

years. She is experienced in housing, criminal and civil law. In her nearly 20 years as an attorney, she has been an administrative law judge, an instructor, as well as an arbitrator. She is active in Brooklyn, working with community-based organizations, religious institutions, and youth mentoring groups.

Robin Kelly Sheares is an active member of the Wayside Baptist Church and her Block Association. At Wayside, she works closely with the Sunday School and Youth Ministry. Robin's other memberships include, but are not limited to, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and the Brownstoners of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc.

Robin has been dedicated to the Noel Pointer Foundation and the New York Road Runner's Club. Robin is often called upon as a guest lecturer and career day speaker. She has even addressed students at her alma maters, Public School 309 and Junior High School 57. Although, Robin has no biological children, she has nurtured a number of youth and is a strong advocate for children and parents rights as evident by her work with the Brownstoners's Education Task Force and her alma maters: Brooklyn Technical High School and Ithaca College.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Robin Kelly Sheares, as she offers her talents and community services for the good of our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, Robin Kelly Sheares' selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA HATCH ACT RE-
FORM ACT OF 2006

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, with Government Reform Committee Chairman TOM DAVIS, I am introducing the District of Columbia Hatch Act Reform Act of 2006 to eliminate the discriminatory treatment of the District of

Columbia under the federal Hatch Act. This bill would retain federal Hatch Act authority concerning prohibited partisan and political activity that applies to every state because of the receipt of federal funds and importantly, would require the District to enact its own local version of the Hatch Act barring similar local violations, to become effective. Such a bill would, of course, automatically be held over for Congressional review for 30 legislative days as required by the Home Rule Act, typically affording several months before a District law may become effective, more than ample time for review and compliance with this bill. The House recognized that the present federal Hatch Act jurisdiction over D.C. was obsolete by removing this federal responsibility several years ago, but the Senate failed to act accordingly. Local Hatch Act violations in the District are rare, but the District needs its own Hatch Act to fully account and be responsible for local violations, with which a local objective body would be most familiar and should bear the cost of alleged violations.

This bill will leave in place the federal Hatch Act restrictions on the use of official authority as it relates to elections; the solicitation, acceptance, or receiving of political campaign contributions; and the prohibitions on running for public office in partisan elections and the use of on-duty time and resources to engage in partisan campaign activity. My bill would remove only the federal Hatch Act jurisdiction that applies solely to the District of Columbia and would require the District to have its own local Hatch Act, like every other jurisdiction, instead of requiring the Office of Personnel Management and its Special Counsel to spend time on investigation, fact-finding and judgment of unfamiliar local matters. The District will bear this local responsibility and a dual inequity—denigration of local government at the expense of the federal government—would end.

A TRIBUTE TO KIM BEST SIMMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kim Best Simms.

Kim Best Simms, the eldest child of Albert and the late Martha Best, has actively served our community for many years. She began serving the community via the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation. While serving at the Corporation, she worked in the community outreach centers where she conducted blood pressure checks and audio screenings, provided housing assistance and employment referrals and helped coordinate community outreach projects. She has received numerous awards including the Special Congressional Award, City Council Citation Award, State Senator Velmanette Montgomery Outstanding Community Service Award, Appreciation Award, NYC Sanitation Achievement Award, and the 79th Precinct Council Outstanding Community Service Award:

Kim Best Simms has been employed with the Department of Sanitation for many years. She is currently a Staff Analyst with the Department of Sanitation and has served in various capacities. In addition, she has also worked for the New York State Department of Mental Health for 13 years. She is a very talented individual with expertise in mortgage financing underwriting, real estate, and secretarial/computer technology, mental health, purchasing procurement, analytical, loan auditing, and management. She has certifications/licenses/degrees in the following areas: Contract Administration, Information Technology, Computer Technology, Specification Writing, Price & Cost Analysis, Real Estate, Guardian and Court Evaluation, AMAP, Foster Parenting, Royal Business College, OES, Amaranth, Citizens Police Academy, Procurement Planning and Management, and National Mortgage Underwriting.

As a Community Advocate, she loves working with people and serving her community. She especially enjoys mentoring teenagers as well as nurturing children. A devoted parishioner of St. Gregory's Church in Brooklyn, Kim is devoted to her church family and excellently serves the community via the church.

Mr. Speaker, Kim Best Simms is an outstanding leader and pillar of our community and most deserving of this tribute.