

populations who often go without health care due to geographic isolation and economic or social status. Local AHECs work tirelessly to ensure that no Floridian is without timely access to quality health care, and last year alone more than 1,700 medical students from the USF AHECs provided more than 215,000 hours of care to an estimated 350,000 patients.

Not only have AHECs have supported the education of future professionals, but they have supported more than 400,000 health professionals caring for the medically underserved with programs designed to enhance their skills, knowledge, and quality of care. AHECs have awarded 1.1 million contact hours of continuing education programs to current health professionals. AHECs extend the academic resources of health professions training programs into rural and medically underserved communities throughout the United States by creating partnerships between the health science centers that train health professions students, residents, faculty, and practitioners and the local providers that care for our nation's increasing number of medically underserved citizens.

Madam Speaker, through community-based interdisciplinary training programs, AHECs identify, inspire, recruit, educate, and retain a health care workforce committed to underserved populations. To that end, I would like to take this opportunity to officially recognize National AHEC Week, March 23 through March 27, 2009.

A TRIBUTE TO GLORIA COOKE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gloria Cooke, President of the AARP National Organization and community activist.

Gloria Cooke was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Gloria attended Franklin K. Lane High School, and completed her education at Kingsborough College where she majored in computer technology.

Ms. Cooke attends Mt. Zion Baptist Church faithfully, under the direction of Pastor Dan Craig.

Gloria was a care giver for her mother and brother before they expired.

Gloria's love of her life is her only son Charles.

Ms. Cooke entered into the work force and became a leader in the banking industry for a period of 36 years. She worked for Bankers Trust for 25 years, and Chase Manhattan. She also is a member of Penn Wortman Senior Center. Gloria is a community activist and enjoys volunteering to help her community, neighbors and friends to help them in anyway she can.

Ms. Cooke is the President of the AARP National Organization; she was given the position in the AARP Chapter which was founded by Director of Penn Wortman and Pink Senior Center Liz Sanders. The AARP Chapter serves the East New York community.

Her favorite hobby is travelling to the Caribbean Islands at least three times a year which inspired her to become a travel agent.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA NICOLE HOWARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Barbara Nicole Howard, a Health Department Representative and distinguished public servant.

Barbara Howard is a Health Department Representative for the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Public Health Detailing Program. The Public Health Detailing Program works with primary health care providers to improve patient care around key public health challenges in the areas of NYC with healthcare disparities. Ms. Howard provides medical providers with clinical tools and patient education materials via one-on-one relationships to improve health outcomes in the community.

Barbara Nicole Howard was born in the Bronx, New York to Henry and Barbara Howard. The family moved to Staten Island shortly thereafter due to the need for a larger apartment and the 1970's housing shortage. Through the years, she volunteered at soup kitchens, homeless shelters, HIV/AIDS programs, special needs children's organizations, and hospitals; developing a heart for servicing the community.

Ms. Howard obtained a Bachelor's of Art Degree in Sociology and a minor in Urban Affairs from Hunter College. After completing her studies, she worked in Brooklyn for the Legal Aid Society as a Forensic Social Work Assistant finding alternatives to incarceration for clients. She was then afforded the opportunity to work with the NYC Health and Hospital Corporation's Discharge Planning Program at Riker's Island for the mentally ill population as a Discharge Planner. She also had several promotions and worked as Supervisor of Discharge Planning / Community Liason. Ms. Howard enrolled in Baruch College's Executive Master of Public Administration program. Afterwards, Ms. Howard recommitted to public service as Provider Liason for the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Early Intervention Program. After three years with the Early Intervention Program, Ms. Howard devoted herself to public health and began to work with the Public Health Detailing Program.

Although, she continues to live in Staten Island, Ms. Howard has made Brooklyn her second home. She works, worships, and has many friends within Brooklyn. Ms. Howard is currently an active member of the Brooklyn Tabernacle in downtown Brooklyn.

A TRIBUTE TO VANESSA HUGHES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vanessa Hughes.

Vanessa Hughes was born August 17, 1959 to Rose and Leonard Reid Sr. She is the middle of five children and has two surviving brothers, Jeffrey and Bruce, one sister Shelissa, and a deceased brother Leonard Jr.

Ms. Hughes attended neighboring schools, P.S. 260 and JHS 211. She has worked to support her community throughout her life. Known for her energy and enthusiasm, Ms. Hughes is the founder of the Community Based Operations for All Neighborhoods, a community civic group whose motto is "Building Better Communities One Block at a Time."

The need for community, social, recreational and education programs was the structure for the implementation of C.B.O.F.A.N. A strong advocate of children oriented activities and programs, Ms. Hughes implemented an "Annual Mardi Gras Health and Awareness" event which brought local programs such as the public library, Office of Environmental Management and Parks Department to the community to explain the services they offer.

As the current Grievance Committee Chairperson of the Breuklen Tenant Association, Ms. Hughes acts as a liaison between the community residents and the management of the Breukelen Housing Development by keeping abreast of the needs of the community and forwarding them to the proper people to have them resolved.

As a community activist, Ms. Hughes can be found working with the Breukelen Community Head Start Program, Breukelen Community Center, elected officials, neighborhood businesses and her C.B.O.F.A.N. to ensure that the needs of her community are met for the betterment of the community.

Please join me Madam Speaker in recognizing Vanessa Hughes' passion for public service.

A TRIBUTE TO LEORA KEITH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Leora Keith.

Mrs. Leora Keith is a widow and mother of four biological daughters. She is the adoptive mother of two and a past foster mother. She is a retired early childhood educator who served thirty seven years with the New York City Board of Education. Mrs. Keith encouraged countless children and their families, as she guided them towards successful careers.

Mrs. Keith has been a member of the Upper Room Full Gospel Baptist Church for more than thirty years, where she has served on the Usher Board, as church clerk, worked with the youth and sings in the Senior Choir. Through her work with her congregation, she has inspired many with her commitment to family, community and church.

Mrs. Keith is affiliated with the Order of Eastern Star under the Star of Bethlehem Grand Chapter where she held the titles of Matron and a Deputy Grand Matron. She is a lifelong member of the National Council of Negro Women Inc., where she served as Vice President of the Brooklyn section. A member of the Brooklyn Reading Association, The New York Alliance of Black School Educators, Board member of the Nascent Victorian Place Cultural Center, which is a non-profit multi-cultural center, dedicated to building links between communities. She is currently President of Tompkins Houses Resident Association Inc., where she partners with the Fresh Air