

Maryland Delegate Lena K. Lee, a master legislator, teacher, union leader, and a lawyer blazed a trail of distinguished public service and is one such extraordinary woman.

In 1967, Delegate Lena K. Lee began a 15-year term as the first African American female lawyer in the Maryland House of Delegates. During her tenure, she dedicated her energy and talents towards eradicating social inequalities and advocating for women's rights. Her life exemplified excellence and I am proud to say that The Lena K. Lee Post Office bill was signed into law on March 20, 2006 and a post-office in my district has officially been re-named after her.

In addition, several days ago, when I learned that Weptanomah Carter, the daughter, wife and mother of prominent ministers from my district, had died, I was reminded, once again, of just how much one determined woman can accomplish.

The spotlight of public acclaim did not fall upon Weptanomah Carter, but her achievements—as teacher, theologian, author and community-builder will forever forge a place in our hearts.

Throughout her marriage to Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr., a friend and teacher of mine, the Carters worked together, and became a powerful team. In 1965, they brought an uplifting Gospel to the people of Baltimore—a message both spiritual and social that spoke to the hearts of people in our community.

Under their care, New Shiloh Baptist Church would grow into the 5,000-member choir for God that it has become today—a House of God that also is a social powerhouse for the betterment of its community.

Trained as an educator, she was also the driving force that created the Carter Children's Center. There, young people born into a neighborhood that others too often overlook, could receive food and clothing for their bodies, tutoring for their minds and a kind word that would uplift their souls. This manifestation of Mrs. Carter's love for the children in my District was her most compelling testament.

The church was at the center of Weptanomah Carter's life and she valued the importance of rebuilding individuals—one soul at a time. Yet, through four decades of service to the congregation and community she loved alongside her husband, she never ceased being her own woman.

This, I think, is why she and all of the other historic women are such compelling role models for the young women of today. Their lives teach all of us an important lesson—that we can achieve heights well beyond our initial expectations when we have the courage and determination to follow our true calling in life.

This is how—through service to others—that these inspiring women earned their own, honored place in history.

For their calling became a chronicle of devotion—to God, to their families and to America. I thank them and all of America's women, especially my dear Mother, who are the backbone of our nation and create their own untold histories every day.

A TRIBUTE TO CHERICE YVONNE
JAMES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cherice Yvonne James and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the community.

Cherice Yvonne James was born in Jamaica, Queens, NY and was very active as a youth. She attended Gloria Jackson's School of Dance from age 5 to 18 studying ballet, jazz, African and tap. She was a girl scout and a member of her school's volleyball and basketball teams. At the age of 9, Cherice joined the Prince Hall Shriner's, Abu-Bekr Court #74 Isiserettes Drill Team, where she rose up the ranks to eventually become team captain. She also represented Abu-Bekr Temple and Court by winning their "Miss AbuBekr" Talent and Scholarship pageant.

Cherice is a graduate of Jamaica High School's Gateway to Higher Learning Honors program. During high school, she received numerous awards including being named in the National Dean's List and being a winner of the NYC Board of Education's Queens borough-wide High School Desktop Publishing Contest. New Jerusalem Baptist of Jamaica, NY, recognized her during their graduates' banquet.

Cherice decided to pursue a career in hospitality and continued her education in Washington, DC at Howard University. During her college career, she was selected for the ultimate hospitality internship . . . Disney, where she spent a summer working and learning in Anaheim, CA. She received a Bachelor of Business Administration/Hospitality Management degree. After graduation, Cherice was chosen as a manager-in-training for the Grand Hyatt Washington, which led to her becoming a food and beverage manager.

She later joined the New York Marriott Marquis, Marriott's 2000 room, flagship hotel in Times Square. For the past eight years, Cherice has held various management positions in the company including the house-keeping and catering sales departments. Just this past September, she was promoted to Director of Services, at the newly constructed, Upper Eastside Courtyard by Marriott.

In her spare time, Cherice enjoys traveling, reading, television and real estate. She currently owns two properties and has aspirations of obtaining many more. She also enjoys talking to others about the possibilities and joys of home ownership. Cherice eventually plans to enjoy an early retirement due to real estate investment. She has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, Aids Walk, NY Cares and coordinated clothing drives at work.

Cherice is thankful for the support of her family and friends, especially her mother, Phyllis Johnson, who has always supported her in all her endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Cherice Yvonne James as she offers her talents for the betterment of our local and national communities.

THE COALITION FOR
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the fine, effective work of the Coalition for International Justice as that organization closes its offices this Friday.

Ten years ago, the world allowed genocide to occur in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Shocked by this fact, as well as the associated war crimes and crimes against humanity, many Americans both within government and among the public decided to take action. As scenes of the destruction were broadcast to homes across this country, support grew for holding those responsible for the senseless killing accountable. Some dedicated experts in the field of international justice formed the Coalition, often known as "CIJ", to help guide the development of the international tribunal established for that purpose.

While justice remains elusive, not just in the Balkans but elsewhere, the Coalition has been an indispensable part of the progress achieved in the last decade to hold more people accountable for horrible crimes, in Europe, Africa and elsewhere around the globe. The Coalition, in fact, argues not only for responding to crimes already committed but taking necessary actions to stop ongoing atrocities and to prevent future war crimes. This presents a challenge to the international community and its natural tendency to avoid taking bold and decisive action, and reflects the lessons learned from Rwanda that the international community cannot stand by as genocide occurs. I am extremely pleased that CIJ has taken a leadership role in galvanizing the international community to respond to the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

As the Ranking member of the Helsinki Commission, most of my work with the Coalition for International Justice has been related to what is unfortunately the still unresolved issue of obtaining Serbia's full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), located in The Hague. Despite the democratic ouster of Slobodan Milosevic in late 2000 and his transfer to The Hague in 2001, Belgrade's cooperation with the tribunal has not been good. Despite Serbia's own need to break with a horrible past, and despite the obvious need for surviving victims and families to have some closure, Serbian officials have largely responded only when pressure is applied. Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, perhaps the two people most directly responsible for the slaughter of thousands of innocent people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, remain at large. It has been clear for some time that Mr. Mladic has been protected by the military. Serbia's future integration in Europe is placed at risk by this irresponsible behavior.

The Coalition for International Justice has been indispensable in tracking the developments of the tribunal, as well as following reports of where at-large indictees may be, as well as what access prosecutors have had to evidence and witnesses. The Coalition also has done excellent work in analyzing the work of the tribunal itself. This has been important.