

worked as an advocate for young African American men who are pursuing higher education, ensuring that they have the necessary resources available to them. In 1958, Ms. Hastings received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia. Additionally, in 1963 she was awarded her Master's degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education from Florida A&M University. She has consistently utilized her knowledge, experience, and education working with families living in depressed areas as well as children with special needs.

Madam Speaker, on September 10, 2010, Ms. Delores Hastings will be celebrating her 75th birthday with her son Jody, her cat Tranz, and her service dog Dolce. It is my distinguished honor to wish her a very happy 75th birthday.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF EDITH L. BORNN, A FEMALE LEGAL PIONEER, ENVIRONMENTAL VISIONARY, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND HUMANITARIAN

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2010*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge a visionary female pioneer, Edith L. Bornn, Esquire, who has left the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands an enduring legacy, through her trendsetting in the legal field; her unending diligence in fighting for the protection of the environment; and, decades of humanitarian contributions.

Edith L. Bornn was born to a prominent merchant family on the island of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. She received a public education, graduating from the Charlotte Amalie High School before attending Barnard College and the Columbia University School of Law. She was one of five women in her law school graduating class.

For two years after finishing law school, she served as a librarian, legal research secretary and a Goodwill Ambassador for the Caribbean nations, on behalf of the Caribbean Commission, on the island of Trinidad. Returning to her home on St. Thomas, she served as a U.S. District Court Law Clerk to District Court Judge Herman E. Moore, before opening her own law firm in 1955. Attorney Edith Bornn was the first female to open a private law practice in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Her law practice specialized in family law, residential and commercial real estate, zoning law, probate, wills, and trusts. More than half a century later, the Bornn Law Firm continues its excellent representation in these fields of law.

The entire community of St. Thomas was most attentive to this audacious move by a young woman, competing in a small but powerful bastion of men; however, much to everyone's surprise, the established men of the legal profession were often found going to her office on Nye Gade for consultations. Her success had an immediate galvanizing effect on the women of the Virgin Islands. Edith Bornn led by example, in unequivocally demonstrating that gender was not a barrier and that women had an equal right to pursue their dreams and aspirations. It is not surprising that she was called the Matriarch of the Virgin

Islands Bar Association, an organization she helped to establish.

Edith Bornn was also a strong advocate for government accountability. She became a founding member of the Virgin Islands' League of Women Voters which electrified and energized women in the Virgin Islands, a quarter of a century before Women's Liberation became the issue in American life. The League began the practice of summoning and questioning political aspirants on their platform agenda. It also indirectly forced a dialogue for the aspirants to articulate their thoughts on various matters affecting the territory, the nation, and the world. The League has become an institution today and appearing before the League is a rite of passage for every Virgin Islands politician.

As a result, this political passage became a harbinger, in that the then prevailing custom of soap box oratory, in the Market Place and Emancipation Gardens, ended; and political parties, their organizations, and conventions began to achieve more prominence in Virgin Islands life. Attorney Bornn served as President for the League for several terms; she was a director of the National League of Women Voters for many years; and also served as Chair of its International Relations Committee. Attorney Bornn represented the United States at women's conferences around the world, helping them enter civic and political activity to direct public policy, through the International Federation of Women Lawyers and the World Peace Through Law Center. In the 1960s she was active in politics and participated in the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City.

Attorney Bornn was a pioneer in the field of environmental law, decades before the environment became today's cause célèbre. Attorney Bornn diligently fought to protect the pristine beauty of the Virgin Islands from runaway unplanned development; and, later served in key roles in the Save the Long Bay Coalition and the Virgin Islands Conservation Society.

While on the island of Trinidad working for the Caribbean Commission, she met Andrew Bornn, whom she later married. They had three sons, who followed their mother's stellar example. Edith Bornn was an encouraging and supporting mother of her sons' athletic and scholastic activities. Her sons carry on aspects of her legacy through their activism, dedicated public service, and legal representation. Her husband predeceased her by a decade.

The Territory of the Virgin Islands has lost a giant, whose intellect, influence, and presence will be deeply missed. May she rest in peace.

LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2010*

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, the August work period is a time for Members of the House to listen to their constituents back home. Last year, I was greatly inspired by the many people in Alabama and throughout our country who came out to publicly express their views on health care and other pressing national issues. It is my hope that the people will

be just as engaged this year. During the America Speaking Out meetings I held in Alabama last week, my constituents shared their concerns about the weak economy and the direction that Washington is headed with excessive spending and borrowing, high taxes, and dangerous deficits. My constituents know that our nation is on an unsustainable path and are worried about what that means for their children and grandchildren. This month, we all need to listen closely to what the American people are saying in town halls, corner cafes, and online democracy initiatives like America Speaking Out. The strength of our country has always been our people, and we in Congress would be wise to listen and learn in order to guide our proceedings when the session resumes.

RECOGNIZING 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF 19TH AMENDMENT GRANTING VOTING RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2010*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in recognition of the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment of the U.S. Constitution on August 26th, granting voting rights for women. This day, also known as Women's Equality Day, marks a significant milestone in American history. I know that my colleagues join me in acknowledging the contributions that women have made to America and the importance of this landmark in history.

The 72-year struggle of suffragists, from the First Women's Rights Convention in July 1848 to the passage of the 19th amendment on August 26, 1920, bears witness to the sacrifice and dedication of the leaders of the early Women's Rights Movement.

We must thank Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and the other courageous women who organized the First Women's Rights Convention in 1848. Their early advocacy for voting rights, protection from domestic violence, the right to own property, and other social reforms that promote equality are the same goals that we seek for women today. The "Declaration of Sentiments" speech that Mrs. Stanton delivered at the July convention called for "all men and women" to be recognized as created equal under the law. This is a sacred trust that we must continue to support.

On August 26, 1970—the 50th anniversary—the National Organization of Women (NOW) called upon women nationwide to strike for equality in protest of the fact that women still did not have equal rights. In New York City, 50,000 women marched down Fifth Avenue to demonstrate in support of the women's movement, as did women in 40 other cities across America that day. U.S. Representative Bella Abzug addressed the New York City crowd and was instrumental in getting Congress in 1971 to officially recognize August 26th as Women's Equality Day.

In 1776, Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams, sent an urgent message to her husband who was a delegate to the second Continental Congress. She stated, "In the new