

Trustee and President of the Company. During his time of service, Mr. Kolb has earned the love and respect of his fellow citizens for his dedication and commitment to the local community.

Throughout his tenure, he has been the lead fundraiser for the Company's chicken barbeques, fairs, and annual Thanksgiving turkey raffle. He also serves on the Building and Truck Committees, which oversee the purchase of new equipment, building repairs, and major renovations. The countless hours of service he has provided to the Company and community are testament to his passion for volunteerism and exemplary citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Mr. Russell Kolb, one of Chester County's and Pennsylvania's great citizen volunteers, for his ceaseless and unselfish commitment to the safety and betterment of his local community and fellow citizens.

THE DEDICATION OF RIVERBEND PARK

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to acknowledge and celebrate a momentous day in the history of the City of Oroville (City), California, a community I have the honor of representing in the House of Representatives. On May 5, 2006, local residents will join representatives from the City, the Feather River Park and Recreation District (District), the California State Water Contractors, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and several other entities to dedicate Riverbend Park. This dedication is the culmination of a collaborative effort involving numerous stakeholders and is a very positive development for the residents of Oroville and the surrounding areas.

Enhancements to Riverbend Park have been ongoing for the better part of 25 years. But only now, during the final stages of DWR's relicensing of hydroelectric facilities at nearby Lake Oroville, are the sparkling visions of local officials and residents for this property being realized. During the last five years of negotiations with state authorities, local officials made it clear that this project was a priority for the community. DWR responded by making Riverbend Park a Special Project as part of the relicensing process and pledged financial assistance and personnel to make the improvements sought by the City and District. While more projects are scheduled, District officials have already significantly improved the area by upgrading and restoring public access to the Oroville Wildlife Area Ponds, placing Americans with Disability Act compliant restrooms on site, installing a water well pump for irrigation and fire suppression, and constructing better barriers to deter illegal trespassing and dumping. Presently, the 210 acres that make up Riverbend Park provide outstanding opportunities for hikers, fishermen, bird watchers, wildlife viewers, disc golfers, and other recreation enthusiasts.

The Feather River, which runs adjacent to Riverbend Park, has long been a focal point of the Oroville community. Before the construction of the Oroville Dam many years ago, area

residents and visitors enjoyed numerous forms of recreation in and on the Feather River. Now, the construction of Riverbend Park has helped to usher in a new and positive era in the City, punctuated by a renewed focus on quality development along the Feather River. I am pleased to commemorate this phase of the development and look forward to future improvements along this important natural feature.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the people of Oroville, their elected officials, and District staff as they celebrate the exciting occasion of dedicating Riverbend Park. As a showcase for the entire region and a safe place for people of all ages, I am sure Riverbend Park and the amenities it offers will make a lasting impression on residents and visitors to the area for decades to come. I congratulate area leaders and citizens as they commemorate this momentous occasion.

METROPOLITAN COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WITH EMPOWERMENT AWARDS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three outstanding New York City women: Inez Dickens, Yvette Clarke and Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, as the recent recipients of the first Annual Metropolitan College of New York Women's Empowerment Awards and to enter into the RECORD an article from the New York CaribNews entitled "Women's History Month With Empowerment Awards," that salutes their achievements in their fields. These three ladies were truly deserving of the accolades bestowed upon them during National Women's History Month, at a gala recognition ceremony held at Metropolitan College on March 20, 2006.

March of each year symbolizes Women's History Month. This time is set aside to honor all women with particular emphasis on the extraordinary contributions of women who actively make a difference in the daily lives of others. The three honorees for the Metropolitan College of New York's Women's Empowerment Awards have made notable contributions to furthering the causes of Diversity, Education and Public Service. New York City Council members Inez Dickens and Yvette Clarke, along with the Deputy Manhattan Borough President Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, were the honorees whose stellar careers and accomplishments merited this special recognition.

To quote and agree with the MCNY President Stephen R. Greenwald, ". . . Each of our honorees represents a model of success for our students and for all New Yorkers." While giving eloquent and sincere award acceptance speeches each honoree spoke of their values and the motivating forces that guided their careers. They also stressed the importance of community activism as they encouraged the audience to step up and make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the first Annual Metropolitan College of New York for their decision to select and recognize Inez Dickens, Yvette Clarke and Rosemonde Pierre-Louis for

their contributions to humanity. These trailblazers are very much deserving of the Women's Empowerment Awards.

[From the New York CaribNews, Apr. 4, 2006]

METROPOLITAN COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WITH EMPOWERMENT AWARDS

Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY) celebrated Women's History Month with the First Annual MCNY Women's Empowerment Awards for Contributions to Diversity, Education and Public Service on Monday, March 20 in the College's Student Lounge. The inaugural Women's Empowerment Awards were bestowed upon New York City Council members Yvette Clarke and Inez Dickens and Deputy Manhattan Borough President Rosemonde Pierre-Louis. MCNY President Stephen R. Greenwald welcomed the honorees, MCNY students, faculty and guests to the event and MCNY Alumna Lori N. Jones-Dessalines, Founder, President, and Center Director for Achievers of New York, Inc. Math Center in West Hempstead, Long Island, served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

"We are delighted to honor the achievements of these three outstanding New York City officials. In some ways, their accomplishments echo the pioneering work that Audrey Cohen began when she founded the Women's Talent Corps in 1964—the precursor to Metropolitan College of New York. Each of our honorees represents a model of success for our students and for all New Yorkers," said Mr. Greenwald.

Councilmember Yvette Clarke credited her parents' community activism with motivating her to become a public servant. She also encouraged the students in the audience, the majority of who were women, to become active in their respective communities.

"I stand on the shoulders of many women who serve our City daily on community boards, in block associations, PTAs, tenant associations—women who are the unsung heroines of our City. It is on their behalf that I accept this award," Ms. Clarke noted.

Council member Inez Dickens departed from her prepared remarks to tell the students a bit about her family history. Her family left Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 1920's to escape the racially motivated violence against African Americans. In the course of one day, more than 10,000 whites gathered and setting fire to every building standing, leveled 35 square blocks, murdered, raped and robbed, and committed other atrocities against African Americans. They used machine guns and airplanes that dropped nitroglycerin and dynamite in an all out attack on the African American section of town. The Dickens family moved first to Canada and then settled in Harlem where Councilmember Dickens' uncle, then her father, were among the first African-American elected officials in the New York State legislature.

Deputy Manhattan Borough President Rosemonde Pierre-Louis encouraged the students to seek creative ways to be involved in public service. Stressing the importance of activism, she outlined many of the initiatives she spearheaded in her role as an attorney and an advocate for battered and other women's issues. She added, with the pride of achievement, that in 2006 she is the first Haitian American woman to hold a significant public appointment in New York.