

Danticat. Marie Lily Cerat is currently at work on a novel, *In the Light of Shooting Stars*.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Marie Lily Cerat.

A TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY COLLIER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Beverly Collier, for her commitment to human services and her many contributions to her community.

Beverly Collier is the Director of the "My Turn Program" at Kingsborough Community College, in Brooklyn, NY. She is a native New Yorker and was raised in Queens, NY. She attended Baruch College, CUNY where she received a Masters in Business Administration and Management. Ms. Collier has a graduate certificate in Aging from Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging & Longevity of Hunter College (formerly Brookdale Center on Aging).

As the Director of the My Turn Program, Ms. Collier oversees the registration and advisement of the program's students, all of whom are over 60 years of age. The program allows senior citizens to take courses on a matriculating or non-matriculating basis, and currently has over 500 students enrolled in day and evening classes.

The majority of Ms. Collier's professional experience has been in human services, specifically providing services to elders and their families. Prior to joining Kingsborough Community College, she worked for Services for the Underserved as the Senior Vice President for Home Care Services for 23 years and played a critical role in the expansion of the Home Care division. In this position, Ms. Collier managed two home care agencies and a home modifications program for disabled individuals.

In addition to her administrative positions, Ms. Collier is an adjunct instructor in the Human Services Department at New York College of Technology in Brooklyn, NY where she has taught courses in the management of human service organizations and gerontology. She is also a workshop facilitator and has conducted a series of trainings in effective communication and management skills for the Research Foundation of CUNY in New York City and upstate New York.

Recently, Ms. Collier has combined her professional background in elder care with her personal experience as a care giver for her late mother, Ethel Collier, by developing and presenting trainings to professional and family care givers. She is passionate about the opportunity to share her caregiver story through helping others care for their loved ones.

In 2009, Ms. Collier was elected Chair of the Board of Directors for Unique People Services a non-profit organization providing services to individuals and families affected by developmental disabilities, mental illness and AIDS. She has also volunteered with the Speakers Bureau of the Medicare Rights Center and the Home Care Council of NYC.

Ms. Collier loves to travel and has been fortunate to visit Ghana, Nigeria, Jamaica, Argentina, Guyana, England and more. Her travel has mostly been for pleasure. In 1996, how-

ever she traveled to Argentina to deliver a presentation on hiring and training home care workers to health care professionals who were working to expand a similar program in their country. The trip was organized by the CUNY Consortium for the Study of Disabilities.

Ms. Collier lives in St. Albans and is the mother of two adult children; her daughter, Maia Rosser, is a social worker, and her son, Akunna Rosser, is a guidance counselor.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Beverly Collier.

A TRIBUTE TO AYLAN DAWKINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Aylan Dawkins for her continued dedication to the service of others.

Mrs. Aylan Dawkins was born and raised in the beautiful island of Trinidad. After several visits to the United States, she decided to relocate to New York in 1987. She is married to Paul Dawkins, who is a corrections officer. They have three loving children; Aisha, Darwin, and Devon. Aylan is also a proud grandmother to one grandchild named Ethan.

Mrs. Dawkins joined Interfaith Medical Center in 1996 and worked in the Home Care Department for 1 year. She was then transferred to the Finance Department and eventually moved on to the Chief Financial Officer's Department. At present, she is the Executive Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer.

In her capacity as Executive Assistant, Aylan represents the Finance Department on a number of committees set up by the institution including the annual ball which raises money for the hospital and honors outstanding members of the community. She also organizes the summer golf outing which has given the hospital visibility in the health industry.

Aylan became a Certified Nursing Assistant in 1997. She devotes her weekends to service at the Isabella Geriatric Center where she extends her recognizable compassion, patience, and understanding to the elderly.

She excels in customer satisfaction, team effort, and providing professionalism and courteous service with a smile at all times.

She is extremely hardworking and dedicated at work and at home. Mrs. Dawkins is a devoted religious woman and the rock of her family. She organizes yearly family picnics, summer events, and also enjoys cooking all her favorite dishes for her friends and family. Aylan Dawkins is certainly a dynamic woman.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Aylan Dawkins.

A TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE
THERESA FREEMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable Theresa Freeman for her commitment and years of service to New York.

The Honorable Theresa Freeman, State Committee Woman and District Leader of the 70th Assembly District, was born in Augusta, Georgia and has been a community activist in New York for over 30 years. For over 20 years, Theresa has advocated for the community of Harlem. From her days as a writer for the *Amsterdam News* to her current elected office of State Committee Woman District Leader, Theresa has fought for important issues in the community of Harlem such as job development, affordable housing, drug treatment programs and ex-offenders.

Theresa Freeman also worked at Reality House Inc. for thirty years as a Legal Specialist. After moving from Harlem to Long Island City, Queens; she became the Community Liaison because of her political connections. Reality House, Inc. is a program that services our Veterans and Community with dependency issues. Ms. Freeman is the President of New York City Chapter of the National Action Network founded by Dr. Reverend Sharpton. She also is a member of the Women's Auxiliary and Scholarship Fund under the leadership of Mrs. Kathy Jordan Sharpton. Ms. Freeman is a member of the Association of Black Social Workers, Advisory Board of the New York Coalition of 100 Black Women, Vice-President of the Uptown Dance Academy, The Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Memorial Committee and the New York Lawyers Association and many other prominent organizations. Ms. Freeman has been selfless in giving to the community, and has received numerous awards for her humanitarian achievements. She has earned recognition for her community devotion including the Sojourner Truth, Ms. Black Moses Award from the Mother AME Zion Church, and the Dazivedo Watson Community Service Award from Assembly Keith I.T. Wright of the Fred Samuel Democratic Club.

Theresa is a member of the St. James AME Church. She is a Silver Lifetime member of the NAACP, the Fred Samuel, and 504 Disability Democratic Clubs. Theresa is an active member of the Martin Luther King Club, West Harlem Democratic Club, and The African American Day Parade Committee. She is a spokesperson for the Renal Support Network.

Her motto is "with patience and hard work you can achieve your goals."

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Honorable Theresa Freeman.

A TRIBUTE TO CARON MARIE
MARTIN CLOVIE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Caron Marie Martin Clovie for her commitment to serve communities in need in Brooklyn.

Caron Marie Martin Clovie is the President and Founder of Sister, Sister In-Law. Sister, Sister In-Law began as a group which provided affirmation and bonding and has grown to a women's group whose mission is to mentor and lead the young women in our communities toward a positive and productive future. The organization encourages women to love