

People who struggle with a recent health diagnosis or life changes often come to her for support and a ready ear to listen.

In our rural areas, weekly or monthly quilting bees are still a time for women to leave their cares at home and join in the laughter, fellowship and wisdom of others—and often a pot-luck lunch or dinner, and yes, the occasional margarita shared with a group of nuns.

Sue Poser exemplifies the embodiment of utilizing creativity and hard work to build a small business success while staying rooted to family, friends and community.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work and accomplishments of Dr. Marcella Maxwell in recognition of Women's History Month. On Sunday, March 22nd, I joined the 369th Harlem Historical Society for their annual awards dinner dance celebrating Women's History Month at the elegant Marina del Rey in Throgs Neck, New York. This annual salute pays special tribute to phenomenal women of color currently serving and those that have served in our Nation's military. I was very proud to present this year's prestigious 369th Historical Society Women's History Month Award to my beloved friend, Dr. Marcella Maxwell.

Under the leadership of retired Major General Nathaniel James, AUS, the 369th Historical Society was established to collect, preserve and maintain artifacts, relics, books, papers, photographs, films and other artifacts touching on the past history of the 369th Infantry Regiment (also known as the Harlem Hellfighters who were given their name by same German soldiers they help to defeat in the liberation of France and Europe in World War I), its allies and affiliates and of Soldiers who served in the Military Services of the United States. One of the primary services it provides is to exhibit all gathered data to the public and ensure that the contributions of all African Americans and Minorities in the Military are recognized, preserved and accurately presented to the public.

The Society also recognizes individuals who have contributed their time, effort and support for Women Veterans as they transition back to civilian life. My dear friend Dr. Marcella Maxwell is such a person who through her organization, the Greater New York Link's Incorporated has led the way in this very important effort. On Saturday, March 21, Dr. Marcella and the Link's Inc. joined with The Home Depot Chelsea neighborhood Store in New York City, under the direction of CEO Craig Menear, Al Manigault, Mohammed Bello, Vincent Merlo, Leana Baker, and Nalinee Hobert to honor women veterans, by providing "Do it Yourself Workshops, a "Career Fair" and a special ceremony, where I presented congressional certificates to 32 women veterans for their service to our Nation. Dr. Maxwell, whose late husband served under retired Brigadier General George A. Jones, has been an amazing advocate and supporter of not only women veterans, but all veterans throughout this en-

tire Nation. Every year at the NAACP National Convention she convenes and presides over the Association's annual Military Dinner, where one of our United States Armed Forces Services Divisions is featured and honored.

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of 12,000 professional women of color in 280 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. It is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

The members of The Links, Incorporated, such as, Dr. Maxwell, who is the National Eastern Area Chair of the Women's Issues Committee as are influential decision makers and opinion leaders. The Links, Inc. has attracted many distinguished women who are individual achievers and have made a difference in their communities and the world. They are business and civic leaders, role models, mentors, activists and volunteers who work towards a common vision by engaging like-minded organizations and individuals for partnership. Links members contribute more than 500,000 documented hours of community service annually—strengthening their communities and enhancing the nation.

In addition, Dr. Marcella Maxwell has been an Adult Educator for over two decades. She served as a Founding Dean at Medgar Evers College, CUNY where she sponsored and co-ordinated the first Women's History Month Conference at the College. Her background and experience in helping women to improve their status and empowering them to transform their lives and the lives of their families lead to her appointment as Chair of Mayor Koch's Commission on the Status of Women and Chair of the City's Human Rights Commission. She subsequently served as the Director of Alternative Education for the New York City Housing Authority where students earned their General Education Diplomas, making them eligible for entering College. Dr. Maxwell earned her Bachelors and Masters Degrees with Honors from Long Island University and her Ed.D Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Fordham University on a Ford Foundation Scholarship. She retired from the New York City Board of Education and states that one of the best experiences of her teaching career was living and working in Puerto Rico as one of the first 20 teachers to participate in "Operation Understanding", an exchange program, sponsored by the New York City Board of Education and the Puerto Rican Board of Education.

Education was always a priority for Dr. Maxwell and her family. Her grandfather donated the land for the first elementary school for African-Americans in Cleveland, N.C.

Today, she forges partnerships with a wide range of organizations to bring new scholarships and educational programs for New York City youth. Dr. Marcella Maxwell is a clinical supervisor of teaching fellows at Brooklyn College, a part of the City College of New York system. In this role Dr. Maxwell trains teaching fellows to foster their professional development, organizes collaboration between principals, teachers and other faculty, spearheads team building seminars, curriculum design and

development and instructional strategies and methods.

In addition to her role as an educator, Dr. Maxwell is a well-known advocate for women's issues, community development, organizational administration, fund development, curriculum development and government relations. Dr. Maxwell is a passionate advocate for Geriatric Education which allows her with several organizational partners to provide information, and education for seniors to help them navigate the challenges of Aging Gracefully.

In the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Dr. Maxwell serves as the Vice Chair of the Special Contributions Fund and on the Committee charged with awarding The Spingam Medal for outstanding achievement by an African American. Dr. Maxwell's philosophy and mission in life is to use her relationships and resources to help others in their pursuit of Civil Rights and Social Justice. She is truly an Ambassador for the City of New York as she carries out her responsibilities for The Links Incorporated and as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representative for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated at the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Dr. Marcella Maxwell, and her efforts that have positively impacted the quality of life for countless citizens across this Nation. Her constant dedication, commitment, and spiritual guidance is worthy of our Nation's highest esteem.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2015

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the United States-Caribbean Partnership Act of 2015, along with my friends and colleagues Representatives GREGORY MEEKS, FREDERICA WILSON, ALCEE HASTINGS, BARBARA LEE, YVETTE CLARKE, LOIS FRANKEL, ALBIO Sires and TED DEUTCH. This bill will establish embassies in the five Caribbean countries where we currently have no physical diplomatic presence—Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Five years ago, President Obama attended the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago and declared that, "It's appropriate and important that we hold this summit in the Caribbean. The energy, the dynamism, the diversity of the Caribbean people inspires us all, and is such an important part of what we share in common as a hemisphere." I could not agree more. As we approach the upcoming Summit of the Americas in Panama next month, the United States must redouble our commitment to the people of the Caribbean. That is precisely why I am introducing this bill today.

I ask my colleagues to imagine countries where tens of thousands of American citizens travel for pleasure or business; where thousands of American citizens go to school; where there is a constant concern about drug trafficking to the United States; but where the United States has no U.S. embassies. Most

people I speak to are surprised to learn that there are five countries in the Caribbean—only a few hundred miles from the United States—where we have no physical diplomatic presence. My legislation will correct this problem by establishing U.S. embassies in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Currently, all diplomatic relations with these countries are run out of the U.S. embassy in Barbados.

While these countries are small, they must not be taken for granted. They are key voting members of the United Nations and other international organizations. As members of the Organization of American States (OAS), their votes are extremely important. Without a U.S. presence in these five countries, it is very difficult to conduct in-person diplomacy with our counterparts on a range of crucial international issues. These countries are also of profound interest and importance to the millions of Caribbean-American citizens in the United States.

Currently, in order to meet with local officials, the private sector or civil society, U.S. diplomats must fly in from Barbados (or Washington) on often expensive, infrequent flights, and stay overnight in often expensive island hotels. Close working relationships with key leaders cannot develop, because our diplomats are not there to establish them. And, our diplomacy is limited to phone calls, emails and faxes, even though we all know that the best interaction is carried out in person. In addition to our stymied diplomacy, U.S. citizens living in these countries do not have full consular services to assist in the event of emergencies.

This bill establishes uses existing embassy construction funding to establish these new embassies. In 2011, I authored a bipartisan amendment with the former Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, Congressman Connie Mack (R-FL), to create these embassies which was approved unanimously by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. I look forward to working with the Obama Administration to get this legislation across the finish line and to seeing U.S. diplomats permanently stationed in every country in the Caribbean.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLINE JOK

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Caroline Jok attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: in

your opinion, what role should the government play in our lives?

It is said: One can never have too much of a good thing.

While it is certainly true that in many cases it is harder for a good thing to turn bad, it is impossible for this statement to be infallible with the absolute qualifier “never” hanging in the balance. For example, though water is essential to life, if one drinks too much of it they will face hyponatremia, otherwise known as water intoxication. While chocolate is undeniably sweet and pleasant, too much chocolate induces contrastingly unpleasant feelings, sickness, and even dangerous health conditions. Even something as wonderful and essential as freedom—the very virtue this great Nation is founded on, the very virtue that our ancestors fought and gave their lives for—can become a negative force if there is too much of it. The statement “too much freedom” sounds seemingly absurd, however, this is precisely why our founding fathers, despite the hard fought efforts to escape the oppression of one government, worked to build another. Too much freedom can result, ironically, in oppression, in chaos, in exploitation, and in a bloodbath driven by greed. This is where the role of our government comes in.

Our government serves as a counterbalance to a good thing, not to control all things; it is the protector of this good thing. It is the role of our government to address and settle conflicts from an unbiased standpoint to the best of its ability. It is the role of our government to compose and enforce legislation that will benefit, protect, and create opportunity for its citizens, to set limitations on freedom so that freedom can be preserved and ensured. It is the role of our government to serve as the voice of the nation to the rest of the world, to serve as our representative, as our ambassador. It is the role of our government to serve the people who elected it. It is essential for our government to be involved in the day to day lives of its citizens, be it through the corporate world, cyberspace and security, on a local level, in education, immigration, in the health industry, and countless other niches, not to control these realms, but to serve as an equalizer, safeguard and creator of opportunity in each of these.

Professor of Communication at American University, Leonard Steinhorn comments, “[if many] Americans feel ‘unease’ toward [our] government’s role in our daily lives, it is either because they take much of what the federal government does for granted, or because the media tend to give a disproportionate voice to those whose ideological temper tantrums against government make for good copy and sound bites.” Our government’s involvement in day-to-day life proceedings is essential to balance and preserve a very good thing: freedom. This is precisely the role our government plays in our lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote yesterday because of a family medical issue. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call #130—NAY

Roll Call #131—YEA

EGAN WALKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Egan Walker for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Egan Walker is a 10th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Egan Walker is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Egan Walker for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on March 23, 2015. I was delayed in arriving in Washington because I was in attendance at a funeral for a beloved family within our community. The Columbia community and the University of South Carolina worshipped in thankful memory for the life of Charles “Charlie” Leverett Adams Terreni, Jr.

H.R. 360—Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act—NAY

H. Res. 162—Calling on the President to provide Ukraine with military assistance to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity—AYE

JASON SHORT OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jason Short of International Falls, Minnesota and the work of the Falls Hunger Coalition under the leadership of Nancy Anderson.

I am sure many of my fellow Members have seen the nightly weather reports indicating that International Falls has the coldest temperatures in the United States.

Jason is a young adult working as a delivery driver for UPS in the International Falls region that covers a 300-mile route. On one brisk day, one of his package recipients noted that Jason was wearing shorts and told him he