

works tirelessly both in the U.S. and Guyana to further her ministry as a wise and caring counselor to all.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman for her kindness and compassion.

CONGRATULATING PRESA COMMUNITY CENTER FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Presa Community Center on 30 years of outstanding service to the Southside community of San Antonio.

In 30 years, the Presa Community Center has grown from a small collaborative effort between five local churches able to lend a hand to a few needy families to an organization with the ability to help hundreds of people daily. The Presa Community Center has successfully developed multi-faceted programs for our community, including educational enrichment programs for students, emergency food and clothing assistance for families, free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Program, and many senior programs like coordinated transportation to medical appointments, activities and food assistance, just to name a few.

Just in the past year, Presa Community Center has developed three innovative programs to provide additional services to the community of South San Antonio. One is Project Drive to Live which takes court officials directly into the classrooms with senior and junior high students to address underage drinking and driving under the influence. The second program is designed to keep fourth through sixth grade students in school by building a support network for children and their parents with volunteer mentors and staff. The third program brings the services of the Presa Community Center directly into the community by teaming up trained volunteers with families in need to help locate available resources and become financially stable.

The successes of the Presa Community Center are a result of effective partnership with many community organizations and local governments including United Way, University of Incarnate Word, Presa Real, San Antonio Independent School District, Alamo Area Council of Governments, Warm Spring Rehabilitation Hospital, and San Antonio City and Bexar County officials.

Congratulations to the Presa Community Center and all of the partners that have been vital to the development of this community resource. As a resident of South San Antonio, I would like to thank the Presa Community Center, its partner organizations, and all the hard working staff for their 30 years of dedication to the community and I look forward to many more years of continued work in our community.

SBA VETERANS' PROGRAMS ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2366, the SBA Veterans' Programs Act of 2007. This legislation will assist our soldiers when they return home with opportunities and information about starting a small business.

More than a million and a half men and women have answered the call to serve their country since 2001. They interrupted their careers, put their families economic security at risk, and face big personal challenges upon returning home.

I recently visited Iraq and Afghanistan. That trip gave me an even greater appreciation for the significant sacrifices our soldiers must make and must cope with for the rest of their lives. If our soldiers faced mortal danger every day abroad, let us help them have economic security when they return home.

It isn't just the veteran who makes the sacrifice, their families do as well: their parents, their spouses, their children, girlfriends and boyfriends and siblings. They give up so much in defense of our country.

It is our job, as Members of Congress, to make sure that our Nation lives up to its commitment to our veterans. It is a simple pact we have made with our troops—and one we are obligated to fulfill: after they have sacrificed to serve our country on the battlefield, we must do all we can to serve them here at home. The cost of any war must include caring for the warrior.

This legislation helps our veterans get started with business opportunities in their communities. It does so by providing grants, information services, and personal assistance to help veterans evaluate business opportunities; increasing the number of veteran business outreach centers around the country, and encouraging further assistance to women veterans.

Countless soldiers are returning from their tours of duty with new confidence and skills developed during their time in the military. This SBA program will help to ensure that those new abilities are put to good use when they return to civilian life.

This bill because it is the right thing to do for those who have given so much but also because it will directly impact Vermont and every state around the country. Ninety-seven percent of all Vermont firms are small businesses. My office has been involved in helping the Vermont Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) run business readiness classes for veterans. The Vermont SBDC is the primary small business assistance resource sought out by small business clients, lenders, government agencies and other economic development partners. The Vermont SBDC is the keystone in a statewide business assistance infrastructure tying together all appropriate resources and serving as a "one-stop" gateway and clearinghouse to serve small businesses' needs. Drawing on collaborative relationships among service providers, Vermont SBDC leverages economic development resources of all kinds for advancement of small businesses, growing the local economy.

Roughly 6 percent of deployed soldiers have small businesses depending on them. Veterans face a number of unique challenges, from increasing lengths and number of deployments overseas, to translating their military experience into business ventures. Yet, there is a lack of substantive programs to help these businesses survive through deployment, and to assist veterans returning home. This program is designed to meet current, real-time needs of people on active duty in business who now need to leave for protracted periods, or for those who have just come back and really "need" to do something new with their lives.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2366.

A TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS
MCARTHUR NELSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to the work and achievements of Douglas McArthur Nelson. Douglas, a Brooklyn transplant, is a native of Eau Gallie, FL. Upon his arrival to Brooklyn, he attended Junior High School in East New York, Brooklyn, and was later recruited by New York City Public School's legendary football coach Moe Finkelstein at Thomas Jefferson High. Douglas was the star running back on the varsity team that won the P.S.A.L. He was later a starting fullback for 3 years at the University of Iowa.

Douglas McArthur Nelson began his career in law enforcement for the Iowa Department of Corrections and Parole. He transferred those skills to Crisis Intervention, Addiction Counseling, and Juvenile Habilitation. He was able to enhance his talent for leadership during his 20 years of active involvement in church and community services in both Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.

Douglas McArthur Nelson returned to Brooklyn 16 years ago and has continued to fulfill his mission for human services in Crisis Intervention, Addiction and Substance Abuse Counseling, Employee Mentoring, Coaching and Leadership Development for a large treatment facility.

Douglas McArthur Nelson currently serves as the Program Director for the Berean Community Family Life Center, BCFLC, which was created as a non-profit community development corporation by the historic Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn.

Douglas McArthur Nelson left the private sector in July of 2006 to work for the Berean Baptist Church's First Lady Angela Farr Griffin, the Executive Director of the BCFLC and Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr., who is the President of American Baptist Churches, Pastor of Berean and President of the BCFLC's Board of Directors. Douglas is the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry of Berean Baptist Church and is active with the Men's Caucus for the Unity Democratic Club.

Douglas McArthur Nelson is strong, gentle and devoted husband to Lynn and father of Ruperta, Denise, and Adrian. His 5-year-old granddaughter has lovingly dubbed him "the weakest link." He is an avid gardener, poet, and artist.