

Wildlife Fund (WWF). The WWF has been a major advocate for our earth and addressing the environmental threats we face. Earth Hour 2009 is an opportunity for individuals all across globe to join together in responding to the rapid deterioration of our earth's climate. On March 28, 2009 at 8:30 pm (EST), the world will come together to participate in the first global vote for action on climate change. With their light switch as their ballot, hundreds of millions of people in more than 75 countries will cast a powerful, visual vote for action by turning off their lights for one hour.

Earth Hour was first celebrated two years ago in Sydney, Australia in partnership with the WWF, when 2.2 million people and thousands of businesses turned off their lights for one hour. In March 2008, Earth Hour went global with more than 50 million people in over 400 cities participating, including an estimated 36 million Americans.

Earth hour 2009 has expanded its reach with the support of nearly 1,000 cities around the world, including U.S. cities Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Nashville, New York, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Washington, DC. Additionally, international cities committed to the cause include Beijing, Copenhagen, Dubai, Hong Kong, London, Moscow, and Paris.

Madam Speaker, by participating in Earth Hour here in the U.S., it sends a message that Americans care about climate change and stand with the rest of the world in raising awareness about this escalating crisis. With every flick of a light-switch, a vote is cast for meaningful action. I urge my colleagues take part in this historic event by turning off their lights and taking a stand for our environment on March 28.

A TRIBUTE TO LOTTIE DOBSON-SHANNON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lottie Dobson-Shannon.

Lottie Dobson-Shannon is an educator with the Department of Education, Office for Family Engagement and Advocacy. She was born in North Carolina and moved to New York at the age of nine. She was raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant, in Brooklyn, New York.

Shannon began her career in 1972 at the Department of Education and worked her way to a management position. In 1987, she became the Project Director of the New York City Board of Education Mentoring Program, where she is still a mentor in the Women in Government Mentoring Program. She involved corporate, government, and cultural institutions in mentoring young high school students throughout New York City. The program thrived under her leadership and became the prototype for Matilda Cuomo's statewide mentoring program.

In 1990, Shannon became the Executive Director for the Parent Advocacy Center of Medgar Evers College. She coordinated staff, raised funds and developed and conducted an award winning Parent Training Institute that was directed at teaching parents skills in ad-

vocating for their children in the city public schools. The program received recognition throughout the state, and from the former Commissioner Tom Sobol, New York State Education Department. The Parent Training Institute became a model for the development of parent participation in programs in Mount Vernon and Hempstead New York.

Shannon returned to the Department of Education in 1996 as the Borough Deputy to the Chancellor (Rudy Crews). She was responsible for the development and implementation of projects and assisting the Superintendents and Principals in obtaining resources for their schools.

In 2002, Shannon became the Parent Support Officer for District 17, Region 6 where she empowered parents, trained them in how to advocate for their children, and to learn how to navigate the school system. In 2007, Shannon became the District Family Advocate for District 22, where she continues to empower parents to become parent leaders and partners in their children's education. She also conducts professional development trainings, seminars and conferences that will develop the skills of the parents to become successful leaders in their schools.

Shannon is also the host/producer of the award winning show, "Keeping it Real with Shannon", a talk show and entertainment that began in 1998. The show has aired on Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT) and various networks for ten years. "Keeping it Real With Shannon" reflects on a wide variety of topics such as Domestic Violence, Police Brutality, Education, Male/Female Relationships, Health and Community issues. The show addresses the issues of the growing community and promotes local artists as well as professional artists. Past guests have included Terrie M. Williams, Publicist/Author, Bad Boy Michael Baisden, KISS FM Radio Personality Dominic Carter, NY1 News Reporter Colleen Babb and Frank Laghezza from the District Attorneys' office, legendary R&B singers the late Isaac Hayes and Maxine Brown, Baby Washington, The Ink Spots and renowned gospel singer Vicki Winan.

"Keeping it Real With Shannon" is the 2002 winner of the National Hometown Video Festival Award. It won first place for best in public access programming for talk show and entertainment. She was recognized for her award winning show with a Proclamation from Brooklyn Borough President Mary Markowitz.

Shannon personifies the qualities of intelligence, endurance, compassion, and a strong faith that characterize black foremothers who held the family, church, and community together through all adversities. Shannon is a woman of distinction who has accomplished great professional and educational victories, while maintaining a household and rearing a daughter who is a graduate of Morgan State University. She strongly believes that Christian fellowship should be practiced in all aspects of life. Shannon attended college and obtained three degrees, including a Masters.

Shannon served on the Board of Directors for several Corporate and Community Based Organizations. She has won numerous awards and citations from national and local organizations including being recognized by DA Charles Hynes, the Brooklyn Borough President and NYS Governor Mario Cuomo. She was featured on (ABC) "Like it Is" with Gil Nobles, "Metro Magazine" (WYNE), "The Hotline

Show" (Channel 31), "McCreary Report" (Channel 5), Fox 5-Dayside with Linda Vester and in the publications Caribbean Life, Daily News, Brooklyn Paper, New York Newsday and Medgar Evers Radio Station.

HONORING RECIPIENTS OF THE
IGOR I. SIKORSKY AWARD FOR
HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2009 Igor I. Sikorsky Award for Humanitarian Service. The recipients of this award have exhibited bravery in the face of grave danger during an event in my home state of Arizona.

Last August, during the summer monsoon season in Arizona, Havasu Canyon suddenly flash flooded, and as the canyon flooded, nearly 400 people had to be evacuated from the area. Havasu Canyon, which leads into the Grand Canyon, is a popular daytime stop-over site for rafters floating the Colorado River. At that time, sixteen boaters on a private rafting trip became stranded on a ledge above the raging floodwaters.

The rescue team, consisting of a Grand Canyon National Park ranger, five members of the heliack crew, and a pilot from the Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters, using a special short-haul technique, transported the stranded boaters to the Colorado River bank where they could be airlifted to a rescue center.

The Igor I. Sikorsky Award for Humanitarian Service is sponsored each year by Sikorsky Aircraft in honor of its founder and is presented to those who best demonstrate the value of civil rotorcraft to society by saving lives, protecting property and aiding those in distress. The award can be made for a particular mission, or for a consistently outstanding manner for a period of time.

I commend the recipients of the award this year for their tremendous bravery in the face of an extremely dangerous situation. I know that those who were rescued that day, along with their families, will be grateful to them forever for their actions that day.

The recipients of the award were: Jay Lusher, John Yurcik, Sean Naylor, Nate Becker, Ali Ulwelling, Brandon Torres, and Bryce Barnett.

ANNOUNCING THE BID ON CUL-
TURE BANNER PROJECT UNVEIL-
ING IN CELEBRATION OF WOM-
EN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Artists whose designs were selected through the BID on Culture banner design competition. The banner designs for BID on Culture will be displayed in March 2009 as part of Women's History Month, celebrating the contributions of women to Harlem and to communities of color, in the fields of