

People who struggle with a recent health diagnosis or life changes often come to her for support and a ready ear to listen.

In our rural areas, weekly or monthly quilting bees are still a time for women to leave their cares at home and join in the laughter, fellowship and wisdom of others—and often a pot-luck lunch or dinner, and yes, the occasional margarita shared with a group of nuns.

Sue Poser exemplifies the embodiment of utilizing creativity and hard work to build a small business success while staying rooted to family, friends and community.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work and accomplishments of Dr. Marcella Maxwell in recognition of Women's History Month. On Sunday, March 22nd, I joined the 369th Harlem Historical Society for their annual awards dinner dance celebrating Women's History Month at the elegant Marina del Rey in Throgs Neck, New York. This annual salute pays special tribute to phenomenal women of color currently serving and those that have served in our Nation's military. I was very proud to present this year's prestigious 369th Historical Society Women's History Month Award to my beloved friend, Dr. Marcella Maxwell.

Under the leadership of retired Major General Nathaniel James, AUS, the 369th Historical Society was established to collect, preserve and maintain artifacts, relics, books, papers, photographs, films and other artifacts touching on the past history of the 369th Infantry Regiment (also known as the Harlem Hellfighters who were given their name by same German soldiers they help to defeat in the liberation of France and Europe in World War I), its allies and affiliates and of Soldiers who served in the Military Services of the United States. One of the primary services it provides is to exhibit all gathered data to the public and ensure that the contributions of all African Americans and Minorities in the Military are recognized, preserved and accurately presented to the public.

The Society also recognizes individuals who have contributed their time, effort and support for Women Veterans as they transition back to civilian life. My dear friend Dr. Marcella Maxwell is such a person who through her organization, the Greater New York Link's Incorporated has led the way in this very important effort. On Saturday, March 21, Dr. Marcella and the Link's Inc. joined with The Home Depot Chelsea neighborhood Store in New York City, under the direction of CEO Craig Menear, Al Manigault, Mohammed Bello, Vincent Merlo, Leana Baker, and Nalinee Hobert to honor women veterans, by providing "Do it Yourself Workshops, a "Career Fair" and a special ceremony, where I presented congressional certificates to 32 women veterans for their service to our Nation. Dr. Maxwell, whose late husband served under retired Brigadier General George A. Jones, has been an amazing advocate and supporter of not only women veterans, but all veterans throughout this en-

tire Nation. Every year at the NAACP National Convention she convenes and presides over the Association's annual Military Dinner, where one of our United States Armed Forces Services Divisions is featured and honored.

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of 12,000 professional women of color in 280 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. It is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

The members of The Links, Incorporated, such as, Dr. Maxwell, who is the National Eastern Area Chair of the Women's Issues Committee as are influential decision makers and opinion leaders. The Links, Inc. has attracted many distinguished women who are individual achievers and have made a difference in their communities and the world. They are business and civic leaders, role models, mentors, activists and volunteers who work towards a common vision by engaging like-minded organizations and individuals for partnership. Links members contribute more than 500,000 documented hours of community service annually—strengthening their communities and enhancing the nation.

In addition, Dr. Marcella Maxwell has been an Adult Educator for over two decades. She served as a Founding Dean at Medgar Evers College, CUNY where she sponsored and coordinated the first Women's History Month Conference at the College. Her background and experience in helping women to improve their status and empowering them to transform their lives and the lives of their families lead to her appointment as Chair of Mayor Koch's Commission on the Status of Women and Chair of the City's Human Rights Commission. She subsequently served as the Director of Alternative Education for the New York City Housing Authority where students earned their General Education Diplomas, making them eligible for entering College. Dr. Maxwell earned her Bachelors and Masters Degrees with Honors from Long Island University and her Ed.D Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Fordham University on a Ford Foundation Scholarship. She retired from the New York City Board of Education and states that one of the best experiences of her teaching career was living and working in Puerto Rico as one of the first 20 teachers to participate in "Operation Understanding", an exchange program, sponsored by the New York City Board of Education and the Puerto Rican Board of Education.

Education was always a priority for Dr. Maxwell and her family. Her grandfather donated the land for the first elementary school for African-Americans in Cleveland, N.C.

Today, she forges partnerships with a wide range of organizations to bring new scholarships and educational programs for New York City youth. Dr. Marcella Maxwell is a clinical supervisor of teaching fellows at Brooklyn College, a part of the City College of New York system. In this role Dr. Maxwell trains teaching fellows to foster their professional development, organizes collaboration between principals, teachers and other faculty, spearheads team building seminars, curriculum design and

development and instructional strategies and methods.

In addition to her role as an educator, Dr. Maxwell is a well-known advocate for women's issues, community development, organizational administration, fund development, curriculum development and government relations. Dr. Maxwell is a passionate advocate for Geriatric Education which allows her with several organizational partners to provide information, and education for seniors to help them navigate the challenges of Aging Gracefully.

In the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Dr. Maxwell serves as the Vice Chair of the Special Contributions Fund and on the Committee charged with awarding The Spingam Medal for outstanding achievement by an African American. Dr. Maxwell's philosophy and mission in life is to use her relationships and resources to help others in their pursuit of Civil Rights and Social Justice. She is truly an Ambassador for the City of New York as she carries out her responsibilities for The Links Incorporated and as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representative for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated at the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Dr. Marcella Maxwell, and her efforts that have positively impacted the quality of life for countless citizens across this Nation. Her constant dedication, commitment, and spiritual guidance is worthy of our Nation's highest esteem.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2015

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the United States-Caribbean Partnership Act of 2015, along with my friends and colleagues Representatives GREGORY MEEKS, FREDERICA WILSON, ALCEE HASTINGS, BARBARA LEE, YVETTE CLARKE, LOIS FRANKEL, ALBIO SIREs and TED DEUTCH. This bill will establish embassies in the five Caribbean countries where we currently have no physical diplomatic presence—Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Five years ago, President Obama attended the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago and declared that, "It's appropriate and important that we hold this summit in the Caribbean. The energy, the dynamism, the diversity of the Caribbean people inspires us all, and is such an important part of what we share in common as a hemisphere." I could not agree more. As we approach the upcoming Summit of the Americas in Panama next month, the United States must redouble our commitment to the people of the Caribbean. That is precisely why I am introducing this bill today.

I ask my colleagues to imagine countries where tens of thousands of American citizens travel for pleasure or business; where thousands of American citizens go to school; where there is a constant concern about drug trafficking to the United States; but where the United States has no U.S. embassies. Most