Grace M. Benjamin, Harry "Jamie"

Martinez-Benjamin and Xiomara L. Maloney and is the proud grandmother of three.

A TRIBUTE ROSEMARIE ARMSTEAD-LOWERY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rosemarie Armstead-Lowery, educator and community activist.

Rosemarie Armstead-Lowery has always been a child of her community. Community has shielded her, nurtured her, and allowed her the freedom to be herself in a world where the expectations of others often times limit one's horizon. The major influences of her life have been family and Church and they, in that order, are responsible for much of who she has become. For the last sixty of her seventy years, she has found her niche in serving that community that has nurtured her. She has been teaching the youngsters of her community for almost fifty years. Rosemarie has been a Day Care director at the Horace E. Greene Day Care Center in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn at a time of transition for child care. She implemented a change in school-age programming which made her center one of the model programs for city wide school-age programs.

After her directorship in daycare, Ms. Lowery returned to the classroom in the public school where she spent the next 12 years nurturing the students in her care at P. 335 in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. She considered her job to be a facilitator, one who made learning both possible and enjoyable. It was her responsibility to show youngsters that learning was fun and that they could soar beyond their wildest dreams if they were willing to put forth the effort. Rosemarie was judged a nonconformist by some of her peers because of her unorthodox methods for reaching her students, but in the end the success of her students was her vindication.

In 1988, Ms. Lowery decided to embark on a venture of her own and opened The Learning Center of Bedford Stuyvesant in a brownstone in Bedford Stuyvesant. The independent school was in response to the desire of parents for an alternative to the public school. The individualization of the learning process for each student was its strength. The program was based on an eleven month curriculum where travel was an important component. The students were encouraged to study and become part of the culture they visited. They have traveled to Canada, Alaska, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Washington D.C., Virginia and around the local tri-state area. Unfortunately, the Learning Center closed at the end of its twentieth year because Ms. Lowery has turned yet another page.

In the summer of 2007, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn/Queens created a new tri-Church configuration by combining the parishes of Holy Rosary, our Lady of Victory, and St. Peter Claver into a new tri-church Parish called St. Martin de Porres. Ms Lowery was hired as the Temporalities Manager. Her function is to act as a business manager of the newly formed Parish. She is currently responsible for the fiscal and temporal care of the

Parish and its facilities. Times change, and circumstances along with them, but the opportunity to meet life head-on continues to present itself each day and for this she is eternally grateful.

A TRIBUTE TO RUTH SIBLER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ruth Sibling, a dedicated public servant for 26 years.

Ruth Sibling is a volunteer at Public School 273 in New York City. She was born in Brooklyn, New York and has lived in Brooklyn for seventy-three years.

Ms. Sibling has worked diligently for the Teamster's Union for the 26 years prior to her retirement, and death of her husband, Mr. Sibling. Following her retirement, Ms. Sibling volunteered with P.S. 273 to assist in the library.

Ms. Sibling considers volunteering in school the "love of her life", along with her children and grand-children, and brings a constant youthful insightfulness to her volunteer work.

Madam Speaker, Please join me in recognizing Ruth Sibling for her time and dedication to public service.

A TRIBUTE TO ZENOBIA C. WHITE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Zenobia White.

Zenobia always knew that after high school she wanted to do something meaningful. After successfully completing four years at Beach Channel High School in Far Rockaway, New York with honors, she enlisted with the United States Army as an Army Supply Specialist and served four years in Germany.

After leaving the Army, Zenobia worked for the New York City Corrections Department working in prison complexes across the city including Riker's Island, Brooklyn's Men's House of Detention and Kings County Hospital's prison ward.

Zenobia White married James White and the couple had two children, Daryl and Jameha White.

Ms. White continued to work for New York City with the Health and Hospital Corporation and the Metro Plus Health Plan. In this position she enrolled over two hundred families for the East New York D&TC. As a recognized community activist, she joined the community board of the East New York D&TC, where she remains active.

Ms. White now works as a Medicare sales representative for the Emblem health plan, where working for senior citizens has become one of her greatest joys.

Zenobia White holds the position of Vice President for Sister Sister In-law, a women's group which assists and mentors young women in their communities.

Please join me, Madam Speaker, in recognizing Ms. White's proven record in service to her community.