

HONORING HOLLIS BRASHEAR

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2006*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hollis Brashear and his 14 years of outstanding service as Trustee to the Dallas Independent School District. His commitment to the students of Dallas ISD is to be commended. During his many years on the Board of Trustees, Hollis Brashear served as Chairman to multiple committees, vice-president and president.

Mr. Brashear has always had a special connection to Dallas ISD and the students, as he was a graduate of Dallas ISD's Lincoln High School. He then went on to earn his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Prairie View A&M University and his master's from Oklahoma State University.

In addition to his academic accomplishments, Hollis Brashear went on to serve a notable 21 years in the military where he was awarded two bronze stars during the Vietnam War.

Through his military service and outstanding academic and professional credentials, Hollis Brashear led the way towards improvement and change at Dallas ISD. His dignified dedication to the children, teachers, parents and administrators has made an immeasurable impact on the lives of Dallas ISD students.

I commend Mr. Brashear on his 14 years of exceptional service and wish him all the best on his retirement in the years ahead.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2006*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am writing to notify you that I was absent on the evening of June 19, 2006 for votes. The reason for my absence was that the flight from Charleston, SC, was delayed due to a severe storm over the Washington, DC, area. I had no control over this issue and I did not arrive into Washington DC until late in the evening of June 19, 2006.

Regarding the votes that I missed, please see below for the way that I would have voted had I been present:

Vote No. 288—Declaring that the United States will prevail in the Global War on Terror, the struggle to protect freedom from the terrorist adversary—"aye";

Vote No. 289—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmitt, Texas, as the Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office—"aye";

Vote No. 290—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6029 Broadmoor Street in Mission, Kansas, as the Larry Winn, Jr. Post Office Building—"aye"; and

Vote No. 291—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Young Sports Week should be established—"aye."

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS ARE KEY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS IN THE CARIBBEAN

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the necessity of worldwide cooperation in the battle against HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean. Today, the Caribbean nations rank only second to sub-Saharan Africa in prevalence of the HIV virus. However, some countries in the region also have some of the highest per capita incomes among developing countries, which make these countries ineligible for foreign assistance.

I would like to submit an article for the RECORD from the June 13th issue of CaribNews entitled CARICOM's Need for Universal Access in HIV/AIDS Fight. In this article, author Tony Best describes the dilemma that many Caribbean countries face when attempting to secure aid for HIV/AIDS programs while possessing high per capita income, thus disqualifying them as priority recipients.

The article is based on an address made by CARICOM's lead spokesman on health, Dr. Denzil Douglas' address to a special United Nations High Level meeting on HIV/AIDS. In this address, Dr. Douglas expressed his concern on behalf of the Caribbean community about the criteria established by the international donor community regarding financial support for programs to reduce HIV/AIDS in the region. The main criterion of concern is that the international donor community will not grant middle income nations, such as those in the Caribbean, to collect grants for HIV/AIDS programs. Instead, these countries must apply for loans if they wish to obtain some support. Furthermore, the only way that a middle income country can become eligible for aid is if their HIV prevalence rate rises above five percent.

Dr. Douglas opined that this requirement of five percent prevalence rate will only hinder in a successful fight against HIV/AIDS due to the fact that the time wasted in waiting for the five percent mark to be recorded will allow the disease to advance so far that the economic and social costs may be unbearable at that point. For the moment, some countries in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and other groups such as the Clinton Foundation and Global Fund have provided some aid to these countries. However, this aid has only resulted in the expansion of retroviral coverage for already infected persons.

Thus, the Caribbean region still lags behind in any progress in prevention of HIV incidence. The area has not been able to decrease the number of new cases of HIV, and so CARICOM feels that a social system based on an integrated network of services such as prevention, diagnosis and treatment can provide the best medium for prevailing in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The global community is a vital player in helping create this visionary system of social services. By agreeing to provide aid despite of per capita income, international authorities can further strengthen the partnerships they have with the Caribbean nations and be of utmost benefit in the defeat of HIV/AIDS, not just in

the Caribbean, but worldwide. After all, a united effort will prove to be much more successful than minor individual efforts striving towards a common goal.

[From the Carib News, June 13, 2006]

CARICOM'S NEED FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS IN HIV/AIDS FIGHT

(By Tony Best)

Dr. Denzil Douglas, CARICOM's lead spokesman on Health, has called on the international community to make it easier for middle-income Caribbean nations to boost the level of care provided to victims of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

In an address to a special United Nations High Level meeting on HIV/AIDS and in a session with Carib News Editorial Board on Monday morning Dr. Douglas, St. Kitts-Nevis' Prime Minister appealed for a new that would enable donor agencies and institutions to provide help to the region hard hit by HIV/AIDS virus. Many of the countries, he said, were being forced to bear the brunt of the financial burden of providing care to HIV sufferers and information to the general public about the dangers of the disease.

"We are concerned about the criteria established by the international donor community with regard to access to financing for fighting HIV/AIDS," he told Carib news editors and community leaders, including Yvonne Graham, Brooklyn Borough President, Michael Flanigan, Citibank Community Relations Director, and Leyland Hazelwood, an international business executive.

"One of the important criteria is that it (international donor community) will not allow middle income countries to have grants," he pointed out. "Rather, you have to go through the process of loans. Also unless the prevalence rates get beyond five per cent, you are not going to be able to access the financing that is required."

The trouble is that although the Caribbean region may have some of the highest per capita incomes among developing countries, the countries collectively are second only to sub-Saharan Africa when it comes to the prevalence of the HIV virus. But their rates of infection are below the five per cent threshold. Hence they are ineligible for assistance.

"I made the point to the General Assembly of the United Nations that if we are going to wait until we get to five per cent, what is the point," he said. "It is almost foolhardy to wait until the disease has reached a certain level in the population to give us the required assistance. We need the assistance now so that we don't reach there."

Dr. Douglas, himself a physician, said that if the countries were forced to wait until the five per cent mark was recorded, then they would be faced with unthinkable economic and social consequences.

"If we wait for that stage with our small populations in the region, it can have very, very serious setbacks in the development of the Caribbean, especially in view of the gains we have recorded in the last few years," he asserted.

The Prime Minister pointed out that several Caribbean countries, especially those in the OECS, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, were receiving help from Brazil in the form of free medication for HIV sufferers while the Clinton Foundation and Global Fund had "come on board with assistance."

As a result, states had been able to slow down the growth in the incidence of the virus, cut the number of deaths and slash mother to child transmission of the virus. "More still remains to be done and must be done," he said.

Caricom nations are aiming for "harmonized international partnership" that