

New York State Assembly and in the House of Representatives. To my knowledge, we are the only two Democratic women from New York State to have that distinction.

Shirley Chisholm was a tireless advocate for social justice, and for that legacy our country will be eternally grateful.

As the first black woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress and to run for president of the United States, Shirley Chisholm threw open the doors to greater opportunities for women and minorities.

Along with Congresswoman Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan—also great women's rights leaders—Shirley Chisholm founded the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971. She also helped found the Congressional Black Caucus. Both of these organizations have served an important role in increasing representation of women and minorities in Congress.

I think it is important to note her life-long passion for improving educational opportunities for our Nation's youth, carrying on this tradition after her years in Congress by serving as the Purington Professor at Mount Holyoke College.

She also promoted increased assistance for urban areas, land rights for Native Americans, fair treatment of Haitian refugees, and more help for working-class families trying to make ends meet.

I join together with our Nation in honoring her life's work. Along with my colleagues, I co-sponsored a Congressional resolution today that would honor her life. This resolution will help ensure that her legacy and the positive momentum that she initiated through her work would continue, and I urge the House to bring this resolution up for a vote without delay.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE
SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay honor to Representative Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress and a candidate for the presidency in 1972, and who passed away on Saturday in Florida at the age of 80. Representative Chisholm was elected to Congress in 1968 and served until 1982. During her seven terms, she was an outspoken advocate for women and minorities and a riveting speaker who often called on Congress to be more responsive to the public.

During her first term in Congress, Representative Chisholm hired an all-female staff and spoke out for civil rights, women's rights, the poor, and against the Vietnam War. Throughout her tenure, she was a sought-after public speaker. Representative Chisholm was a cofounder of the National Organization for Women, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the National Women's Political Caucus. She was also the first black person to conduct a large-scale campaign for the presidency within the two-party system. As a candidate for the Democratic nomination in 1972, Representative Chisholm won 152 delegates before withdrawing from the race. When her ideological opposite, George Wallace, was shot, she surprised many by visiting him in the hospital.

Representative Chisholm was born Shirley Hill in New York on November 20, 1924, the oldest of four daughters of a Guyanese father and a Barbadian mother, who scrimped to

educate their children. Representative Chisholm lived on her maternal grandmother's farm in Barbados from age 3 to age 11, where she attended a British grammar school and picked up the clipped Caribbean accent that marked her speech. She went on to graduate cum laude from Brooklyn College and earn a master's degree from Columbia University. She began her career as the director of a day care center, then moved on to be an educational consultant for the New York City Bureau of Child Welfare. A long-time political activist, she became involved in Democratic politics and was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1964. During her tenure in the legislature, she proposed a bill to provide State aid to day-care centers and voted to increase funding for schools on a per-pupil basis.

After leaving Congress, Representative Chisholm was named to the Purington Chair at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts and also served as a visiting scholar at Spelman College. She received many honorary degrees, and her awards include Alumna of the Year, Brooklyn College; Key Woman of the Year; Outstanding Work in the Field of Child Welfare; and Woman of Achievement. She is the author of two autobiographical works, *Unbought and Unbossed* (1970) and *The Good Fight* (1973). Representative Chisholm was a pioneer in her time and her life should serve as an example of what can be accomplished if we have the courage and the strength to stand and fight for what we believe in. Her wit, wisdom, and leadership will be sorely missed.