

Earth Day celebrations serve as important reminders that we cannot take America's natural resources for granted. I urge my colleagues to join with me in doing our part to preserve, protect, and restore our planet's natural treasures.

HONORING WILLA LIVINGSTON CARSON

**HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true community leader, Willa Carson, who passed away on April 14, 2006, at age 80.

Willa was born in St. Petersburg, Florida, and moved to New York City after marrying Ernest Carson. While in New York, Willa earned her practical nursing license and worked for years in the health care industry. In 1972, Willa returned to Florida, retiring in Clearwater with her husband. However, Willa always needed to help others and was unfulfilled with retirement, so she undertook a second career teaching her passion for nursing to others.

Willa is best known for founding the Greenwood Community Health Resources Center, which she established in 1995. In the beginning, Greenwood operated out of two apartments. Today, this tremendous facility provides free treatment for nearly 600 individuals monthly who have no insurance and little money to afford health care costs. This is especially impressive because the Center only is open three days a week and all the doctors and nurses volunteer their time and expertise. While I am very familiar with the generosity of our nation's health care professionals, I know that this Center would not have been so successful without Willa's tireless efforts to help the poorest in our society.

Last month, the Greenwood Community Health Resources Center was appropriately renamed after Willa Carson. However, this was a tribute Willa did not want or welcome. Humbly, she wanted the Center to be about helping others, not personal glorification.

Willa does not need the Health Resources Center to be renamed after her for her impact on this community to be realized. Her generosity will be reflected on the faces of the countless people that she has helped. I hope her family will take solace in knowing that, in heaven, Willa's loving arms will be able to reach much further than Clearwater, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, our community truly is better off because of Mrs. Carson's contributions. Her leadership, life and legacy are truly an inspiration to everyone. I'm honored to have known her and to have called her a friend. May her memory be eternal!

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN BUSINESS MEDIA

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge American Business Media,

located in my congressional district, as it celebrates 100 years of service to business media and the American economy. ABM is the not-for-profit, global association for business information providers, including producers of magazines, Web sites and digital content, trade shows, newsletters, rich data, custom publishers, as well as conventions, conferences, seminars, trade shows. ABM's 300 member companies represent about \$20 billion in annual revenues and include such respected brands as Dow Jones, Forbes.com, The Economist, Farm Journal, Google, PC World, plus about 5,000 additional print and electronic titles, and 1,000 trade shows. Its mission is to help business information providers excel at their tasks and provide the best intelligence available to their readers—the captains of industry.

Established in 1906, ABM has a staff of specialists in governmental affairs, marketing, communications, promotion, education and finance. More than 20 active ABM member committees regularly assess developments in the industry and formulate the Association's positions on key issues. ABM hosts prestigious editorial and creative excellence awards programs, and initiates events that are focused on enhancing the knowledge of and providing services to members and the industry. ABM offers a first-rate opportunity for networking and creative peer interchange at these meetings, and brings together thousands of the best minds in business information each year.

I congratulate American Business Media on this momentous occasion and wish it continued success.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MACLAUGHLIN

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William MacLaughlin of Jamestown, NY, for his many years of dedicated public service to the City of Jamestown.

William MacLaughlin is a graduate of Empire State College with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a graduate of St. Bonaventure University where he received his Masters in Education; he was hired in 1972 as a Jamestown Police Officer.

During his time as a police officer, he served on the SWAT team, eventually becoming commander of the SWAT team in 1985. He has also served as a member of the bomb squad and a member of the color guard. Officer MacLaughlin rose through the ranks and was appointed Chief of Police for the City of Jamestown in 1995 by Mayor Richard Kimball, Jr., and was later appointed as the Director of Public Safety by Mayor Sam Teresi in 2000.

Officer MacLaughlin has received several departmental and community awards including the American Legion, Department of New York, Police Officer of the Year Award, Sons of the American Revolution, Medal for Heroism as well as the Medal of Valor. He is involved in several professional organizations as well as being very active in his community.

Officer MacLaughlin retired as Chief of Police on January 7, 2006. His dedication and

excellence in public service to the Jamestown community will be missed. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARLEM CONGREGATIONS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, INC.—FAITH AT WORK

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the eve of the twentieth anniversary of the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI) to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a perspective that recognizes the many achievements and accomplishments attributed to the HCCI.

Since 1986, the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI) has been devoted to bringing about positive change to the Harlem community as its coalition of churches remain vigilant in their efforts to revitalize the spirit of Harlem by continuing to work to improve conditions in the community.

The HCCI initiative started with a consortium of 16 ministers and has grown to a membership of nearly 100 churches. Their organization has constructed over 2,000 units of affordable housing, provided job development and training and established support groups to reinforce and assist with services to the community.

I have lived in Harlem my entire life and can attest to the success of the many initiatives undertaken by the HCCI. I have witnessed the collective conception of ideas that grew into plans that resulted in major improvements to the lives of the people of Harlem.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the achievements of the HCCI and I respectfully enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this perspective which serves to recognize the HCCI's noteworthy accomplishments as we approach the organizations' twentieth anniversary.

THE HARLEM CONGREGATIONS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, INC.: FAITH AT WORK

For the past two decades, the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI) has quietly, yet methodically, changed the physical landscape and the spiritual soul of the people of the Harlem community. HCCI was founded in 1986 as a consortium of 16 Harlem churches, whose pastors and congregants had long endured the surrounding urban decay. HCCI's first President was the late Bishop Preston R. Washington, Sr. The organization grew to an organization of more than 90 churches, mosques and a synagogue.

The organization began with a grassroots planning and organizing initiative. Harlem area churches raised \$100,000 which was matched by the Trinity Episcopal Church on Wall Street. A plan for the Bradhurst community was developed by working with the Harlem Urban Development Corporation, Columbia University's Urban Technical Assistance Project and the City College Architecture Center. That plan was eventually adopted by the City of New York as the Bradhurst Urban Renewal Area Plan. The Bradhurst area had such a high level of deterioration that the blight seemed almost incurable, with rampant crime, drug addiction, abnormally short life expectancy, high infant mortality rates, population exodus, HIV/AIDS,