A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPHINE AJAYI
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 Josephine Ajayi for her significant contributions to the nursing profession and her community.

Josephine Monilola Ajayi is a black American of Nigerian origin, born in Oshogbo, capital of the Oshun state of Nigeria. She had her primary and secondary education in Nigeria. She was trained and registered as a Grade 1 Midwife, and worked in this capacity in Nigeria for four years. She was married to David Ajayi, and later migrated to the United States to join him in 1973.

Josephine attended the New York City Community College where she graduated with an Associate’s degree in Nursing and became a Registered Nurse. She went on to earn a Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the Long Island University Brooklyn Center, from where she later earned the MS degree in Community Health and Healthcare Administration.

Currently Josephine is the Regional Clinical Manager for Queens at the Visiting Nurses Service (VNS) of NY Long Term Home Health Care Program. She joined the organization in 1993 as an Admissions Coordinator, moved up to Patient Service Manager and then Compliance Manager. Before joining the VNS, she practiced her profession of nursing in several other institutions including St. John’s Episcopal Hospital, Lutheran Medical Center, Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center and Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center where she held the Assistant Head Nurse position in the Rehabilitation Unit.

She is an active and devoted member of the Calvary First Nigerian Seventh-day Adventist Church. She has been a Church Board member and has held many positions in the church, including, Deaconess, Secretary/Clerk, Women Ministry Leader, Education Director, Youth Teacher, etc. She is a woman who loves God and strongly believes in the power of prayer. She is a Praying Warrior.

She is blessed with five children, Temitayo, Oluime, Abimbola, Olubusayo (daughter-in-law) Olaoluwa and Atiilola, all of whom are grown and independent. Outside of Nursing, Josephine is quite active. She belongs to Ipoti Ekiti Unity Club (IEUC) of New York, a cultural organization whose main goal is the betterment of the community the members came from, and she was recently the president of the club for five years. She also is a member of Nigerian Adventists in North America (NANA), an organization devoted to the spiritual, mental, physical and cultural well-being of its youth and older members. She is a member of the Africa Advisory Board of the Atlantic Union of Seventh-Day Adventist Church. She is a recipient of the exemplary Leadership Award from the IEUCNY and the Ipoti community. Her hobbies include sewing, photography, shopping and cooking. She is a woman who believes that “what is worth doing at all is worth doing well.” She fully commits herself to any efforts she decides to pursue, be it in her private or public life, with the goal of making a difference for the better in the job environment and in the lives of consumers of her services. She is a person who does not believe in mediocrity. She learns details of her job and endeavors to produce excellence. She is generous and supportive of others and endeavors to make a difference in other people’s lives.

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

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BIGGS GLOVER
HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
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Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Barbara Biggs Glover, a leader in local business and professional organizations and a great asset to the Brooklyn community.

Barbara Biggs Glover is the daughter of Raymond R. Biggs, Sr. and Ruby E. Biggs, both deceased. She is the oldest of her siblings, four sisters and two brothers. Barbara grew up in Brownsville’s Van Dyke Houses. Barbara is a graduate from PS 150, George Gershwin J.H.S. 166 and Prospect Heights H.S. She attended Pace University and New York Technical College.

Barbara was employed by New York Telephone Company 1968. She was an active Union Shop Steward in 1972 (CWA 1109) and 1986 (CWA 1101) and Chief Steward in 1995 for Communications Workers of America Local 1101. Barbara served as Vice President of the National Black Communication Coalition, NY chapter, a member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unions. CWA 1109 and CWA 1101 Equity Committee, CWA Local 1101 Women’s Committee, CWA International Minority Caucus, Co-Editor for the CWA Local 1101 Newspaper “The Generator” in 1988, National Coalition of Negro Women, Brooklyn Women’s Coalition, and the Association of BellTel Retirees, Inc. In 2001 she retired from Verizon after 33 years of service as a Facilities Specialist and Chief Steward.

In 1982, Barbara joined the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC) as a member of the former East New York Club (ENYC). Barbara was elected President and became a Life Member in 1993. In 1995, Barbara became a member of the Brooklyn Club, NANBPWC, Inc. Barbara was appointed and serves as the Brooklyn Club’s Liaison to Acoma Community High School. She is currently the President of the Brooklyn Club, NANBPWC, Inc.

Barbara is a Charter member of The Brooklyn Restoration Lions Club International, District 20-K1. She has served as Co-Chair of membership and currently serves as Chair of Membership and 20-K1 Brooklyn Chair of Lions Guest. She is the Vice President of the 300 Quincy Street Association and serves on the 79th Precinct Community Council, Inc., as an Outreach Coordinator and has received an Appreciation Award for Service in July 2008 and a member of the Community Board #3 Block and Civic Committee. The East New York United Concerned Citizens, Inc. presented Barbara with a Woman of Distinction Award on Saturday, October 20, 2007.

Barbara Biggs Glover is a member of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. Faith and Family is the essence of a person. She is blessed to be happily married to James L. Glover; they have two beautiful daughters Jeritta Elydia Teel, Anissa Nicole Glover, son James Melik Glover and two handsome grandsons William Ameer Toland IV and Samuel Alexander Bivens III.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Barbara Biggs Glover.

A TRIBUTE TO ADUKE AREMU
HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
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Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Aduke Aremu, an educator and writer whose work has helped children in Brooklyn and throughout the world.

Aduke Aremu was born in Brooklyn, New York where she graduated with honors from George W. Wingate High School. She received scholarships and awards to attend Hunter College where she graduated from with a Bachelor’s Degree and Masters Degree in Education and Theatre. She received her degree in Education Administration and Supervision from the College of New Rochelle and a Ph.D. from New York University.

Her success as an educator and writer took her to Africa many times and eventually she received the loving name Aduke Aremu which she uses as an international writer along with her birth name Gbemidee to honor her by her parents.

Aduke Aremu worked for the Department of Education of New York City, the Department of Education of Connecticut and the Department of Education of Westchester County. During this 27 year period, she opened two innovative schools: The Star Academy was created and opened by Aduke in the South Bronx for Bi-Lingual Students and the International Arts Business School at Wingate High School. The International Arts Business School was the brain-child of Aduke Aremu and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in collaboration with the United Federation of Teachers and the New York City Board of Education. Aduke organized a committee of business people, political leaders, artists and community leaders to galvanize interest in this project which found a home as a small school.
at Wingate High School. Ms. Aremu partnered with Ana Goldson-Walker who introduced the business community and bi-lingual educators and artists.

During the 27 year period as an educator and administrator she created and organized numerous children projects, productions and workshops to include innovative practices in education and progressive arts and reading programs.

For 20 years she created and administered the world renowned Harlem Children's Theatre, a not-for-profit education and arts organization that performed in Nigeria, Jamaica, Barbados, France, Spain, England, Bermuda and Germany.

This Education Theatre company was also a special guest of the Nigerian Government at Festac (an International Festival of the Arts) and the Jamaican and Barbados Consul General. In Jamaica and Barbados she organized education missions. In 1985 she formed two additional new education nonprofits for the children of Brooklyn: New Dove and the New York Kibbutz Consol. In 1997 she founded Aduke Aremu is also a published writer whose children books were published by Gumbs and Thomas of New York, a book of poetry published in Germany and in Atlanta, Georgia and ten plays that have been produced at The Public Theatre in Washington, DC, the Public Theatre by the late Joseph Papp, the Negro Ensemble Company by renowned Director Douglas Turner Ward, The Billie Holiday Theatre, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Carnegie Hall, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, Town Hall, and 42nd Street Theatre Row.

Aduke also received an Award from the Nigerian Government for her writings. Aduke has studied education abroad and worked with educators, artists and writers in Ghana, Germany, Nigeria, Benin, Tanzania Kenya, Jamaica and Barbados.

Aduke Aremu has serviced as a consultant for NEA in Washington, DC, the New York State Council for the Arts, the Governor's Office of New York and the United Nations with the late Mrs. Andrew Young. Presently Aduke is the CEO of the International Public Relations and Fund Raising Company—Dove LLC of Atlanta, Georgia and New York City.

Aduke Aremu is married to Calvin Anderson of New Rochelle, New York and has an extended family of four young adults (Hakim, CJ, Mimi and Tricia).

Aduke Aremu owes her success to Jehovah-God and great mentors, family and friends especially Vivian Y. Bright, Ana Goldson-Walker of Brooklyn, New York and Dawn Ali of New Jersey. These ladies have served as mentors and positive role models for Aduke's life goals and accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements and contributions of Aduke Aremu.

A TRIBUTE TO ELLEN CARLISLE-SMITH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
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Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Marie Lily Cerat, for her service to the Brooklyn community, commitment to education and promotion of Haitian language and culture.

Marie Lily Cerat came to the United States in 1981, and made Brooklyn, New York her adopted home away from her native Haiti. She has been an educator with the New York Public education system for over eighteen years. At present, she works as a Resource Specialist with the Haitian Bilingual/ESL Technical Assistance Center (HABETAC) at Brooklyn College where she is responsible for planning and conducting professional development sessions for teachers working with Haitian English language learners in the public schools and Haitian parents. She is co-founder and Advisory Board member of Women for Haitian Refugees (HWHR), a thriving and respected community-based organization in Brooklyn. The organization was created by Ms. Cerat and Ninaj Raoul, in 1992, after the two returned from working with the U.S. Department of Justice as a language specialist in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They assisted in translation and other human services with the Haitians housed on the U.S. base after the 1991 coup d'état against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti. At its beginning, HWHR provided English as a Second Language (ESL) and adult literacy programs, but its services have since extended to advocating on behalf of Haitian refugees and immigrants, defending worker exploitation, and lobbying against anti-immigrant policy.

Cerat has huge interest in literature, writing and the arts, and is a doctoral student in the French Doctoral program at the CUNY Graduate Center where she will pursue a specialization in francophone literature and international human rights. She holds a master's degree in English/Creative Writing from the City College of New York and a bachelor's degree from the College for Human Services. The respect and promotion of Haitian language and culture, human and girls/women rights are among some of the issues she is most passionate about.

In 1997, she published a West African folktale, Do To', The Turtle's Back, in Haitian Creole for children. She has written a commentary for National Public Radio, which was aired in 2001 as part of the Racism Conference in South Africa. Over the years, she directed Justice for Haitian Women in Parliament on Haiti by the Network of Educators on the Americas (NECA), two biographical essays on Vodou are part of the 1998/2005 Ten Speed Press book, Vodou: Visions and Voices by the photographer Phyllis Galembo. She is a regular contributor to Haiti Living, a weekly Haitian newspaper in New York. Most recently, one of her short stories was selected to appear in an upcoming (2010) anthology by the Haitian-American writer/editor Edwidge