

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.

A TRIBUTE TO AWILDA ROSARIO

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 Awilda Rosario, a woman committed to the dignified care of the aging in her community.

Awilda Rosario was born in Fajardo, Puerto Rico on December 3, 1951. She grew up with her mother, step-father and three sisters. Early on she was irresistibly attracted to reading and learning about the world and how people live. During her high school years, inspired by her Spanish Literature teachers, she discovered her love for human studies. After graduating from high school in the town of Loiza, she attended the University of Puerto Rico where she completed a Bachelors degree in Spanish Literature with a minor in Sociology.

After teaching Spanish Literature at the high school level, Ms. Rosario decided to immigrate to New York, invited by one of her cousins who already lived there. Once in New York, she started to connect with her ex-classmates and friends who helped her land her first job.

Because there are no accidents, that first job was as a Caseworker at Diana Jones Senior Center in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Her position afforded her the opportunity to work with community groups to advocate on behalf of the elderly.

At that moment, just emerging from the 70's, the New York City Department for the Aging was not as yet the developed and diverse agency that it is today. The needs of the minority elderly, especially those unable to understand the complexity of the benefits and entitlement programs went mostly unmet. Many minority elderly individuals simply did not apply for benefit programs because they did not know they existed. Even if they knew, they didn't know how to apply for them. For this reason, she joined forces with Mr. Ed Mendez-Santiago, who would later be appointed the Commissioner for the New York City Department for the Aging. The organization he founded, the Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-Raices, became a forerunner for advocacy and expansion of services that made benefits and entitlement programs accessible to the minority elderly. She held the position of Chairperson of the Board for a good number of years.

After a few years of working as a caseworker, Ms. Rosario was appointed as the Director of the North Brooklyn meals-on-wheels program, also funded by the Department for the Aging and sponsored by Wartburg Lutheran Home for the Aging. During that time Ms. Rosario became very active with the community and served as a member of the Board of Directors of several organizations including the New York State Office for the Aging, Vision for the Blind, East New York Interagency Council and the Brownsville-Ocean Hill Interagency Council.

After completing her Masters in Social Work and Administration at Hunter College, Wartburg Lutheran offered her the position of Director of Adult Day Health Care program which she held until several years ago. After 21 years with Wartburg, Ms. Rosario came to work with Brooklyn United Methodist Church Home to serve as Director of their Adult Day Care Program. As always, she continues to enjoy her work with the elderly and with those whose needs can be met by the services offered by this program. She is grateful to Brooklyn United Methodist for the opportunity to continue working with the community and doing what she likes.