

the purchase of these low emission vehicles. This policy has been very successful, as Northern Virginia has achieved rates of hybrid ownership that are among the highest in the country.

Hybrid ownership is important because most families take ten vehicle trips per day; when a family purchases a hybrid they not only reduce emissions during daily commutes but also during errands and other trips. Moreover, the purchase of hybrids helps create greater demand for these vehicles, expediting the rate at which car companies can reach economies of scale in hybrid production.

Data on lane usage of HOV lanes in Northern Virginia show that 60% of the vehicles in HOV lanes have 2 passengers, 20% are violators, and 20% are single occupant hybrids. Before prohibiting hybrids from using HOV lanes, we must enhance law enforcement to discourage cheaters from using these lanes.

Without passage of this legislation, federal law will pre-empt the General Assembly from having the authority to allow hybrids to use HOV lanes. It would be unfortunate if lack of federal action precluded the state from continuing a policy that has been so successful.

A TRIBUTE TO ROSE CARTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rose Carter, a strong upbeat presence in the Brooklyn community.

Rose Carter is a cheerleader. She has strong family values and from an early age demonstrated a deep commitment to her community.

Rose jump-started her community service at The Midwood Development Corporation, Brooklyn, New York, working as a youth coordinator. She took her job seriously and developed and implemented many multicultural programs. She also spearheaded workshops that highlighted self awareness, good citizenship, tolerance and volunteerism.

While at Midwood, she expanded her learning by taking advantage of an opportunity to work as a merchant liaison. In this role, she utilized the relationships which she had cultivated to provide resources for an intergenerational art show; she created the show in an attempt to bridge the gap between the young and the elderly.

Currently Rose Carter works at PS 260 Breuckelen School. There she is known for her hallway presence and commitment to motivating the school community. Rose Carter's everyday efforts are focused on rallying everyone she comes in contact with to have a good day. As the parent coordinator she is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the school population and their families. Rose Carter is very passionate about her work and gives beyond the required responsibilities of the job.

During the Hurricane Katrina disaster, Rose Carter was instrumental in helping victims who relocated to New York and had children enrolled in the school. She facilitated a connection of a Moroccan couple that spoke very little English with a Pakistani group that spoke their native language. This is just one example of her dynamism and devotion.

Rose seeks out civic minded people like herself and she inspires people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds to seek and celebrate excellence.

She is a mother, motivator and a consummate optimist.

EXTENSION OF METRORAIL'S ORANGE, YELLOW, BLUE, AND PURPLE LINES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to authorize extension of Metrorail's Orange, Yellow, Blue, and Purple lines. I appreciate Mr. JIM MORAN's co-sponsorship of this legislation. I represent a district with the fourth worst congestion in the country. These traffic conditions diminish the economic productivity of our region while contributing to climate change.

While the local Board of Supervisors has worked to transform land use patterns in order to focus development around Metro stations, we only have five Metro stations in Fairfax County and thus have limited capacity to encourage Transit Oriented Development. In Prince William County, there are no Metrorail stations, and my constituents in Prince William must confront congestion nearly every day on their way to work. Fortunately, both Prince William and Fairfax County are served by the Virginia Railway Express. This commuter rail service is filled to capacity on a daily basis, as is the Metrorail system in Northern Virginia, suggesting a pressing need to expand transit service.

The Metrorail extensions that I have proposed would enhance transit service in the I495, I95, and I66 corridors. Residents of Centreville, Lorton, Woodbridge, and other communities that currently lack Metrorail access would have the option to commute on Metro, which would enhance the quality of life of my constituents while stabilizing housing values and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. During the present economic crisis, homes in Northern Virginia that are located near transit have maintained their value relative to homes only served by highways. For the sake of communities that are threatened by extremely high rates of foreclosure, extension of transit service can be a force for economic revitalization.

This proposed extension of transit service is consistent with local government policies. For example, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors supports extension of Metrorail in the I66 corridor and in the I95 corridor. This legislation is crafted to give local governments flexibility in locating the stations and determining what type of rail infrastructure to construct. This flexibility is essential to ensure that these transit extensions reflect the needs of Northern Virginia residents and to ensure that we maximize the economic development potential inherent in these Metrorail extensions.

I am proud to offer this legislation that may create the opportunity for our local, state, and federal levels of government to collaborate on extension of transit service. This legislation is essential for the long term vitality of Northern Virginia's economy, neighborhoods, and environment.

A TRIBUTE TO PAMELA TATE-MCMULLEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pamela Tate-McMullen a Parent Coordinator in the Department of Education.

Mrs. Pamela Tate-McMullen was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York where she presently resides with her husband, John and son Justin.

Mrs. Tate-McMullen is a Parent Coordinator in the Department of Education, serving at Bedford Academy High School in Brooklyn, New York. Since the inception of the position of Parent Coordinator (2003), Pamela has served in various capacities working both with the founding leader of Bedford Academy, Mr. George Leonard, and too with the present leadership of Mr. Adofo Muhammad. Her duties include, but are not limited to: (1) increasing parent involvement in the school by working closely with school-wide, parent and community organizations, (2) convening regular parent meetings and events around topics of key concerns to parents and other stakeholders, and (3) maintaining ongoing contact with community organizations that are involved with providing services to the schools' educational program such as the Bedford Stuyvesant YMCA, media contacts and key members of the public who are also interested in the ongoing success of Bedford Academy High School.

Mrs. Tate-McMullen and her family are proud members of Christian Cultural Center in Brooklyn, New York, where Pamela serves on the Hospitality Team. One of Pamela's favorite pastimes is singing with the renowned 50's group, the Bobbettes, where she has traveled both locally and internationally.

A vibrant, creative member of the Bedford Academy/Bedford Stuyvesant YMCA team, Pamela has consistently contributed to a congenial relationship between Bedford Academy High School and the governing members and staff of the Bedford Stuyvesant YMCA.

HONORING THE MILITARY POLICE COMPANY, QUANTICO MARINE CORPS BASE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize a group of outstanding public servants in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

It is with great pride that I submit into the Record the names of the recipients of the 2009 Valor Award serving in the Military Police Company at Quantico Marine Corps Base.

Recipients of the Lifesaving Award: Sergeant Adam J. Pieper, Sergeant David A. Eynon