

reap the benefits of the works of Elouise Cobell.

I am also a proud member of the Native American Caucus. Elouise Cobell's dedication and courage is not just an inspiration to Native Americans, but to all Americans. Her work will not only benefit American Indians now, but also the generations that follow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of Elouise Cobell.

IN HONOR OF DEACONESS MATTIE
LEE DIXON DAVIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Deaconess Mattie Lee Dixon Davis didn't arrive in New York City until she was 39 but still she has lived here for 61 years and is celebrating her 100th birthday today.

She was born in Alabama on April 11, 1911 to Willie and Elar Dixon who had a farm in McWilliams. After graduating from Conecuh County Training School she married the Reverend Albert A. Davis, II who was pastor to many of the leading African Methodist Episcopal Churches. He served as Presiding Elder of Troy and then joined the larger Ozark District where Mrs. Dixon served as District Adviser of the Women's Missionary for nine years.

She worked as a substitute teacher in public schools and thanks to her earlier training she was seamstress and hairdresser to her family, her church family, and to her friends and neighbors.

In May, 1950, Rev. Dixon came to the St. Luke A.M.E. Church in New York City's Sugar Hill neighborhood where for 16 years Mrs. Dixon served as Advisor to the Missionary Society and President of the Women's Club. The Missionary Society became so large that she reorganized it into five 'circles,' a structure that continues to this day.

Missionary work was always her main interest and she held several statewide offices in the New York Conference Branch Missionary Society including Second Vice President for three years, and Treasurer for eight years. She also served as President of the New York A.M.E. Ministers Wives and Widowers Alliance and Secretary of the Interdenominational Ministers Wives and Widowers Alliance.

She and the Rev. Dixon moved to St. Steven Community A.M.E. Church where the Rev. Dixon served until he died 16 years later.

Her ambition was always to become a nurse, but raising their five children and missionary work made that impossible. But several years ago she helped a friend, a nurse, operate a 'House of Love' where patients discharged from hospitals, but too ill to go home, stayed. Here she not only helped with the daily care and feeding of these gravely ill people, but learned how to give medications and to handle injections. She was finally nursing, helping people in this hospice precursor.

Around this time she was consecrated a Deaconess at the Allen Cathedral A.M.E. Church by Bishop Franklin Norris.

I join her community in honoring this wonderful woman who gave a century of love and good works to the world. We are blessed to have her.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN A.
GIRGENTI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an outstanding American and public servant, Senator John A. Girgenti, who will be recognized on Monday, October 24, 2011 for his many years of service to his community and to New Jersey's Legislature.

John A. Girgenti was born in Paterson on August 8, 1947. He attended Hawthorne High School then continued on to Seton Hall University. After receiving a B.A. degree in Political Science, cum laude, in 1969, he completed his M.A. in Government and Public Administration from St. John's University.

Senator Girgenti was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1977, and re-elected six times. While in the Assembly he served as Chairman of the Municipal Government Committee and Deputy Majority Leader. As an Assemblyman, John sponsored legislation that created the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, successfully imposing the first "tax on crime."

In March of 1990, John Girgenti was chosen by district Democrats to fill the State Senate seat left vacant by the death of Frank X. Graves, Jr. He was sworn into the Senate on April 5th and was elected to his first full-term in the Senate on November 5, 1991. Since then he has been re-elected five times.

During his time in the legislature Senator Girgenti has sponsored many important pieces of legislation that have become law. He was one of the first State Senators to call for enhanced fingerprinting requirements for state employees involved with domestic security following the attacks on 9/11. Senator Girgenti has also fought to update and modernize New Jersey's background check laws so municipalities can identify potential threats before it is too late.

Following the Seton Hall University dormitory fire in 2000 Senator Girgenti was instrumental in putting forth legislation that mandates and provides funding for sprinkler installation in New Jersey college dormitories. He has also sponsored other landmark legislative measures that include Megan's Law, Amber Alert and the Paterson Urban Enterprise Zone Program. The Senator spearheaded the reinstatement of the Paterson Motor Vehicle Agency and was the momentum behind it's re-opening in 2008.

In response to the growing gang problem in New Jersey, Senator Girgenti has helped formulate pragmatic legislative solutions to eliminate criminal street gangs. He formed a "Gang Task Force" in 2006 composed of experts from government, law enforcement, education, local clergy and recreation to review and evaluate legislative measures aimed at circumventing gang activity.

The Senator has also fought to create the State Public Safety Interoperable Communications Coordinating Council, which would allow first responders (police, firefighters and emergency workers) to communicate between agencies on a single assigned radio frequency. Senator Girgenti also pushed for increased aid to the New Jersey National Guard.

Senator Girgenti is currently the Chairman of the Law & Public Safety Committee and Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also serves on the Senate Transportation Committee. On April 5, 2011 Senator Girgenti announced that he will not seek re-election to the Senate in 2011. His leadership in the state will be missed by his colleagues and his constituency.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated public servants like John Girgenti.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, John's wife Rose, their family and friends, the members of the New Jersey State Legislature and me in recognizing John A. Girgenti's outstanding service to his community and the entire State of New Jersey.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR
EDMUND W. GORDON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Professor Edmund W. Gordon is among the most distinguished behavioral pedagogical scientists in the United States and one of the very few in the world to hold two endowed Ivy League professorships at Columbia and Yale universities.

More directly related to my Congressional District, he is Senior Scholar in Residence at State University of New York Rockland Community College as well as at the College Board.

His distinguished career encompasses not only professorial practices but scholarship, clinical and counseling psychology, research, author, editor, and minister. Besides Columbia and Yale, he has held appointments at Howard and Harvard Universities.

He has written text books that are considered classics in their field, as well as more than 200 articles in scholarly journals and he is still going in his eighties. He and his wife, Dr. Susan Gordon, have lived in Rockland County for more than 55 years and with whom he co-founded CEJES Institute and Conference Center in Pomona. Their four children attended the local Ramapo schools and both parents were very active in the PTA, school board elections, and other community matters.

Dr. Gordon is being honored by the Howard University Alumni Association for his seemingly unending contributions to society. As a former teacher I join with HUAA in congratulating Dr. Gordon for these contributions which have advanced education in our society over the course of generations.