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A TRIBUTE TO DR. HEROLD SIMON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Dr. Herold Simon.

Dr. Herold Simon is the Medical Director of the East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center (ENYDTC). His responsibilities include policy-making, facility-wide planning, staff supervision and quality management; however, he sees his most important role as a clinician and an advocate for the medically-underserved and the financially-challenged communities he serves.

In 2002, Dr. Simon was instrumental in the creation of a kidney clinic at Kings County Hospital Center, where, initially, he was the sole attendant, providing patient care and education to nephrologists in training. Dr. Simon holds an appointment as Assistant Professor of Medicine at SUNY/University of Brooklyn at Downstate. In addition to his post as Vice President for Downstate Enterprises, Inc. Dr. Simon has steadily maintained a private practice in the Flatbush community since 1996, providing care in Nephrology and Internal Medicine.

Dr. Simon had also served as a member of the ADAP Clinical Subcommittee of the Advisory Council for the AIDS Institute and advisor to the Collegiate Science and Technology Program for the Borough of Manhattan Community College. In spite of his busy schedule, Dr. Simon continues to lecture on the molecular basis of hypertension and kidney disease as well as the promises and dilemmas of preventive health care.

In 2008, Dr. Simon was able to pilot the current New York City Health and Hospital Corporation (HHC) Diabetes Guidelines and revealed that a treatment algorithm coupled with nurse care-management can rapidly improve diabetes care. As a result the HHC leadership mandated the use of the guidelines by all HHC facilities. Dr. Simon was a leading figure in the implementation of Managed Care and Rapid HIV Testing within HHC.

Following the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, he traveled there to provide medical care to the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince. He continues to be very active in planning for the immediate and long-term medical needs of Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Simon for his extraordinary contributions to our Brooklyn community.

IN RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF YOLANDA SANCHEZ

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the loss of Yolanda Sanchez, a fierce

advocate for Puerto Rican youth and women in my district. It is with a heavy heart that I stand here today to memorialize her.

Ms. Sanchez was a pioneer in El Barrio and I am honored to have partnered with her over the years to improve the lives of Puerto Rican youth and women. She dedicated herself for over 50 years to the community, a community she was born and raised in. Ms. Sanchez began her career as a community organizer and advocate in 1962, when she was asked to join the staff of *Aspira*; a non-profit organization focused on educational advancement and further development of Puerto Rican and Hispanic youth. Ms. Sanchez never stopped working for children, women and the Puerto Rican community; she never took a day off from her goals.

A graduate of City College and the Columbia University School of Social Work, Ms. Sanchez continually sought out and worked in positions that maximized her positive impact on the community. These positions ranged from Executive Director of the Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs, to founding member and later president of the National Latina Caucus, to president of the East Harlem Council for Human Services, to Director of CUNY's office of Puerto Rican programs.

Ms. Sanchez was successful in playing a key role in the creation of three critical institutions for the underserved in El Barrio. The Taino Towers (section 8 housing), Boriken Health Center (primary care) and Casabe Houses (elderly housing) owe their existence partially to the tireless efforts of Ms. Sanchez.

This year Ms. Sanchez received the first Social Work Trailblazer Award from the Silberman School of Social Work in honor and recognition of her invaluable and tireless efforts made in the community. This award is an acknowledgment of a true heroine, feminist and champion of the downtrodden.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to please join me in celebrating and remembering the life of a fierce advocate for children, women and the disadvantaged. In her life, she truly made our community and thus the world a better place than how she found it. She will be missed by her loved ones, she will be missed by the community, but her spirit will carry on through philanthropy and in the spirit of others just like her.

A TRIBUTE TO SWAMY NAIDU SUNKARA

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Dr. Swamy Naidu Sunkara.

Dr. Swamy Naidu Sunkara served as a surgeon, and then trained as an anesthesiologist in Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. He completed a post graduate diploma in anesthesiology from the University of West Indies. He served as a Social Worker at St. James Infirmary in Montego Bay, Jamaica from 1979 to 1981. He also served at the Prince Elizabeth Hospital for destitute children in Port of Spain, Trinidad from 1981 to 1987. He gave free anesthesia for surgeries to children with cleft palates and club-feet, and other congenital ab-

normalities. He has worked as a volunteer physician at Trinidad and Tobago Sports Medicine. Dr. Swamy Naidu Sunkara received letters of commendation in Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Swamy Naidu Sunkara migrated to the United States in 1988. He successfully completed the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Health, and a Master's in Public Health with double majors in International Health and Emergency Medicine. He served as a published Researcher, and volunteer in the Children's Cancer Study Group in New York Medical College, and Westchester Medical Center at Valhalla, New York. He worked as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician in the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps. He received the Best Volunteer Award from Westchester County Executive and Best Volunteer Award from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of Newark, New Jersey in 1989.

He has also faithfully served as one of the Uncles for Foster Children of the Richard Allen Center on Life in New York City.

As a young student leader, he volunteered in various natural disasters including one in Divi Andhra Pradesh for several weeks directly under Mother Theresa. She always had kind words about him when she visited that area.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Swamy Naidu Sunkara for his extraordinary contributions to New York City's medical community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GEOFF DAVIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2012, I was not present for the evening vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 379—"yes"—S. 684, A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah.

On rollcall No. 380—"yes"—S. 404, A bill to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. MISBA ABDIN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Misba Abdin.

A second-generation Bangladeshi-American, Misba Abdin came to the United States in 1982. He was born in 1969 in Beani Bazar of the Sylhet District in Bangladesh. His family led the way for others who migrated to the United States of America very early from the Sylhet region. Currently a businessman by profession, he is the product of the New York City Public School system where he went from P.S. 214K to M.S./I.S. 171 and graduated from Frank K. Lane High School. He went on to study Business Management at Hunter College of the City University of New York. He is well read and can tell you the history of almost

any book that has been on the best seller list over the last 20 years.

In 1984, Mr. Abdin, along with his three brothers and five cousins, and the support of the people of the neighborhood, started the first soccer tournament in Ozone Park, Queens, for Bangladeshi youth. The tournament became very popular as it was the first in the Bengali community and, was an example followed by Bangladeshi youth living in the other cities. In the early 1990s Mr. Abdin spearheaded the formation of the Bangladesh Football Federation, mainly with the view to provide the Bengali Community in New York with an opportunity to gather and celebrate through soccer games. Following the success of this organization, many Bangladeshi-American socio-cultural organizations were later formed by others. The Bangladesh Football Federation was renamed as Bangladesh Sports Council in 2001. And, in 2005, Mr. Abdin was appointed General Secretary of the Sports Council, a position he still holds today.

As a Pioneer Community Activist in the Bengali Community, Mr. Abdin's main focus is developing Bangladeshi youth and sports through his organizing skills and vibrant youth programs. As President and CEO of the Bangladeshi American Community Development and Youth Sports, BACDYS, his main objective is to focus exclusively on low income housing, education, youth programs and family entertainment. He is a Board member of the Highland Park Local Development Corp., the 75th Precinct Community Council and a member of the program committee of the North Brooklyn YMCA, to name a few.

Mr. Abdin is a product of a retail family. His father was a successful retail businessman and growing up he worked in his father's store after school and on weekends. After spending a couple of years in Bangladesh he returned to the United States to manage the family Key Food Supermarket, which to this day, he still manages.

Mr. Abdin is married to Farida Yeasmin, and they are blessed with two daughters and two sons. He attends the Al-Aman Mosque that was founded by his father, Abdul Sattar, on Forbell Street in Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleges to join me in recognizing the important achievements and dedication to community of Mr. Misba Abdin.

A TRIBUTE TO TOMMY  
MERRIWEATHER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Tommy Merriweather. Mr. Merriweather is a public servant that has dedicated his life to protecting the community.

Tommy enlisted in the U.S Army after high school where from 1982 to 1988 he served in the Infantry division. During his eight year military career he traveled the world and he earned many awards.

On July 5, 1989, he joined the New York City Police Department. He was a committed employee and enjoyed working for the NYPD for twenty years. In December 1992, Officer Merriweather was promoted to the rank of Detective.

Detective Merriweather was a dedicated and effective undercover detective, performing dangerous work on a daily basis. On numerous occasions, Detective Merriweather cancelled scheduled vacation days so that he could make undercover buys crucial to the progress of ongoing cases. Detective Merriweather's life and safety have been placed in jeopardy on numerous occasions by the unpredictability of the undercover work he did. On July 9, 2009, he completed 20 years with the NYPD and retired as a Detective 1st grade.

Tommy has worked with the Boy Scouts since 2009 and is the first African-American Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 43 and of the Sagitokos District. He enjoys volunteering his time to work with the Scouts and helping them advance to become Eagle Scouts or be a part of the Order of Arrow. His troop enjoys outdoor camping. Tommy is always preparing for upcoming events and makes sure that everyone he talks to knows the good work being done by the Troop and Suffolk County Council of Boy Scouts.

Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize Tommy Merriweather for his extraordinary contributions to the Brooklyn community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on June 18, 2012 because I was attending a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 379 and No. 380.

A TRIBUTE TO LEO A. MORRIS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Leo A. Morris for his track record in public service and his commitment to charity.

Leo Morris was born in Colon, Panama to Louise and Irving Morris and is now a resident of Brooklyn. He is the only son in his family and has four sisters. He migrated to the United States in 1959. Leo was educated at Eastern District High School, Staten Island Community College (AA, 1975), and Barnard College (BBA, 1978). He began his career in the housing sector with the United States Trust Company after completing his studies. He went on to serve the City of New York's Department of Housing Preservation and Development in various offices within the agency for 30 years. During his tenure, he was a Real Property Manager in the Tenant Interim Lease Program, a Community Coordinator/Unit Chief in the Division of Relocation, and Deputy Director for Field Operations in the Emergency Housing Services Bureau. Leo was recognized as a dedicated and loyal employee, retiring in 2010.

Leo is a dedicated volunteer and finds time to enjoy life. He is Vice Chair of Tashia's

L.I.F.E., Inc., a charitable organization founded with the purpose of aiding, educating and assisting individuals citywide, who are experiencing difficulties while living with Lupus. Leo enjoys travelling, jazz, and trying out the diverse cuisines available all over Brooklyn. He is married to Leora Marie Morris, and is the proud father of three children, Michelle, Leah, and Natasha and a proud grandfather to Raphael, Damiere, Morgan, and Ryann.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Leo A. Morris for his successful career and continued work in community service.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. RAMANATHAN  
RAJU

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Ramanathan (Ram) Raju, MD, MBA, FACS, FACHE. He is the Chief Executive Officer for the Cook County Health & Hospital System (CCHHS) in Chicago, Illinois. CCHHS is the 3rd largest public health system in the country which oversees a comprehensive, integrated system with several parts; an acute care hospital with a Level 1 Trauma Center and a Community Hospital; a Regional Outpatient Center; a Correctional Healthcare Facility; an Outpatient Infectious Disease Center specializing in the treatment of HIV/AIDS; 16 community clinics and a public health department.

Prior to accepting the role of CEO of Cook County Health & Hospital System (CCHHS), Dr. Raju served as the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation's (HHC) Executive Vice President, Corporate Chief Operating Officer and Chief Medical Officer since 2006. During his tenure in health care spanning over 30 years, Dr. Raju served in various leadership positions in not for profit and public hospital systems in New York. He served as the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Medical officer at Coney Island Hospital and Senior Vice President and Director of Medical Education at Lutheran Health System.

Dr. Raju began his professional career in India. He attended Madras Medical College to earn his medical diploma and subsequently did a residency in Surgery culminating in a Master of Surgery degree. He underwent further training in England and was elected as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. He served in various capacities in England and subsequently underwent surgical training in the United States. Dr. Raju also did a fellowship in Vascular Surgery. He is Board Certified in Surgery and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He has held the position of Clinical Professor in multiple Medical Schools. He has been actively involved in teaching residents and medical students for many years, and won the Best Teacher award many times throughout his career. He is an avid researcher and has published many articles in peer review journals. Dr. Raju is also a physician executive, having obtained an MBA from the University of Tennessee and CPE from the American College of Physician Executives. He currently serves as an adjunct professor in Business Management at the University of Tennessee. He has held many positions in Healthcare Organizations, including