

June 21, 2001

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF MS. EVELYN B. NEPTUNE

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special person, my constituent, Mrs. Evelyn B. Neptune. I extend my sincere congratulations to Mrs. Neptune on her retirement after having served the Washington County Public Schools System, the Pettigrew Regional Library System and the Washington County Health Department for more than 32 years.

Mr. Speaker, a resounding expression of appreciation is indeed in order and is extended to Mrs. Neptune on behalf of the many citizens across Eastern, North Carolina whose lives have been touched by her dedication, compassion, and generosity. Mrs. Neptune has given so much of herself to make the burdens of life more manageable for so many.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Neptune is an exception to the idea that "it takes a village to raise a child." In 1965 she moved to her hometown of Plymouth, North Carolina with her children ages 3, 4, 5, and 6 as a single parent. She began working as a teaching assistant in the local elementary school where she started reading to her students during recess and after school simply because the children needed the extra help. This activity led to a recommendation for Mrs. Neptune to take a job as a library assistant with the Pettigrew Regional Library. Once there, Mrs. Neptune began reading to visiting classes of pre-school and elementary school students as a means of occupying them and introducing them to new books. This activity led to more formal reading sessions that were eventually expanded to the famous "Story Hour" programs that Mrs. Neptune began hosting, not only in all four of the public libraries in the region, but also in local senior citizen homes. Mrs. Neptune's stories which included elaborate puppet shows that she made up, became legendary throughout the region. In 1994, Mrs. Neptune accepted a position in the Washington County Health Department where she worked with the Maternity/Pre-Natal program and finally their Breast Cancer Screening program before retiring in 1997. In addition to this amazing career, Mrs. Neptune served on the Washington County School Board for eight years.

As a parent, Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that Mrs. Neptune's greatest accomplishment as a single parent is the fact that she sent all five of her children to college, and in some cases, beyond, including to Harvard Medical School, Harvard Business School, North Carolina Central University, University of South Carolina, Duke University and Princeton. Today, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Neptune is the proud parent of a physician and researcher who practices at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and two Vice Presidents, one who is employed with Bank of America and the other with the Washington Post Newspaper. The remaining two have enjoyed successful careers as a design engineer and an insurance administrator.

Mrs. Neptune is a true treasure; a gift beyond words. Her most enduring personal qual-

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ity is her boundless humility. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in paying tribute to one of the "world's best kept secrets", Mrs. Evelyn Neptune, with all of her noteworthy accomplishments. Thank you for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
STILL A REAL THREAT FOR
AMERICANS ABROAD

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring my Colleagues' attention to several recent events that once again highlight the threat of international terrorism faced by Americans around the world. On May 27, radical Muslim separatists in the Philippines kidnaped a group of twenty persons from a luxury resort, including three Americans. Reports indicate that one of these Americans was selected for execution by beheading to emphasize the rebel group's displeasure with government negotiations for the hostage's release. Though this barbaric act has not been confirmed, evidence is growing that the rebels' claim may be accurate.

In Yemen, FBI and Naval Criminal Investigative Service agents investigating the earlier terrorist attack last year on the American warship U.S.S. *Cole* were withdrawn after receiving a "specific and credible" threat against them. At the same time, some non-essential personnel have been withdrawn from the American embassy, and the U.S. embassy in Yemen has been put on a limited operations status.

Though the motivations behind these acts are complex, one thread ties them together. Some of these targets have been selected because they are Americans. We must not stand by idly while this threat exists. We should continue to work cooperatively with other nations around the globe to contain it, and at the same time, non-cooperative nations must be pressed to respect international laws and not support or encourage terrorism.

For several months now, the government of the People's Republic of China has been holding hostage about half a dozen U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Let's be perfectly clear about this. Government sponsored kidnaping is terrorism. It is no less dramatic or evil than what is happening in the Philippines or anywhere else that Americans or our residents or anybody else is being held against their will for political purposes.

The People's Republic of China has previously engaged in similar action. One year it was activist Harry Wu. Another time it was Wei Jingsheng. For years the Chinese dictatorship have been holding and releasing, and then holding and releasing Catholic clergy loyal to Pope John Paul II. Some of these hostages are eventually released, some permanently, some temporarily after they are leveraged on MFN, WTO, Taiwan or some other significant issue.

Let us also be clear that our State Department is on notice that we want our people back immediately and unconditionally. It

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should be made perfectly clear that the President has put on hold any consideration about his meeting with Chinese leaders until this happens. The Chinese government must understand that our people are not pawns for trade. First return our people and then we will talk about other things, such as trade.

A TRIBUTE TO MONIQUE
GREENWOOD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Monique Greenwood for her boundless spirit that has allowed her to become a successful businesswoman and give back to her community.

Monique, a native of Washington, D.C., is a magna cum laude graduate of Howard University. She is also an alumna of the Program for Developing Managers at Simmons Graduate School of Business.

Greenwood was recently appointed Editor-in-Chief of Essence Magazine, the country's leading magazine for African-American women. Since joining Essence in 1996, Monique has done stints as Executive Editor, Lifestyle Director, and Style Director. Prior to joining Essence, she held several senior positions with Fairchild Publications. Working for Fairchild, Monique started and headed Children's Business, the industry publication for children's fashion.

Monique has also been met with terrific success as a successful restaurateur. In 1995, she launched Akwaaba Mansion, an elegant bed-and-breakfast in the historic Bedford Stuyvesant Brooklyn community. Three years later, Monique and her husband, Glenn Pogue, opened Akwaaba Café, an elegant restaurant located just down the road from the inn. During the summer of 2000, Monique and Glenn unveiled their revitalization plan of a commercial block that they own in the Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood. Among the many stores lining the street is the quaint coffee house, Mirrors, which the couple own and operate.

In addition to being the author of a book with another set to be published soon, Monique co-founded and serves as national president of Go On Girl! Book Club, a literary society for African-American women.

Monique devotes much of her spare time to serving her community. She serves on several boards including the New York Urban League and Community Planning Board #3. She is the recipient of numerous honors, including a Points of Light Award from President George Bush.

Being a wife and mother is what Greenwood considers her most important and most rewarding role. She and Glenn have a nine-year-old daughter.

Mr. Speaker, Monique Greenwood has devoted her life to serving her community through entrepreneurship. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.