

A TRIBUTE TO ROBIN KELLY
SHEARES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Robin Kelly Sheares, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. Robin Sheares was born in Harlem to the late Gloria and Herman Sheares. At the tender age of 6, her family moved to Bedford-Stuyvesant and ever since she has been a member of the Brooklyn community.

A proud graduate of the public school system, Robin has been an attorney for nearly 20 years. She is experienced in housing, criminal and civil law. In her nearly 20 years as an attorney, she has been an administrative law judge, an instructor, and an arbitrator. She is active in Brooklyn, working with community-based organizations, religious institutions, and youth mentoring groups.

Robin Kelly Sheares is an active member of the Wayside Baptist Church and her Block Association. At Wayside, she works closely with the Sunday School and Youth Ministry. Robin's other memberships include, but are not limited to, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and the Brownstoners of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc.

Robin has been dedicated to the Noel Pointer Foundation and the New York Road Runner's Club. Robin is often called upon as a guest lecturer and Career Day speaker. She has even addressed students at her alma maters, Public School 309 and Junior High School 57. Although, Robin has no biological children, she has nurtured a number of youth and is a strong advocate for children and parents rights as evident by her work with the Brownstoners's Education Task Force and her alma maters: Brooklyn Technical High School and Ithaca College.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Robin Kelly Sheares, as she offers her talents and community services for the good of our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, Robin Kelly Sheares's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN
HAWTHORNE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mary Ann Hawthorne, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Born, raised and entirely educated in the State of New York, Mary Ann Hawthorne has found a unique way to give back to her State's education system. Ms. Hawthorne earned her bachelors in education from Bernard Baruch

College in New York City in 1972. During her first 2 years as a teacher, Ms. Hawthorne simultaneously worked her way through graduate school and earned a masters in business education from Long Island University. Four years later Ms. Hawthorne received her professional diploma and masters of science in administration and supervision of education.

Deeply committed to the education of New York's youth, Ms. Hawthorne worked as a teacher, an assistant principal, and a principal. Today Ms. Hawthorne is the community superintendent for District 11 as well as local instructional superintendent for Region 2.

Ms. Hawthorne has acted as a wonderful role model to children and fellow educators alike. Ms. Hawthorne's achievements in education are endless. In September 2001 Ms. Hawthorne was selected by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to serve as an assessor for new principals. In January 2003, President Bush and Secretary of Education Rod Paige at the White House honored her when she was picked to be part of a panel of the top eight principals in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Hawthorne is a product of the New York education system and a true inspiration to the community around her. She continues to work to improve education in New York and for that I ask that we recognize and give thanks to Mary Ann Hawthorne for her wonderful contribution to our community.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
MUST PROMOTE DEMOCRACY IN
HAITI

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to articulate how crucial it is for the international community to reach out to Haiti and help President-elect Rene Preval achieve his many goals for the impoverished Nation that is Haiti and to enter into the RECORD an editorial appearing in the New York CaribNews appealing for greater international involvement in the country.

Preval's election represents what could be a potential turning point in the history of Haiti which has been marred by corruption, military intervention, violence and a stifling of the will of the people. Having served as president in the 1990s, Preval is the only elected president to have served out a full four-year term without being overthrown. In the elections held last month, Preval was clearly the choice of the masses with more than half of votes cast in his favor—leading his nearest rival, Leslie Manigat, a former president, who received only 12 percent of votes.

So far, the international community has acted on behalf of the Haitian people—urging the country's Electoral Council to declare Preval the winner and preventing further violence from spilling out through the entire country. By doing so, the will of the Haitian electorate was respected and protected.

Now it up to the United States to step in and assist Preval in establishing his government. the government of the United States must act fast to secure the results and also begin providing humanitarian, economic and

other forms of aid that President-elect Preval will need to build and sustain a viable government. I also urge that the transitional government of Haiti to actively engage in the transfer of power to Preval.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in calling on all the great nations of the international community to actively assist Haiti during its momentous transition to a democratically elected government.

[From the New York CaribNews, Feb. 28, 2006]

HAITI HAS A CHANCE TO MOVE FORWARD
(Editorial)

“The international community must show the Haitian people that it is sincere about ending their suffering.”

U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, one of the strongest and most consistent voices on Capitol Hill when it comes to articulating Caribbean causes was right on the money as he summarized the Haitian situation. His call on the world's leading nations and many developing states to move swiftly to improve the economic and social conditions in what is the Western Hemisphere's poorest nations couldn't have come at a better time.

His plea to the United Nations, Washington, Paris, Ottawa, Berlin, Brasilia, Santiago and other capitals which say they have a keen interest in what happens in the French-speaking Republic that's next door to the Dominican Republic was voiced a few days after Rene' Preval had been declared the winner in the February 7th presidential elections.

If the same international community had previously shown the resolve to end the Haitian nightmare that it demonstrated last week to end the election stalemate, the world's oldest Black Republic would have been spared the pain and trauma it has endured for decades.

By stepping in and forcing the incompetent and politically bias Electoral Council to declare Preval the winner, the countries with the resources and the influence to halt the slide into anarchy avoided more spilling of blood and paved the way for the will of 2.2 million Haitian voters to be recognized.

That it took eight days after the election to count the votes and announce a winner was clear evidence of an attempt by a handful of people, backed by the powerful business and political elite to stop Preval, a former protégé of ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide, from taking office after the people had made a clear choice.

Some 33 candidates had faced the electorate but Preval was the only one with widespread national support, especially in the urban slums of Port-au-Prince. That was seen in the fact that his nearest rival, Leslie Manigat, a former President, had received only 12 percent of the votes cast.

Early in the count, Preval had secured a resounding 61 percent but mysteriously, his share of the votes cast began to decline, so much so that by the time 90 percent of the ballots had been tabulated he had only 48.7 percent, less than two percent short of the 50 per cent plus one vote needed to escape a run-off.

Obviously, the Council and Preval opponents were manipulating the process by invalidating almost 150,000 votes, many of them from the poorest areas of the country. They claimed that the spoilt or blank votes which represented about seven percent of the total had to be counted, never mind that it was difficult to understand how so many Haitians who had waited in line for hours, traveled long distances or who had endured all kinds of hardship in order to select their president would then turn around and turn

in blank ballots. It just didn't make sense. Several people believed most of the blank votes were simply stuffed into the ballot boxes to defraud Preval.

Added to such election woes, almost 10 per cent of the tally sheets disappeared and several supporters found thousands of burned ballots smoldering in a garbage dump in Port-au-Prince.

The suspicions of fraud and the delay in announcing a winner triggered pro-Preval demonstrations that virtually shut down the capital and raised the real fair that riots would turn deadly.

The problem in the Caribbean country is that it doesn't have a tradition of electoral politics and its fledgling democratic institutions are weak. The judiciary is far from being independent and the security forces are untrained and often heavy-handed. To add to such woes, the powerful elite isn't concerned about the widespread poverty and illiteracy. Instead, it is committed to furthering its nest at the expense of progress and peace.

What the country needs the most is a government committed to economic and social progress. Such an administration would need all of the help it can get from both inside and outside of the country. Now that Preval has demonstrated that he has the people's support through relatively free and fair elections, the international community must step forward and live up to its responsibility providing the much promised but never delivered massive financial and technical support.

At the same time Preval, who is the only elected President to have served out a full four-year term without being overthrown, must reach out to his opponents in a meaningful fashion in order to be able to deliver on his election promises.

Just as important, the Haitian Diaspora in North America must back the government and help to keep it focused on its key task, and that is to lift the nation out of deep poverty and despair.

A TRIBUTE TO PRISCILLA A.
WOOTEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, a community is only as great as those individuals who perform exemplary service on its behalf, whether through unique achievement in professional endeavors or simply through a lifetime of good citizenship. The Honorable Priscilla A. Wooten is one of the most distinguished members of our community and is most deserving of this tribute.

Priscilla Wooten, a devoted mother, grandmother, and community leader, has lived in the East New York community for over 50 years. Ms. Wooten was a dedicated employee of the New York City Board of Education for many years. From January 1982 through January 2002 she served on the New York City Council. She has also served as Chairperson of the Education Committee and as a member of the Finance, Health, and Elections Committees.

Additionally, she also found time to serve on such boards as the Commission on Students of African Descent, the New York Collaborative for Excellence, the NAACP and others too numerous to mention.

Ms. Wooten is a Deaconess of the Greater Bright Light Missionary Baptist Church and

has spent countless hours sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, and being a friend to the friendless. She is a woman who dared to be different.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of her life-long commitment to the people of New York, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to bestow upon Priscilla A. Wooten this honor with the highest respect and esteem.

NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the 16th annual National Sportsmanship Day, which is celebrated today around the world.

National Sportsmanship Day raises awareness about issues relating to sportsmanship and ethics in athletics as well as daily life. Athletic competition can teach students, coaches, and parents valuable lessons that can be applied on and off the field. With increased pressure to succeed placed upon today's athletes and students, the importance of ethics, honesty and fair play have never been more necessary.

Given the heightened demand for accomplishment in today's society, the idea of participation and fitness in many aspects of sport is often lost. Forgetting this important basis of athletic competition, students often are forced to maintain a 'win at all costs' mentality. Each year, the Institute for International Sport, based in my district in Kingston, Rhode Island, provides the opportunity to counter these notions through meaningful dialogue among school administrators, coaches, teachers, and students on the subject of ethics, fair play and sportsmanship.

The 16th annual National Sportsmanship Day strives to foster sportsmanship through the defeat of gamesmanship, the practice of ethically dubious methods to gain an objective. Through activities and discussions, more than 13,000 schools throughout the United States and around the world will participate in these events to spread honest athletics.

Each year, National Sportsmanship Day recognizes a number of athletes who offer a tribute to their respective sport and enhance their skills with their desire to play fairly. This year, the Institute for International Sport has selected their Sports Ethics Fellows from a number of players, coaches, and school administrators at the high school level. With both their simultaneous pursuit of academic and athletic excellence, they model and promote the virtues of the student-athlete in the truest sense.

I hope that my colleagues can join with me on this day in celebrating and promoting the continued success of National Sportsmanship Day. With its moral, ethical and fitness components, today's activities can promote a healthy and more active community amongst our nation's youth, and support a team oriented future for our country of sports enthusiasts.

A TRIBUTE TO EVELYN CRUZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Evelyn Cruz, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Evelyn Cruz was born and raised in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. One of four children and the only daughter, she attended Transfiguration School where she learned at an early age the value of community service. Her Puerto Rican working-class parents, Luis and Graciela, instilled in Evelyn the value of hard work, dedication, and respect for others. As the granddaughter of activist grandparents, she learned how to advocate and fight for fairness in housing, healthcare, education and community services.

Evelyn has dedicated most of her life toward the betterment of her community. During her high school years, she was vice-president of her sophomore class and a member of several school clubs. In 1977, she was elected one of the youngest representatives on the then NYC Area Policy Board, where she reviewed budget proposals, participated in public hearings and allocated community development funding to local community based organizations. At the age of 16, she was the youngest recording secretary elected to serve on the 90th Precinct Community Council where she served for several terms. Years later, she was elected and served as the President of the Precinct Council.

In the 1980s, during New York City's drugs and AIDS epidemics, Evelyn organized her community and led the fight to reclaim her neighborhood streets and parks from drug dealers. As the co-founder of the March Against Drugs, Inc., she organized annual anti-drug community marches and drug prevention fairs for more than 10 years.

While attending John Jay College part-time and working full-time at Merrill Lynch for a successful mother and daughter financial consultant team, Evelyn gained valuable experience in client-relations, the financial markets, and real estate.

Evelyn has been profiled in NY's Newsday, El Diario La Prensa, The New York Times, and Talk Radio. She enjoys sports and is a three-time MVP softball player, women's handball champ and a great paddleball player. Some her favorite books are Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *100 Years of Solitude*, Ayn Rand's *Anthem*, and George Orwell's *1984*.

Evelyn is passionate about public service and her work in the community. In 1992, she left the private sector and joined the congressional staff of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez.

Evelyn's work in the community has shaped her into a leader, an advocate, and an instrument for social change. She hopes to continue to share her knowledge and experience with her neighbors in the hopes of ongoing change and improvement—and looks forward to a bright future for the borough she calls home—Brooklyn.