

leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Helen Jordan has been a MSW caseworker that counseled substance-abusing mothers, an administrative supervisor and a Program Director at the New York Urban League's child welfare programs. For almost twenty years, she has worked with and for the families in East Flatbush, East New York and Brownsville communities of Brooklyn. The New York Urban League's mission ". . . to promote opportunities and to help African Americans, individuals, families and communities achieve their full potential . . ." is the mission that Helen has adopted for herself.

Born in New York City, 75 years ago, to Addie and Pearl Thomas of South Carolina, Helen is the oldest of three children. Her father and mother, janitors for various Harlem tenements, taught Helen that education was the key to liberation and she never let go of the vision of a college education. Helen earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Welfare and a Master's degree in Social Work at Adelphi University's School of Social Work after she had married Eugene Jordan and their four children Stephanie, Eugene III, Vance and Kevin, were adults. She has 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, she thinks that no one should ever stop learning. Helen still attends conferences and workshops related to her work. God has worked many wonders in her life including the privilege of being the Program Director at Service to Families and the Chairperson of the Brownsville-East New York Child Welfare Neighborhood Network and she gives Him all the praise and honor. She is a member of the Greater Allen Cathedral in Jamaica, NY.

Helen has had memberships in several organizations that advocate for children and families to be the very best that they can be such as The Black Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, which educated communities and organizations about the results of child abuse and neglect; National Association of Social Workers; National Association of Black Social Workers; National Black Child Development Institute, an organization that educates educators about the importance of a child's education; Coalition of Brooklyn Program Directors; New York Foster Care Reform Initiative, an organization that seeks to transform the educational training of foster care parents; African American Task Force Against Violence Towards Women; Neighborhood Family Services Coalition; and the Institute for Community Living, Inc.'s Neighborhood Advisory Board. She is also a member of the 369th Kermit Drowery Ladies Auxiliary.

"Giving back" is very important to Helen. She has been a field instructor and a faculty advisor to many social work students at various graduate schools. She has also been an adjunct professor at Adelphi University's School of Social Work's Manhattan Center.

At 75 years of age, Helen says that although there is a lot of work being done to improve the lives of our children and their families, there is still so much more work to be done, that she has no idea when she will retire.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL KIDNEY
MONTH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as Congress recognizes National Kidney Month, I join my colleagues in their efforts to increase awareness about the devastating effects of kidney disease. More than 400,000 Americans must receive life-saving dialysis three to four times each week because their kidneys have failed. In addition, more than 20 million citizens have chronic kidney disease, which is the precursor to kidney failure. Patients with kidney disease experience a gradual deterioration of kidney function that eventually progresses to kidney failure. Patients may live with the disease 10 or more years without outward symptoms before their kidneys fail. Once a patient develops kidney failure, his or her kidney function is so low that without dialysis or kidney transplantation death will occur from accumulation of fluids and waste products in the body.

Recognizing the need to educate my colleagues on kidney disease, I founded and co-chair the Congressional Kidney Caucus with my colleague Representative MARK STEVEN KIRK. Members of the Kidney Caucus are especially concerned about the growing prevalence of this disease.

Mr. Speaker, the leading causes of this disease is diabetes and high blood pressure, which as you are no doubt aware also disproportionately affect African Americans and Latino Americans. Given that early kidney disease has no symptoms, most people do not realize that their kidneys are about to fail. Therefore, it is critically important to increase awareness of the dangers of kidney disease, especially among the African American and Latino American communities. Individuals with high blood pressure and diabetes should ask their doctors to run simple blood and urine tests that can detect kidney disease.

If treated early, individuals with kidney disease will experience an improved quality of life and be able to maintain more daily life activities, including keeping their jobs. In addition, preventing kidney failure and improving care will result in substantial savings for the taxpayer.

I applaud the efforts of my colleagues to raise awareness about this important issue and to show support for Americans living with kidney disease. We must act now to help Americans learn more about this deadly disease and how to prevent its development and progression to kidney failure.

A TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY ANN
McRAE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Shirley Ann McRae, 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.

Shirley Ann McRae earned her Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management from Nyack College. She also earned Advanced Certificates in Labor Relations from Cornell University's New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Prior to retirement, Ms. McRae worked for MTA's New York City Transit. She was the Senior Director of Employee Programs and Registrations within the Employee Development Unit of the Office of Human Resources.

Shirley Ann McRae is passionate about community service. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Since 1996, Ms. McRae has been an active member of Brooklyn Community Board #2; serving as Chairperson of the Board for the last 4 years. Preceding her appointment to Chairperson of the Board, Ms. McRae was involved in many community board committees including a leadership position as Chairperson of the Open Space Subcommittee.

Ms. McRae currently serves on the board of directors for the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition and was also on the executive board of directors of the Atlantic Center Homeowner's Association since its creation and acted as the board's president for the last 6 years. Ms. McRae is a member of the Fort Greene Association, the Central Fulton Street Business Improvement District Steering Committee, the Community Action Board representing Region #10—Brooklyn Neighborhood Development Areas 1, 2, and 4.

A patron of the arts, Ms. McRae also serves on the board of directors for the Brooklyn Academy of Music Local Development Corporation and the Creative Outlet Dance Theatre of Brooklyn.

Shirley Ann McRae continues to give wholeheartedly to the Brooklyn community. Her dedication and time given to our community are a phenomenal achievement. She has truly made a strong positive impact and for that I ask that we recognize and give thanks to Shirley Ann McRae for her wonderful contribution to our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join our community in honoring Shirley Ann McRae for her dedication and outstanding service to our community.