

any book that has been on the best seller list over the last 20 years.

In 1984, Mr. Abdin, along with his three brothers and five cousins, and the support of the people of the neighborhood, started the first soccer tournament in Ozone Park, Queens, for Bangladeshi youth. The tournament became very popular as it was the first in the Bengali community and, was an example followed by Bangladeshi youth living in the other cities. In the early 1990s Mr. Abdin spearheaded the formation of the Bangladesh Football Federation, mainly with the view to provide the Bengali Community in New York with an opportunity to gather and celebrate through soccer games. Following the success of this organization, many Bangladeshi-American socio-cultural organizations were later formed by others. The Bangladesh Football Federation was renamed as Bangladesh Sports Council in 2001. And, in 2005, Mr. Abdin was appointed General Secretary of the Sports Council, a position he still holds today.

As a Pioneer Community Activist in the Bengali Community, Mr. Abdin's main focus is developing Bangladeshi youth and sports through his organizing skills and vibrant youth programs. As President and CEO of the Bangladeshi American Community Development and Youth Sports, BACDYS, his main objective is to focus exclusively on low income housing, education, youth programs and family entertainment. He is a Board member of the Highland Park Local Development Corp., the 75th Precinct Community Council and a member of the program committee of the North Brooklyn YMCA, to name a few.

Mr. Abdin is a product of a retail family. His father was a successful retail businessman and growing up he worked in his father's store after school and on weekends. After spending a couple of years in Bangladesh he returned to the United States to manage the family Key Food Supermarket, which to this day, he still manages.

Mr. Abdin is married to Farida Yeasmin, and they are blessed with two daughters and two sons. He attends the Al-Aman Mosque that was founded by his father, Abdul Sattar, on Forbell Street in Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleges to join me in recognizing the important achievements and dedication to community of Mr. Misba Abdin.

A TRIBUTE TO TOMMY  
MERRIWEATHER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Tommy Merriweather. Mr. Merriweather is a public servant that has dedicated his life to protecting the community.

Tommy enlisted in the U.S Army after high school where from 1982 to 1988 he served in the Infantry division. During his eight year military career he traveled the world and he earned many awards.

On July 5, 1989, he joined the New York City Police Department. He was a committed employee and enjoyed working for the NYPD for twenty years. In December 1992, Officer Merriweather was promoted to the rank of Detective.

Detective Merriweather was a dedicated and effective undercover detective, performing dangerous work on a daily basis. On numerous occasions, Detective Merriweather cancelled scheduled vacation days so that he could make undercover buys crucial to the progress of ongoing cases. Detective Merriweather's life and safety have been placed in jeopardy on numerous occasions by the unpredictability of the undercover work he did. On July 9, 2009, he completed 20 years with the NYPD and retired as a Detective 1st grade.

Tommy has worked with the Boy Scouts since 2009 and is the first African-American Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 43 and of the Sagitokos District. He enjoys volunteering his time to work with the Scouts and helping them advance to become Eagle Scouts or be a part of the Order of Arrow. His troop enjoys outdoor camping. Tommy is always preparing for upcoming events and makes sure that everyone he talks to knows the good work being done by the Troop and Suffolk County Council of Boy Scouts.

Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize Tommy Merriweather for his extraordinary contributions to the Brooklyn community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on June 18, 2012 because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 379 and No. 380.

A TRIBUTE TO LEO A. MORRIS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Leo A. Morris for his track record in public service and his commitment to charity.

Leo Morris was born in Colon, Panama to Louise and Irving Morris and is now a resident of Brooklyn. He is the only son in his family and has four sisters. He migrated to the United States in 1959. Leo was educated at Eastern District High School, Staten Island Community College (AA, 1975), and Barnard College (BBA, 1978). He began his career in the housing sector with the United States Trust Company after completing his studies. He went on to serve the City of New York's Department of Housing Preservation and Development in various offices within the agency for 30 years. During his tenure, he was a Real Property Manager in the Tenant Interim Lease Program, a Community Coordinator/Unit Chief in the Division of Relocation, and Deputy Director for Field Operations in the Emergency Housing Services Bureau. Leo was recognized as a dedicated and loyal employee, retiring in 2010.

Leo is a dedicated volunteer and finds time to enjoy life. He is Vice Chair of Tashia's

L.I.F.E., Inc., a charitable organization founded with the purpose of aiding, educating and assisting individuals citywide, who are experiencing difficulties while living with Lupus. Leo enjoys travelling, jazz, and trying out the diverse cuisines available all over Brooklyn. He is married to Leora Marie Morris, and is the proud father of three children, Michelle, Leah, and Natasha and a proud grandfather to Raphael, Damiere, Morgan, and Ryann.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Leo A. Morris for his successful career and continued work in community service.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. RAMANATHAN  
RAJU

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Ramanathan (Ram) Raju, MD, MBA, FACS, FACHE. He is the Chief Executive Officer for the Cook County Health & Hospital System (CCHHS) in Chicago, Illinois. CCHHS is the 3rd largest public health system in the country which oversees a comprehensive, integrated system with several parts; an acute care hospital with a Level 1 Trauma Center and a Community Hospital; a Regional Outpatient Center; a Correctional Healthcare Facility; an Outpatient Infectious Disease Center specializing in the treatment of HIV/AIDS; 16 community clinics and a public health department.

Prior to accepting the role of CEO of Cook County Health & Hospital System (CCHHS), Dr. Raju served as the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation's (HHC) Executive Vice President, Corporate Chief Operating Officer and Chief Medical Officer since 2006. During his tenure in health care spanning over 30 years, Dr. Raju served in various leadership positions in not for profit and public hospital systems in New York. He served as the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Medical officer at Coney Island Hospital and Senior Vice President and Director of Medical Education at Lutheran Health System.

Dr. Raju began his professional career in India. He attended Madras Medical College to earn his medical diploma and subsequently did a residency in Surgery culminating in a Master of Surgery degree. He underwent further training in England and was elected as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. He served in various capacities in England and subsequently underwent surgical training in the United States. Dr. Raju also did a fellowship in Vascular Surgery. He is Board Certified in Surgery and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He has held the position of Clinical Professor in multiple Medical Schools. He has been actively involved in teaching residents and medical students for many years, and won the Best Teacher award many times throughout his career. He is an avid researcher and has published many articles in peer review journals. Dr. Raju is also a physician executive, having obtained an MBA from the University of Tennessee and CPE from the American College of Physician Executives. He currently serves as an adjunct professor in Business Management at the University of Tennessee. He has held many positions in Healthcare Organizations, including

Director of Surgery, Director of Trauma, Director of Surgical Research, and Director of Medical Education. He has also served on various local and state wide committees including the American Hospital Association Region 2 Governance Board and on the President's Forum: The Acute Post Acute Hospital Continuum, a Member of the National Quality Forum steering Committee "National Voluntary Consensus Standards for emergency Care—Phase II Hospital based Emergency and Research Committee. Dr. Raju's professional society memberships include the American College of Physician Executives and the American College of Surgeons. He was recently selected as one of the top 25 minority health care executives in the country by Modern Health care Magazine.

Dr. Raju married a fellow resident he met at Madras Medical College, urologist Samantha Raju. They have a son and a daughter. Dr. Raju lives in Chicago's South Loop.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Raju for his successful career and his dedication to community health.

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#### HONORING THE 125TH UNITED WAY ANNIVERSARY

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of United Way as they proudly celebrate their 125th anniversary serving our communities both here at home and abroad.

In 1887, three visionaries saw the need to help their community and to address the welfare issues their city faced. Thus, the first United Way campaign was born, collecting over \$21,700 for local charitable organizations. Today, United Way exists in 1,800 communities and 41 countries, raising nearly \$5 billion every year to increase opportunities for a better life worldwide.

Forty million Americans are working in low-income jobs with little or no health benefits. In

2008, United Way began a 10-year initiative to cut these staggering statistics in half. United Way continues to look into the future, searching diligently for solutions that will benefit these families in the long-term.

United Way has impacted our community in New York's 15th congressional district in profound ways. For as long as I can remember, its New York City chapter has been dedicated to helping low-income families in terms of their health, education, and financial stability. From restoring child care and after-school funding, to helping over 3 million people make healthier choices by making fresh fruits and vegetables more affordable and available. United Way sees no issue as unimportant and continues to display altruism at the highest level.

In these tough economic times, when many people are facing daily struggles that push them to the brink of pure exhaustion, the work United Way does serves as a beacon of hope for those in need. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing and crucial organization within our community. I would like to personally praise the leadership of United Way Worldwide President & CEO Brian Gallagher, New York's United Way CEO Gordon Campbell, and every staffer and volunteer who diligently works behind the scenes. Their work does not go unnoticed. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to congratulate United Way on their 125th anniversary and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

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#### A TRIBUTE TO MONICA THOMAS

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Monica Thomas, a model servant of the needs of the public, a person dedicated to the importance of family, and native New Yorker. She is Division Director of Homeless Services at Volunteers of America and currently enrolled at Bernard Ba-

ruch College to obtain her second Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Monica Thomas was called to action. After realizing the devastating impacts of drug addiction she sought a career in Addiction Counseling. In her first job she counseled homeless men, who also suffered from addiction problems and mental illness, and eventually rising to Assistant Program Director. She sought to learn more about the populations she served and received a "JFK Jr. Fellowship" scholarship to pursue undergraduate studies at Empire State College in 1996 where she focused in Social Administration and Addiction Studies and received New York State Certification in Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment.

In 1999, Monica Thomas attended Hunter College School of Social Work for a Master's in Social Work with a Specialty in Aging Health. She developed and implemented a substance abuse treatment model specifically for the elderly population and was promoted to Program Director of the Elder Care Unit at Odyssey House. Additionally, she was nominated and received the New York State CASAC of the Year Award, the highest award bestowed upon individuals who hold a New York State Alcohol and Substance Abuse Certification. Monica received her New York State Social Work Certification immediately completing her graduate studies in 2003.

Monica then worked in an executive management position overseeing residential services for an agency that focused on assisting pregnant women recover from addiction, and subsequently was appointed Vice President of Clinical Operations for a drug treatment organization in Fairfield, Connecticut. In her various roles, she designed and developed systems and policies that met the growing needs of the population while simultaneously engaging with the community to gain support for the programs under her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Monica Thomas for her efforts advocating for the well-being of our disenfranchised fellow citizens.