

Caribbean roots. She was the first African American woman elected to Congress and the first woman to run for the Democratic presidential nomination.

My political involvement began as a volunteer for her historic presidential campaign in 1972. Through her mentorship, she strengthened my interest in issues important to the African Diaspora both here in the U.S. and abroad.

During Caribbean American Heritage Month, we recognize the important contributions of people like Shirley Chisholm, as well as Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poitier, Wyclef Jean, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Harry Belafonte, Roberto Clemente, Celia Cruz—and yes, Representatives DONNA CHRISTENSEN, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, YVETTE CLARKE, FREDERICA WILSON, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, PEDRO PIERLUISI—and many other persons of Caribbean descent who have helped shape this country.

Caribbean American Heritage Month reminds us of the large and diverse constituencies of Caribbean Americans in our nation, and provides us with an opportunity to celebrate and share in the rich culture of the Caribbean American community through showcases of Caribbean art, festivals, concerts, and film.

In my own district of Oakland, California, individuals and organizations celebrate the rich heritage of people of Caribbean descent through musical concerts and family picnics.

In addition to presenting us with an occasion to celebrate the legacy of Caribbean Americans, this month also provides us an opportunity to strengthen our long-term partnership with nations of the Caribbean community.

From trade, energy, and immigration to disaster preparedness and the challenging issues around HIV/AIDS, we have critical challenges we must face with our Caribbean neighbors. These challenges are regional in nature, so we must confront them together and in partnership.

One issue of the region which continues to deserve special mention is last year's earthquake in Haiti. At the international donors' conference in March 2010, fifty-eight donors pledged over \$5.5 billion to support Haiti's Action Plan for Recovery and Development. According to the United Nations, as of March of this year, only about 37 percent of these funds have been disbursed. This is unacceptable. If we are to break the cycle of disaster—emergency relief—disaster in which Haiti has been trapped for many years, we must act with the same sense of urgency in reconstruction as we did immediately following the quake.

It is critical that any long-term reconstruction and development agenda is Haitian-led, that Haitian civil society and the Haitian Diaspora play a central role, and that such an agenda focuses on building the capacity of the Haitian Government to provide basic services and protect the social, civil, and political rights of its people.

Only by empowering Haitians to rebuild their own lives and their own country will we truly "rebuild differently."

I would like to end by stating that although the Caribbean faces many challenges, we understand that we must face them together. Despite the often turbulent history between the United States and Caribbean countries, our ties cannot be pinned down to geography alone, or economics alone, or even history alone. The region continues to shape us as Americans as much as we here continue to shape the Caribbean.

So I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure to honor our nation's Caribbean American community and the rich gifts that they have given and continue to give this country.

Let us continue to celebrate the rich diversity of this nation of immigrants and recognize that it will forever be the great blessing and strength of our country.

RECOGNIZING GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FOR ENLISTING TO SERVE OUR COUNTRY AS MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of fifty-one high school seniors in Camden County for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of these fifty-one seniors, twenty one have joined the Marine Corps. They are Nicholas Iezzi, Ryan Bordi, Edwin Rivera, Alexander Bonilla, Alan Rivas, Michael Colman, Brandon Piazza, Skipper Schilling, Steven Serrno, Carlos Rivera, Alexander Benitez, Khiry Rowley, John Gibson, Danielle Gregg, Matt Falcone, Tim Anstotz, Ricky Chan, Kianya Eldridge, John Hines, Allison Wright and Andrew Cipolone.

Thirteen have joined the Army. They are Christopher Gunning, Sean Barger, Eric Martinez, Joshua Ryan, Daniel Buscio, Raven Minerva, Jamir Taylor, Christopher Robinson, Dominic Massimo, Derek Hoinkis, Aaron Brown, Stephen Gracia and Indeo Ragsdale.

Six have joined the Navy. They are Taylor Cocuzza, Michael Papapietro, John Feldman, Reinaldo Pacheco, Redman Miles-Ruiz, and Shawn Daley.

Five have joined the New Jersey Army National Guard. They are Matthew Krevetski, Valerie Kibler, Desmond Taylor, Luis Barats and Scott Arons.

Four have joined the Air Force. They are Patrick Covalleski, Destern Winkler, Steven Deleon and Brian Jurek.

Two have joined the New Jersey Air National Guard. They are Shaun Feuson and Francisco Moran.

All of the fifty-one seniors will be recognized at the "Our Community Salutes of South Jersey" ceremony on the evening of June 2nd, 2011.

As June unfolds, these young men and women will celebrate graduation with their fel-

low classmates. While many of their peers will prepare to move onto college, vocational school and other endeavors, the aforementioned young men and women will enter a life of service to defend our Nation and its ideals.

I would like to offer my personal thanks to these brave young men and women. They have chosen a commendable path of service to our Nation, and with excellent education and steady encouragement, they will be able to successfully meet any challenges they face in the field, and in life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable dedication to our country these young adults have shown by their decision to enlist in our Armed Services. We owe all of our service members—past, present and future—our deepest gratitude; and we must never forget to recognize the courage and valor of those who choose to serve our Nation and who are committed to freedom.

HONORING LINDY BOGGS ON HER 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy of an exceptional public servant, Lindy Boggs. The former Congresswoman and Ambassador celebrated her 95th birthday earlier this year.

As the first women elected to Congress from Louisiana, Lindy Boggs served as a Member of the House of Representatives for 17 years. However, her political involvement and dedication to public service began long before that election. Lindy Boggs was greatly involved in the political campaigns and Congressional work of her late-husband, Hale Boggs. Following his presumed death in 1973, Lindy Boggs was elected to his seat and went on to represent the 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana with distinction. Congresswoman Boggs helped cofound the Congressional Women's Caucus and played an instrumental role in creating the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. Known for compassion and kindness, Lindy Boggs was a leader in the halls of Congress, and served as a strong proponent of economic and social equality for women and girls.

Following her retirement from Congress, Lindy Boggs went on to serve as Ambassador to the Vatican. Throughout her career, Lindy Boggs has remained extremely dedicated to her family. The success of her children is a testament to that dedication.

Although I did not have the honor of serving in the House with Congresswoman Boggs, her leadership and legacy have left their mark for every woman in Congress. Lindy Boggs has served this country with honor and I wish her well on the occasion of her 95th birthday.