

performs annually on tour throughout the United States, Europe and Africa and on campus. In May, 2005 Professor Hines arranged for the choir to travel to Nigeria, West Africa for a 15-day tour of seven cities. Its eclectic musical taste and resplendent audience appeal thrilled the standing-room only audiences everywhere they performed.

Madam Speaker, also in 2005, I am proud to announce that the University Choir was featured at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference Gospel Extravaganza under the inspiring directorship of Professor Hines. The performance was amazingly captivating.

In 1985, Professor Hines took advantage of an opportunity for his Choir to tour the Grand Bahamas Islands. Enthusiastic audiences received them everywhere they sang. In 1980, Governor James B. Hunt invited the University Choir to perform for his historic second consecutive inauguration as Governor of North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, although Professor Hines is a native of Alabama, North Carolina has adopted him as their own. He is an accomplished baritone soloist, a skilled adjudicator, clinician, and conductor. In past years he has conducted the Wayne County North Carolina School Spring Music Festival, the Junior High Honors Chorus as well as the Senior High Women's Chorus at the Summer Music Camp of the University of Wisconsin. Professor Hines has left lasting impressions with his outstanding performances with the North Carolina Junior High All-State Chorus, and with his contribution to the Edgecombe County Choral Festival.

Locally, Professor Hines has directed the Evelyn A. Johnson Community Singers for the past 25 years. The Singers are especially known for their annual rendering of Handel's Messiah, a free performance held for the public at various sites. For over 10 years Professor Hines has been invited to conduct a week-long workshop and concert of the Interstate Church Musicians and Choir Guild. Over 80 church musicians from throughout the Roanoke-Chowan area participate each year.

Madam Speaker, Professor Hines' accomplishments are limitless and I value this rare opportunity to share this abbreviated account with my Colleagues. On behalf of my Colleagues and the great state of North Carolina, I wish Professor Hines God's blessings as he continues to share his extraordinary talents with our great Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO POLICE OFFICER  
ANTHONY SAUNDERS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Anthony Saunders of the 79th Precinct. Officer Saunders was born in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn and is the second of 4 children. Officer Saunders has been married for 13 years to his wife Michelle, and from that union they have 3 beautiful children.

Officer Saunders was appointed to the New York City Police Department on July 5, 1989. He was assigned to the field training unit in

South East Queens where he performed foot patrol duties within the confines of the 100th, 101st, 105th, 106th, and 113th Precincts. In October of 1991, he was transferred to the 45th Precinct in the Bronx where he served as a patrolman on the midnight shift for approximately 2 years with "above standards" evaluations. In 1993, Officer Saunders was transferred back home to the 79th Precinct where he has performed numerous duties to include the Conditions Unit, the Grand Larceny Auto Unit, the Domestic Violence Unit, and the Street Narcotics and Anti-Crime Units.

After 12 years on patrol in the heart of Bedford Stuyvesant, Officer Saunders was assigned to the Community Affairs Unit and for the past 3 years his experience and expertise has resulted in improving community relations by helping to encourage and foster a strong partnership between the community and the 79th Precinct. Officer Saunders collaborates with local officials; community-based organizations, schools, and houses of worship in Bedford Stuyvesant. He plays an active role in organizing parades, demonstrations, rallies, and various community events.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to recognize that Officer Saunders has been instrumental in closing the gap between the community and the New York City Police Department.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding officer of the New York City Police Department.

A TRIBUTE TO AARON S. BELL

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Aaron S. Bell, a recent high-school graduate, and role model. He graduated from Springfield Gardens High School in Springfield Gardens, Queens, New York in 2006, with honors. He was on the Principal's Honor Roll for 4 consecutive years. He was also selected for the Principal's Leadership Program. Mr. Bell served as a Peer-Regents Tutor. He was a 2-year 3rd Grade Teacher for a day, under the Junior Achievement Program, and was a major contributor to the formation of the SAT Prep and Peer Math Clubs. He considers his greatest high school achievement was graduating with a "Regents-Advanced Diploma."

Mr. Bell was born on December 22, 1988 at Long Island Hospital College in Brooklyn, New York, to proud parents, Steven and Robin Bell. He is their third child, and the sibling of Steven L. Bell Jr., and Shakima M. Bell.

As of December 22nd, Mr. Bell will hit the 19-year mark, as a member of the New Canaan Baptist Church. He has served on the Junior Usher Board/Usher Board #2, and as a student of the Christian Education Ministry. He has also been a faithful member of the Sunbeam, Junior Male Chorus, RJL Youth choirs, and the Youth Praise Team.

Mr. Bell has participated in and remains active as a member of the All Starts Project, Inc. He began as a student in the Development School for Youth sector, a corporate business training program, which provides corporate hands-on-training by business executives and professionals.

After graduating in the Fall of 2005, from the Development School for Youth, Mr. Bell became an active volunteer and participant in many corporate-sponsored luncheons, galas and conferences, as a host to some of New York's Top Corporation executives, such as Ernst & Young, Credit Suisse, Merrill Lynch, Winston & Strawn LLP, Latham & Watkins LLP, and many others. Currently, he is a new staff member of the Productions Team for the All Stars Project, Inc.'s Talent Show Network.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Aaron S. Bell for his achievement as a young scholar, and dedicated community youth leader.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this very industrious individual.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. W. RUTH  
WHITNEY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the very distinguished, Dr. W. Ruth Whitney. Dr. Whitney is married to the Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Whitney, and is the First Lady of the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. She is also a proud mother and grandmother.

Dr. Whitney received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the New York State University at Old Westbury. She earned her Masters Degree in Social Work from Adelphi University, located in Garden City, Long Island.

Dr. Whitney is an active community servant in the borough of Brooklyn, where she resides. Dr. Whitney's outstanding leadership propelled her to the forefront of movements that promote positive change and development to enhance the quality of life in many diverse communities throughout the Nation. New York Newsday named her "Outstanding Personality of the Week" in 1992. She received the "Woman of Distinction Award", presented to her by New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery in 2001. She establishes programs for Christian education and Christian leadership throughout the Nation.

Dr. Whitney is the Assistant Dean of the Interdenominational Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; Vice-President (Kings County), Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Fellowship of Eastern Baptist Association; First-Vice President, New York State Interdenominational Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; Vice President, Empire State Convention Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; Member of the National Black Alcoholism Council, Inc.; Member of Lefferts Gardens Civic Association of Brooklyn, NY, Inc; and Co-Instructor for class: "Marriage & Family for Couples", at the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. Dr. Whitney is also Dean, Empire Baptist State Convention Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; President, Eastern Baptist Association of Ministers' Wives & Widows, Fellowship of New York; President, Baptist Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows of Greater New York & Vicinity; Assistant Secretary, Empire State Convention Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; Founder, New Members Ministry, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY;