

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES  
MARINE LIEUTENANT GENERAL  
SAMUEL T. HELLAND

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 16, 2009*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the United States Marine Corps are exceptional.

Our country has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to keep this country free and safe. United States Marine Lieutenant General Samuel T. Helland is one of these individuals.

Lt. General Helland earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth and holds a Master of Science Degree from Troy State University. He is a graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Lt. General Helland started his military career by enlisting in the Army in 1968. He served three years with the U.S. Army Special Forces, leaving after a combat tour of duty in Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group (ABN), Military Advisory Command (Special Observations Group). Lt. General Helland graduated from Marine Officer Candidate School in 1973, and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1974. He is qualified as a CH-53 pilot.

Lt. General Helland has served in many different capacities over the years; Lt. General Helland served with the Amphibious Units, Aviation Combat Elements, and Joint Task Forces. He has participated in exercises and contingency operations ranging from the Arctic Circle, throughout the Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas, the Persian Gulf, and the Horn of Africa.

His assignments include Staff Officer for the Logistics Officer for the Marine Aircraft Group 26, Operations Officer for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461, MAG 40, Joint Staff Officer in the J-7, Command of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), Deputy Commander JTF-Shining Hope, US Joint Forces Command, Norfolk VA, US Marine Corps Forces South, Commanding General Fleet Marine Forces South, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation. In May 2004, Lt. General Helland assumed command of Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa. From August 2005 to July 2007, Lt. General Helland commanded the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Miramar San Diego, California. In July 2007, he assumed duty as Deputy Commanding General I MEF Camp Pendleton, CA before assuming his present assignment as Commanding General I MEF; Commander, Marine Corps Forces Central Command.

His decorations include the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, Meritorious Serv-

ice Medal with gold star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon with one star, and various service and unit awards.

Lt. General Helland's tireless passion for service has contributed to the betterment of this country. On the occasion of his retirement and on behalf of the people of the United States whom he has served with courage and honor, we commemorate the service of Lieutenant General Samuel T. Helland.

H. RES. 627

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 16, 2009*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thanks for the service of the men and women of the 81st Brigade Combat Team and all of the Washington National Guard.

In August of 2008, over 2,400 Washington State Guardsmen and women in the 81st BCT mobilized for deployment. After several weeks of training at Fort McCoy, the unit deployed for ten months of service in Iraq.

The 81st BCT's primary missions in Iraq were providing security to convoys, protecting U.S. forces, and engaging in provincial reconstruction. They performed these missions admirably, and the unit returned home in August of 2009.

Unfortunately, one soldier in the 81st BCT, Specialist Samuel Stone, was killed in Iraq earlier this year. I am deeply sorry for the loss that his friends and family must feel. We will not forget his sacrifice for our country.

It is an honor to represent so many of the men and women who make up the 81st BCT, the Washington National Guard, and the Air National Guard as well as the families who support them.

Over 11,000 members of the Washington National Guard have been mobilized since September 11, 2001, for service in Iraq and in response to domestic emergencies such as Hurricane Katrina. Their service helps keep our nation strong and free.

I congratulate the 81st BCT on the occasion of their return from Iraq. I thank them and all our men and women in uniform for the sacrifices they make on behalf of our country.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES "ROCKY"  
ROBINSON, JR.

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 16, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of James "Rocky" Robinson, Jr.,

founder of the Bedford Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps (BSVAC) and an inspiration to the community of Brooklyn.

James ("Rocky") Robinson, Jr. was born on July 15, 1940, in Marietta, North Carolina, to Betty and James Robinson. When he was still an infant, his family moved to Brooklyn, New York, where Rocky was raised. After attending Eastern District High School in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, Rocky served five years in the United States Army. His army duty included serving as a member of the Honor Guard, posted at the Arlington National Cemetery, where he stood guard during the visits of Jackie Kennedy and her children to John F. Kennedy's grave.

After leaving the military, Rocky joined New York City's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) where he served the city for more than 30 years, before retiring in 2000. His career with EMS was marked by many accomplishments. In 1977 he was promoted to Lieutenant, and in 1994 he became a Captain. Through his work with EMS, Rocky witnessed the crisis in emergency medical services in New York's minority communities. To respond to these crises, in 1988 Rocky co-founded the Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps ("BSVAC"), America's first minority volunteer ambulance corps.

The remarkable story of Rocky and BSVAC has been told in print, on the radio and on television. BSVAC first began operations with no ambulance and no volunteers, at a point when the response time in Bedford-Stuyvesant for city ambulances averaged about 30 minutes. In the beginning, Rocky and his partner, Spec. Joe Perez, responded on foot to the calls they heard on their police radio. Eventually, BSVAC established a record-breaking ambulance service that has responded to over 400 emergency calls a month with an average response time of less than four minutes.

Through BSVAC, Rocky has worked tirelessly to help the Bedford-Stuyvesant community. Rocky designed a comprehensive emergency medical training program including trauma troopers, First Responders, and youth corps. To date, thousands of local residents have been trained to save lives in emergencies. In addition, hundreds of young people have completed the youth corps program (basic EMT training); almost 100% of the graduates have become EMTs or have otherwise pursued careers in medicine as a nurse, physician's assistant, or doctor. Although he has concentrated his efforts on Bed-Stuy, Rocky has reached out to other minority communities, from Harlem to Los Angeles, providing emergency medical training and assistance in setting up programs. Closer to home, in 1993, Rocky responded to the first World Trade Center incident with BSVAC; he also responded on 9/11 when BSVAC volunteers saved a firefighter's life.

Rocky's ability to inspire led him to being chosen to address the Republican National Convention in Houston, Texas in 1994. For his remarkable accomplishments and ongoing efforts, Rocky has received numerous awards,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

including: Robin Hood Foundation Hero of the Year Award, New York City Award, American Institute for Public Service Jefferson Award, Points of Light Award (Awarded by George Bush), and Maxwell House Hero Search Award. Among the many honors he has received, Rocky was selected to carry the Olympic torch down Fifth Avenue in New York City, en route to Atlanta, in 1996. Rocky's status as a hero was even recognized by the children of Wilkes Country Elementary School in North Carolina, who named him as their black hero in 1998. (Choosing him by a landslide over the other candidates, including Michael Jordan). Of all the honors and awards that Rocky has earned, he describes his greatest reward as the satisfaction he enjoys from seeing young people succeed in medical careers after training with BSVAC.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing James "Rocky" Robinson, an "on-call," unselfish community servant.

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HONORING THE POINTS OF LIGHT  
INSTITUTE

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 16, 2009*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in the history of an organization that has made a difference in the lives of many Americans and many communities across the nation—the Points of Light Institute.

Twenty years ago, a newly-inaugurated President George H.W. Bush challenged us to "bring in the generations, harnessing the unused talent of the elderly and the unfocused energy of the young . . . to spread like stars throughout the Nation, doing good." It was this challenge that became the foundation of the Points of Light initiative. President Obama dramatically expanded this movement with his leadership of the bipartisan Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, legislation that I sponsored, which was signed into law earlier this year.

The Points of Light Foundation recently merged with Hands On Network to form the Points of Light Institute. This organization has been transforming American lives and communities around the nation, offering tangible and meaningful ways for people to serve.

In 2008, the Points of Light Institute and its 250 Hands On volunteer action centers engaged over 1.2 million volunteers in service and managed over 520,000 volunteer projects. The value of this service is over \$600 million, a remarkable contribution to the health and welfare of American communities from Seattle to Miami.

One of Points of Light's affiliates is the Long Island Volunteer Center headquartered in my Congressional District. Daily, this great local organization connects individuals and groups to help nonprofit organizations expand programs and services that improve the environment, mentor at-risk youth, assist the elderly, help hungry and homeless people, and enhance appreciation of cultural arts.

Congratulations to Points of Light on this 20 year anniversary and for the many acts of service that have improved the lives of those

in need in our midst. We all look forward to many more years of inspiring work.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my thanks and recognition to Points of Light Institute.

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A TRIBUTE TO ERMA A. WINSLOW

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 16, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Erma A. Winslow, a dedicated educator and community servant.

Erma Winslow is a retired administrator and guidance counselor for the New York City Board of Education. Ms. Winslow was a counselor and assistant to the principal at Joan of Arc Junior High School, a guidance counselor at Junior High School 258, and a guidance counselor at Richmond Hill High School. While working for the Board of Education, Ms. Winslow was committed to providing quality counseling to elementary, middle, and high school students. Ms. Winslow's areas of expertise are in education, special education, guidance and counseling, curriculum development, recreation, library and media services.

Ms. Winslow holds a Master's Degree in Health Education from Columbia University, a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Fordham University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Health and Recreation from Talladega College in Alabama. She was founder and chair of Bedford Stuyvesant Community Block Association. She is also the recipient of a community service award and a guidance counselor award for her tireless service to the New York City Board of Education.

Erma has successfully counseled junior high and high school students, assisting them in meeting their academic, personal and social needs, so they could be active in the communities in which they live.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Erma A. Winslow.

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A TRIBUTE TO TERESA COAXUM

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 16, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Teresa Coaxum, a tireless leader in the community.

Born and raised in Walterboro South Carolina, Ms. Coaxum began her career at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina at the age of 16. Shortly after her first semester she moved to New York and completed her Bachelor's degree and later her Master's degree at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Ms. Coaxum would later graduate from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government's Senior Managers in Government Executive Program. Always one to know the true importance of education, Ms. Coaxum is also a graduate of Coro Leadership New York XV.

In Ms. Coaxum's former job, she served as Project Manager of Community Relations under Brooklyn District Attorney, Charles

Hynes. There she addressed the needs of residents in Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Stuyvesant Heights, East Flatbush, and Bushwick by successfully coordinating community agencies, organizations, churches and elected officials in major initiatives such as ComALERT (Community and Law Enforcement Resources Together), a district attorney program that assists people on probation and parolees in getting jobs, training and education in Crown Heights and Bedford Stuyvesant.

Ms. Coaxum has worked tirelessly to empower New York residents through her commitment to community and human services. In her current position, she works countless hours directing community outreach and planning in NYC, assisting in the management of Senator SCHUMER's eight regional offices, as well as advising the Senator and his Washington, D.C. staff on key policy issues.

Ms. Coaxum is a lifetime member of the NAACP. She serves on several committees such as John Jay College of Criminal Justice Alumni Association as the 2nd Vice President, Interfaith Medical Center Auxiliary, Church Women United, Community Board 8, Partnership for Youth and Community Empowerment, Brooklyn Blizzard Youth Organization, The Women's Caucus for Ed Towns, and Brooklyn Young Democrats.

In recognition of her loyalty and service, Ms. Coaxum was selected as one of The Network Journal's "Top 40 under 40 Dynamic Leaders" in June 2009, and as one of City Hall News' "Rising Stars 40 under 40". She received the John Jay College Alumni of the Year Award, various community service awards from Concord Family Services and the 77th, 79th, 81st, 83rd Precinct Community Councils. Among her many honors and recognitions, she has also received The Harriet Tubman Humanitarian Award and Proclamations from Senator Carl Andrews and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, as well as Special Recognition from Congressman EDOLPHUS "ED" TOWNS, and Citations from Assemblyman Vito Lopez, New York City Councilmembers Erik Dilan and Diana Reyna, and former Councilman James E. Davis for dedication and hard work in the community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this relentless and dynamic community leader.

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A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ANDRÉ  
RAMÓN SOLEIL

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 16, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Reverend André Ramón Soleil, a seasoned lawyer, artist and entrepreneur with an extraordinary life story.

Reverend Soleil was raised in New Hope Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, New York, a church founded by his great-grandparents during the great migration of African-Americans northward to New York from North Carolina in the early 1900s. He was a member of the choir, an usher and a Sunday school teacher. At age 12, André confessed Jesus as Lord, was baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. At 13, Pastor Belk recognized God's call on