

IN HONOR OF ELAINE DAVID

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2012*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Elaine David comes to us from Nova Scotia when her parents moved here to relocate in Mount Vernon where she graduated from high school, and by taking weekend and evening courses while working, she also graduated from Elizabeth Seton College.

As a hobby, she and her sister-in-law took classes in floral design and with the encouragement of her family, opened her own flower shop.

Elaine carried over that dedication into her community life. She is a devoted member of the Macedonian Baptist Church of Mount Vernon, a past member of the Black Women's Political Caucus of Westchester, and a member of several floral trade associations. She has received awards from Westchester School for Special Children, the Westchester Chapter of the National Association of Negro Professional Women's Club, the Empire State Funeral Directors Association and the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce.

For more than two decades Elaine David has served her community and the people in it faithfully and with devotion. I am happy to join with the Women's Civic Club of Nepperhan in honoring her for this dedication and thank her for all she has given.

HONORING COLONEL GEORGE D.  
BURROW

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2012*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a decorated war veteran who has made countless sacrifices for our great nation. Retired Colonel George D. Burrow, an American hero, has received numerous medals and recognitions for his unwavering service.

Colonel Burrow was born on May 6, 1932 in Port Arthur, Texas. He began his military career in 1950, when he joined the Texas National Guard. By 1958, he graduated from Officer Candidate School as a Distinguished Military Graduate with an Army commission. Shortly after becoming an officer, Mr. Burrow became airborne and aviator qualified.

Colonel Burrow served five tours overseas during times of crisis, including in Germany, Korea and Vietnam. During these conflicts, Mr. Burrow built the reputation of a genuinely modest, superior warrior that executed his missions with phenomenal efficiency and brilliance.

One of the many examples of Burrow's impressive leadership was his guidance over the Bravo Troop of the famed 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry during the Vietnam War. Burrow commanded the 27 Huey helicopters of Bravo Troop and the legendary group of choppers acquired the nickname—"Burrow's Barbarians." Bravo Troop accounted for more than 2,000 confirmed enemy kills between April 1967 and February 1968.

Colonel Burrow demonstrated unparalleled bravery and perseverance during battle. He was shot down a total of 13 times in Vietnam. When asked about how he managed to survive these seemingly hopeless events, he doesn't boast of his courage and inordinate ability to lead. Instead, Burrow praises his fellow service men that courageously fought alongside him and often times rescued Colonel Burrow and his men.

Colonel George Burrow retired after 39 years of service to the United State of America; his medals include the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Crosses (3rd Award), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (2nd Award), Air Medal (34th Award), Purple Heart (31st Award), DOD Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Master Army Aviator Wings, Parachute Badge, and Joint Chief of Staff Badge. Furthermore, to continue the remembrance of Burrow's service, he was inducted into the Infantry Hall of Fame in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, Retired Colonel George Burrow celebrated his Eightieth Birthday on May 6th, 2012 and it is a great honor for me to recognize an American hero on this day. I will conclude this account of Colonel Burrow's selfless accomplishments by asking my colleagues to join me in reflecting on, and recognizing him, as one of America's greatest men.

IN HONOR OF JAMES L.  
SIMMONS, JR.

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

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*Monday, May 7, 2012*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, James L. Simmons, Jr., is a Yonkers native who has been giving back to his community for years. For many of those years he was owner/operator of a hair care salon in Yonkers while also serving as a community planner for affordable housing.

In 1999 Mr. Simmons started a partnership with the city of Yonkers to assist in developing affordable homes in distressed areas of southwest Yonkers. Under his leadership as Director of the Center for Urban Rehabilitation and Empowerment, CURE, as it is known, acquired numerous parcels of land in southwest Yonkers with the aid of the Bureau of Planning and Development.

With the land, Mr. Simmons, as general contractor, then obtained various grants and loans to complete two- and three-family homes. He acquired another parcel of land on which he built twelve condominium units and named the development after his late mother.

He had worked on numerous developments including the Waterfront Development Project Gazette Building, and he is now in the predevelopment stage of Cook's Landing, his largest project, which will be 77 affordable rental units.

Mr. Simmons has served on the Yonkers Community Advisory Committee and has received numerous awards for his achieve-

ments. He currently serves on the board of the Yonkers Community Action Program and is commissioner of the Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

I am proud to join with the Women's Civic Club of Nepperhan in honoring James Simmons for his outstanding work in developing and building homes for those who need them most.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFELIA  
RUDER'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE  
WITH THE CUBAN HEBREW CON-  
GREGATION OF MIAMI

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2012*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a remarkable woman who has meant so much to our South Florida community—Ofelia Ruder. Ofelia has dedicated her life in service to the Cuban Hebrew Congregation of Miami for the last 50 years, starting out as Secretary in 1962 and eventually becoming its Executive Director.

For the last half-century, Ofelia has been the cornerstone of the Cuban Hebrew Congregation in Miami Beach. Through her tireless work on behalf of the congregation she has become an influential leader and role-model, not just for the Cuban-Jewish community, but for South Florida as a whole.

What started out as a small group of Jewish Cuban families in 1961, many of whom having been forced to flee their home country for a second time, the Cuban Hebrew Congregation has become a dynamic and thriving institution that represents a cultural and educational epicenter for Judaism in South Florida. The Cuban Hebrew Congregation's community, "El Circulo," with Ofelia at the forefront, has been committed to outstanding service to the Jewish community. For more than half a century Ofelia has been actively engaging our entire community, committed to improving our South Florida community and instilling the importance of community service and unity among those around her.

In addition to her numerous accomplishments, Ofelia is a proud mother of two sons, Albert and Bernie, who have continued her legacy of public service and have become dedicated public servants themselves.

On behalf of "El Circulo" and the entire South Florida community, I wish to congratulate and thank Ofelia for her 50 years of service with the Cuban Hebrew Congregation. I expect to hear ever greater things yet from Ofelia and the Cuban Hebrew Congregation.

IN HONOR OF NICHELE JOHNSON  
AND BROTHER ARTHUR MUHAM-  
MAD

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2012*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Nichele Johnson and her husband Arthur Muhammad are continuing working for the youth of Mount Vernon and they raise four daughters of their own.