HONORING REVEREND JOHN F. EDWARDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 23, 2005
Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong dedication of Reverend John F. Edwards, who will retire this month after 50 years of active ministry.

As the Pastor of The Church of the Incarnation, in Wethersfield, Connecticut in my district, Father Edwards was an inspiration and source of strength for those he met during his service to the priesthood. Father Edwards experienced a religious calling and entered the St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, Connecticut, where he remained from 1947–1949. On January 6, 1955, Reverend Edwards was ordained as a priest at St. Brendan's Church in New Haven, Connecticut by The Most Reverend Henry J. O'Brien. Shortly thereafter, Father Edwards received temporary assignments in Washington Depot, Connecticut and as Chaplin at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury. In April–August 1956, he received a permanent assignment as a Chaplin at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut.

In August of 1955, Father Edwards returned to St. Thomas Seminary, where his vocation developed and strengthened, and served as a teacher and administrator from 1955–1981. During his 26 year tenure, Father Edwards taught history and mathematics and became Principal of the high school at St. Thomas Seminary. In his final 6 years at St. Thomas Seminary, he also served as the Director of The Permanent Diaconate Program of the Archdiocese of Hartford, which was a program that proved to be instrumental in fulfilling the needs of the Archdiocese. He also served as a weekend assistant at St. Helena Church in West Hartford, Connecticut from 1967–1980. Father Edwards was an inspiration in the classroom and in his community.

Father Edwards arrived at St. Joseph Church in Meriden, Connecticut in 1981, where he served for 11 years as part of a Team Ministry with Father Mark Jette. In 1992, Father Edwards was appointed Pastor of The Church of the Incarnation where he continued to be a dedicated pastor, devoted spiritual leader, and friend. For the past 4 years, he has been the Dean of the Suburban Hartford Deanery where he fostered fellowship within the Greater Hartford Area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in thanking and honoring Reverend John F. Edwards for his 5 decades of service to the people of Connecticut. The parishioners of the Church of the Incarnation will miss his dedication and quiet thoughtfulness. Please join me in congratulating Father Edwards on his retirement and wishing him many enjoyable rounds of golf.

EXPLORE THE CARIBBEAN: THE INSTITUTE OF CARIBBEAN STUDIES
HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 23, 2005
Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the significant work of the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS), a magnificent organization that highlights and explores the linkages between the Caribbean and the United States. Today, Representative BARBARA LEE, Representative DONNA CHRISTENSEN, and I hosted a meeting of the Institute of Caribbean Studies in the Rayburn Building. I thank these wonderful congresswomen for joining me in our effort to raise the awareness and provide an opportunity for this Congress to explore the dynamics of the Caribbean economy, culture, and global appeal.

The Institute of Caribbean Studies works to find common links between the American public and the people of the Caribbean. It explores different avenues of change and development that are common to our two regions and seeks opportunities to nurture those developments to our collective best interests. This group is working to build a stronger economic, social, and cultural bond between two important regions of the world.

At their legislative forum today, the panels addressed the essence of the border security, economic development, disaster assistance, and human security. Panelists such as Foreign Minister of the Bahamas Fred Mitchell, the Jamaican Ambassador Gordon Shirley, the St. Lucian Ambassador Sonia Johnson, and the Trinidad and Tobago Ambassador Denis Antoine examined various causes, effects, and responses to the challenges of linking the Caribbean and the United States. Their discussion and assessments provided important insight into the solutions and opportunities for advancement in the region.

I thank the panelists and participants for their thoughts, opinions, and wisdom on development problems facing Caribbean society. I hope my colleagues will put this organization to use in developing responsible policies toward the Caribbean.

The Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1983 and dedicated to research, policy analysis, and education with a focus on issues that impact the Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora. The purpose of the Institute is to provide a forum for scholars, the private sector, the non-government organizations, and the public interested in promoting a dialogue on Caribbean issues. The Institute seeks to address economic development problems facing Caribbean society, and to adopt a thorough, systematic, and coordinated long-term perspective towards their resolution.

Since its inception, ICS has been on the forefront of the challenge to bring attention to the Caribbean American community, which numbers over 3 million. ICS represents an important role in linking Caribbean and Caribbean-American community organization in the Washington, DC area devoted to the successful inclusion of Caribbean-Americans in U.S. policies and programs with micro-enterprise development and skills training for youth with particular reference to, and acting as an interlocutor and facilitator for Caribbean-American communities and Caribbean-American organizations in the region. ICS enjoys the respect of a significant proportion of the Caribbean-American community, as well as the Caribbean diplomatic corps. ICS has established and will continue to develop partnerships and collaborative relationships with local and national organizations in the United States, in the Caribbean, and with the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Global Rights Law Group, National Minority Suppliers Development Council, World Bank/IMF Caribbean Staff Association, Caribbean Research Center, and the Caribbean Policy Development Center to meet its objectives, particularly those in advancing economic development and policy making.

ICS is dedicated to building bridges between Caribbean Americans and the U.S. population at large and advocating for the economic welfare of the Caribbean American community. Together with partner organizations in industry, government, and society, we have built the foundation to make the Institute of Caribbean Studies, the leading Caribbean American organization in Washington, DC. Our mission is to provide our partners with solutions to the challenges they face, that will enable their survival, growth, and prosperity in the ever changing global marketplace, by providing world class research and action that supports their missions.

The organizational structure of the ICS provides an established framework within which ‘Carribbeanists’ can be mobilized to address issues of concern and implement research and/or program initiatives. This includes a Private Sector Council and a Research Council.

ICS program areas are designed to:

- promote the increased participation of Caribbean Americans in the U.S. economic and policy agenda;
- facilitate increased educational exchanges between Caribbean and American peoples.

To foster increased cooperation between the Caribean and other developing countries, regions, such as Latin America and Africa, as well as the developed countries of Canada and Europe.

To facilitate the participation of, and discussion with, the Caribbean Diaspora around the world on issues pertaining to Caribbean development.

In keeping with its holistic philosophy of development, the Institute develops and supports programs which serve a multiplicity of interests—the community leader, the business person, the policy-maker, and the scholar, across various sectors. The program areas include: Economic Development, Science & Technology, Education, Health, and Sociology & Culture.

Our goal for economic development is to increase the participation of Caribbean Americans in the U.S. business sector, to promote increased trade and investment between the U.S. and the Caribbean, and to support entrepreneurship and micro-enterprise development in the Caribbean. Our work includes creating linkages between U.S. small and disadvantaged businesses, and Caribbean businesses, entrepreneurship development and skills training for youth with particular reference to, and acting as an interlocutor and facilitator for Caribbean-American communities and Caribbean-American organizations.