

Danticat. Marie Lily Cerat is currently at work on a novel, *In the Light of Shooting Stars*.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Marie Lily Cerat.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY COLLIER

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Beverly Collier, for her commitment to human services and her many contributions to her community.

Beverly Collier is the Director of the "My Turn Program" at Kingsborough Community College, in Brooklyn, NY. She is a native New Yorker and was raised in Queens, NY. She attended Baruch College, CUNY where she received a Masters in Business Administration and Management. Ms. Collier has a graduate certificate in Aging from Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging & Longevity of Hunter College (formerly Brookdale Center on Aging).

As the Director of the My Turn Program, Ms. Collier oversees the registration and advisement of the program's students, all of whom are over 60 years of age. The program allows senior citizens to take courses on a matriculating or non-matriculating basis, and currently has over 500 students enrolled in day and evening classes.

The majority of Ms. Collier's professional experience has been in human services, specifically providing services to elders and their families. Prior to joining Kingsborough Community College, she worked for Services for the Underserved as the Senior Vice President for Home Care Services for 23 years and played a critical role in the expansion of the Home Care division. In this position, Ms. Collier managed two home care agencies and a home modifications program for disabled individuals.

In addition to her administrative positions, Ms. Collier is an adjunct instructor in the Human Services Department at New York College of Technology in Brooklyn, NY where she has taught courses in the management of human service organizations and gerontology. She is also a workshop facilitator and has conducted a series of trainings in effective communication and management skills for the Research Foundation of CUNY in New York City and upstate New York.

Recently, Ms. Collier has combined her professional background in elder care with her personal experience as a care giver for her late mother, Ethel Collier, by developing and presenting trainings to professional and family care givers. She is passionate about the opportunity to share her caregiver story through helping others care for their loved ones.

In 2009, Ms. Collier was elected Chair of the Board of Directors for Unique People Services a non-profit organization providing services to individuals and families affected by developmental disabilities, mental illness and AIDS. She has also volunteered with the Speakers Bureau of the Medicare Rights Center and the Home Care Council of NYC.

Ms. Collier loves to travel and has been fortunate to visit Ghana, Nigeria, Jamaica, Argentina, Guyana, England and more. Her travel has mostly been for pleasure. In 1996, how-

ever she traveled to Argentina to deliver a presentation on hiring and training home care workers to health care professionals who were working to expand a similar program in their country. The trip was organized by the CUNY Consortium for the Study of Disabilities.

Ms. Collier lives in St. Albans and is the mother of two adult children; her daughter, Maia Rosser, is a social worker, and her son, Akunna Rosser, is a guidance counselor.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Beverly Collier.

#### A TRIBUTE TO AYLAN DAWKINS

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Aylan Dawkins for her continued dedication to the service of others.

Mrs. Aylan Dawkins was born and raised in the beautiful island of Trinidad. After several visits to the United States, she decided to relocate to New York in 1987. She is married to Paul Dawkins, who is a corrections officer. They have three loving children; Aisha, Darwin, and Devon. Aylan is also a proud grandmother to one grandchild named Ethan.

Mrs. Dawkins joined Interfaith Medical Center in 1996 and worked in the Home Care Department for 1 year. She was then transferred to the Finance Department and eventually moved on to the Chief Financial Officer's Department. At present, she is the Executive Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer.

In her capacity as Executive Assistant, Aylan represents the Finance Department on a number of committees set up by the institution including the annual ball which raises money for the hospital and honors outstanding members of the community. She also organizes the summer golf outing which has given the hospital visibility in the health industry.

Aylan became a Certified Nursing Assistant in 1997. She devotes her weekends to service at the Isabella Geriatric Center where she extends her recognizable compassion, patience, and understanding to the elderly.

She excels in customer satisfaction, team effort, and providing professionalism and courteous service with a smile at all times.

She is extremely hardworking and dedicated at work and at home. Mrs. Dawkins is a devoted religious woman and the rock of her family. She organizes yearly family picnics, summer events, and also enjoys cooking all her favorite dishes for her friends and family. Aylan Dawkins is certainly a dynamic woman.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Aylan Dawkins.

#### A TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE THERESA FREEMAN

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable Theresa Freeman for her commitment and years of service to New York.

The Honorable Theresa Freeman, State Committee Woman and District Leader of the 70th Assembly District, was born in Augusta, Georgia and has been a community activist in New York for over 30 years. For over 20 years, Theresa has advocated for the community of Harlem. From her days as a writer for the *Amsterdam News* to her current elected office of State Committee Woman District Leader, Theresa has fought for important issues in the community of Harlem such as job development, affordable housing, drug treatment programs and ex-offenders.

Theresa Freeman also worked at Reality House Inc. for thirty years as a Legal Specialist. After moving from Harlem to Long Island City, Queens; she became the Community Liaison because of her political connections. Reality House, Inc. is a program that services our Veterans and Community with dependency issues. Ms. Freeman is the President of New York City Chapter of the National Action Network founded by Dr. Reverend Sharpton. She also is a member of the Women's Auxiliary and Scholarship Fund under the leadership of Mrs. Kathy Jordan Sharpton. Ms. Freeman is a member of the Association of Black Social Workers, Advisory Board of the New York Coalition of 100 Black Women, Vice-President of the Uptown Dance Academy, The Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Memorial Committee and the New York Lawyers Association and many other prominent organizations. Ms. Freeman has been selfless in giving to the community, and has received numerous awards for her humanitarian achievements. She has earned recognition for her community devotion including the Sojourner Truth, Ms. Black Moses Award from the Mother AME Zion Church, and the Dazivedo Watson Community Service Award from Assembly Keith I.T. Wright of the Fred Samuel Democratic Club.

Theresa is a member of the St. James AME Church. She is a Silver Lifetime member of the NAACP, the Fred Samuel, and 504 Disability Democratic Clubs. Theresa is an active member of the Martin Luther King Club, West Harlem Democratic Club, and The African American Day Parade Committee. She is a spokesperson for the Renal Support Network.

Her motto is "with patience and hard work you can achieve your goals."

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Honorable Theresa Freeman.

#### A TRIBUTE TO CARON MARIE MARTIN CLOVIE

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Caron Marie Martin Clovie for her commitment to serve communities in need in Brooklyn.

Caron Marie Martin Clovie is the President and Founder of Sister, Sister In-Law. Sister, Sister In-Law began as a group which provided affirmation and bonding and has grown to a women's group whose mission is to mentor and lead the young women in our communities toward a positive and productive future. The organization encourages women to love

themselves and to love one another. The motto is designed to uplift and empower each other, it teaches that "A Sister Can't Fly With Just One Wing."

Caron Marie Martin Clovie was born on March 10, 1955 to Jessie and Lillie Martin. Her community roots begin in East New York Brooklyn, working for the neighborhood youth corps and the anti-poverty programs of East New York. Caron's focus was ensuring the safety and well being of the adolescents in the community. With a strong focus on females, she worked for the anti-poverty programs of East New York until called to work for the Health & Hospital Cooperation (HHC).

Health care became Caron's passion. In 1975 she worked for the East New York NFCC, a pilot program for a new way to administer health care to underprivileged families. After working hard at this facility she became a clerical supervisor in less than a year. The need for quality health care began to increase fast. A new site was built on Pitkin and Pennsylvania Avenue. The small facility became the East New York D&TC. Caron's career ride continued with HHC where she was hired to work for another new program called The Metro Plus Health Plan. This program was designed to ensure quality health care for all who needed it. Caron enjoyed this, her career met her passion as her job was to make sure that affordable quality care was available to the residents of East New York. Caron became field manager and was assigned to the Brooklyn North, where her team was responsible for the enrollment of more than 300 families in their first quarter.

In addition to planning Sister, Sister In-Law's annual 'Girls Summit' this May, Caron is currently working at Odyssey House in their adolescent facility for girls only. She is married to Robert Clovie and has raised two sons: Aaron and Jameek.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the work of Caron Marie Martin Clovie.

#### WHEN WILL AMERICA RECOVER?

#### HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following.

#### WHEN WILL AMERICA RECOVER?

(By Hon. Nick Smith, former U.S. Representative (MI-07))

I just returned from speaking at several British universities on American politics and the economy. England, like the United States, has high unemployment and huge government debt. Many I spoke to believed that the current global economic mess is all our fault. In a sense, they are right. As the world's leading economy, our economic health affects everyone, especially trading partners like England. We are its largest trading and investment partners at \$400 billion last year.

The students were most interested in my opinion on how long it would take before America recovers economically. Some White House economists are predicting that we can fully recover from this recession in a year or two. As I told the students, however, it will take ten years or more to rebuild our economy—and then only if we can control spend-

ing. It's not just "the government" or even "the Democrats." All of us, government and consumers alike, have been living on borrowed money. Our national savings rate three years ago was a negative number. One bit of recent good news is that consumers have increased their estimated average individual savings rate to over five percent, which means less consumer spending in the short run but a stronger overall economy in the long run. The Government needs to do likewise.

But Congress not only continues to borrow, it is borrowing more than ever with no sign of stopping. Deficit spending, expected to hit \$1.5 trillion, is one third of the President's proposed budget. His budget projects huge deficits every year for the foreseeable future. Our debt, which is the sum of all historical deficits, now adds up to \$12 trillion. Interest on that debt consumes almost ten percent of federal spending. Without dramatic change the future will be much worse. Interest rates will be doubling and the unfunded liabilities (what we've promised to pay out in the future) for entitlements such as Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid and veteran's benefits adds up to another \$60 trillion debt—in today's dollars.

Reckless spending has mostly been driven by Congressmen currying favor with voters who demand ever more money and services from "the government" to solve their problems. But the government gets its money from current taxpayers and lenders. Who will repay these lenders? Future taxpayers. Each baby born in this country is instantly saddled with \$40,000 of government debt, not including interest.

And that does not include future deficit spending or the \$60 trillion in unfunded liabilities. We have ended up with a tax, borrow, and spend government that will handicap future generations. Ten years ago, our federal spending was 18% of GDP, 4 years ago it was 20%, and today it's over 24%. The dollar increase will have gone from \$1.8 trillion in 2000 to \$3.8 trillion in the President's budget. That is over 200 percent of spending ten years ago.

Washington's over-spending not only mortgages our children's future, it crowds out business and industry borrowing today, for research, expansion and ultimately jobs.

As alarming as these numbers are, even more worrisome is that our political and economic system is nearing a tipping point that, if reached, will change this country forever. Today 50% of voters pay less than 2% of the total income tax. These voters want the government to solve more of their problems, and why not? It's in their best interest to elect politicians who will spend more because they don't have to pay for it, and it's in politicians' best interest to vote for that spending to get reelected. Meanwhile, countries like Communist China, which has lent the United States nearly a trillion dollars, gains more and more influence in foreign affairs, literally at our expense.

The point is that we're close to losing our status as a strong economic power. That affects us, our children, England, and the rest of the world who rely on us for our leadership and for much of their own economic well being. It is in all of our interest to be more self sufficient, ask less of Washington and bring down government spending.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on March 19, 2010, I inadvertently failed to vote on roll-

call No. 140. Had I worked, I would have voted "aye."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall votes 141, 144, 145, 146 and 147. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on each rollcall vote.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, due to an immediate family health situation, I was absent from vote for the afternoon of March 18, and absent from votes for March 19 and 20, 2010. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall Nos. 128—"yes"; 129—"yes"; 130—"yes"; 131—"present"; 132—"yes"; 133—"yes"; 134—"yes"; 135—"yes"; 136—"yes"; 137—"yes"; 138—"yes"; 139—"yes"; 140—"yes"; 141—"no"; 142—"yes"; 143—"yes"; 144—"yes"; 145—"yes"; 146—"yes"; 147—"yes"; 148—"no"; 149—"yes"; 150—"yes"; 151—"yes"; 152—"yes"; 153—"yes" and 154—"yes".

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on March 20, 2010, I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall Nos. 148 and 150; and I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 149, 151, 152, 153, and 154.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed for votes in the House Chamber today. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 155 through 159.

HONORING THE APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICE CHARLES T. CANADY AS CHIEF JUSTICE TO THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT

#### HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former member of this body,