

Cameron Diaz, Wyclef Jean, Elizabeth Vargas, Esmeralda Santiago, and Miguel Piñero.

One outstanding Caribbean-American was former Congresswoman Shirley Anita Chisholm. My political career began as a volunteer in her historic Presidential campaign in 1972. Chisholm was the first African-American woman to serve in Congress, the first African-American and the first woman to campaign on a major party ticket, an advocate for civil rights and equal rights, and a daughter of the Caribbean. Her tenacity and principled nature are inspirations to us all.

While we've been fortunate to have Caribbean Americans serve in Congress, it's important for us to realize that Caribbean Americans reside throughout our Nation.

Oftentimes, Congress will focus on "hot spots" in the Caribbean—such as Cuba and Haiti, and forget that we have many constituents with roots from Jamaica to Trinidad and Tobago and from the Dominican Republic to Guyana. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on Foreign Operations and the bi-partisan Caribbean Caucus, I believe it is of vital importance to monitor and shape policies to improve relations with our Caribbean neighbors throughout the region.

I'd like to thank my colleagues who brought this legislation forward, particularly Congressman John Tierney, and his staff Kevin McDermott, who helped move the resolution through the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. On that note, I'd also like to thank Chairman Henry Waxman and the rest of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for expeditious consideration of this resolution.

I'd like to close by mentioning that this resolution could not have come to the floor of this House at a better time, as members of the Caribbean Community, or CARICOM, are gathering here in Washington, DC, for their conference, which will run through the rest of the week. Heads of State and other leaders of the many nations that are part of CARICOM, representing the nations of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as nations that are Associate Members and Observers of CARICOM. It is my hope that this conference will not only allow these nations to help move the Caribbean as a whole, forward, but also provide the opportunity for us to meet with and discuss issues important to growing the relationship between the U.S. and the nations along our Third Border.

I ask all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this measure to honor the Caribbean-American community.

A TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN GIST

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brooklyn banker and businessman Jonathan Gist. Jonathan was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He is a graduate of Thomas

Jefferson High School and attended City University of New York's Baruch College for 2 years.

Jonathan Gist enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps following college and was trained as a Weapons Specialist. He was later promoted to Staff Sergeant, and after 4 years of service received an honorable discharge. After leaving the military, Jonathan moved to Wall Street taking a job with Dean Witter, Reynolds.

Jonathan Gist's Wall Street experience was the catalyst for him to launch a career into the banking industry. In 1985 he joined one of the major players in banking, Citibank. Today he remains a part of the Citibank team where he is employed as a Bank Manager.

Jonathan Gist is also a caring community activist. He has been working with the Beacon Program for the past 10 years. This program occupies the time of children once they leave school for the day with such activities as sports, tutoring and arts and crafts. Jonathan is also a part of the organization Green Thumb that assists local residents in beautifying their neighborhoods with plants, flowers, and trees.

Jonathan Gist has taken charge of his neighborhood as the President of the Schenck Avenue Block Association. In this capacity he ensures that area children have a place to play, learn to grow plants, and are escorted on educational field trips.

Jonathan Gist is the third child of four children and has been married to his wife Darlene for 20 years. Together they have five children; Jonathan, Jr., Justin, Jamel, Jalen, and Jhkia.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Jonathan Gist who has been unselfish and caring with all of the members of our community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Jonathan Gist.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BAKER HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING THE 2007 6A GIRLS' SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Baker High School on winning the 2007 6A Girls' State Softball Championship.

Baker High School's girls' softball team won the 6A State softball championship, giving the Honeybee's their third title in the past 6 years. The win also gave Baker its 79th victory of the year, breaking its State record for wins in a season.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Baker High School on a great season and their State softball championship. This school deserves public recognition on this great honor, and I extend my congratulations to each member of the team and coaching staff:

Baker High School Team: Kandace Breeland, 12th; Natalie Charles, 12th; Kelsey Donaldson, 12th; Meghan Harbuck, 12th; Amber Hester, 12th; Jenny Laird, 12th; Monica Meadows, 12th; Krista Rodden, 12th; Jessica Rodgers, 9th; Samantha Shelley, 11th; Jennifer Turner, 9th; Meghan Wallace, 12th; and Head Coach Tony Scarbrough.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT GRADUATES OF THE D.A.R.E. PROGRAM FROM ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL IN WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last week, the Township of Washington and Borough of Westwood Police Departments held a D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony. More than a dozen students in Mrs. Munsch's Fifth Grade Class at Zion Lutheran School have been participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily. I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program in Westwood, and I would like to recognize: them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship: Jerome Ashby; Melody Ashby; Kara Dawson; Rachel Diomedea; James Douglas; Katherine Federov; Jessica Fitzner; Jordan Gregg; Chester Lee; Rebekah Orso; Cassandra Petricca; Stacie Rinda; Emily Thomas.

A TRIBUTE TO MARC GRANT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brooklyn businessman and immigration advocate Marc Grant. Marc came to New York from Guyana, South America in the late 1980s while he was still a small child. His parents had come to the U.S. in previous years.

Marc Grant attended George Wingate High School in Brooklyn and upon his high school graduation he entered Brooklyn College. After leaving college he decided to pursue a career in retail. However, Marc was bitten by the entrepreneurial bug and in 1994 he launched his very own business, MagMa Distribution, named after both he and his mother, distributing detailing supplies to auto bodyshops and carwashes. The company became extremely profitable with sales of \$125 million.

Marc Grant decided to get out of the auto detailing distribution business and launch another business, the Success Connection Team. The Success Connection Team is a seminar company that educates people in North America on ways they may increase their net earnings of up to \$600 per month without working any additional hours. These seminars also inform clients of the tax breaks passed by Congress for small home-based businesses as well as assist organizations and individuals in reaching their financial goals.

Marc Grant has experience in both traditional and non-traditional business ventures. He is a highly sought after public speaker and