Acknowledgments

First and foremost, we have Rod to thank. His generosity of spirit, wisdom, humor and intellect, and the love and care that he offered to so many of us so consistently bestowed a profound gift and a deep responsibility upon us. It is in recognition of the blessing of his presence in our lives that we offer this volume. It is our hope that in reading and reflecting on what we have shared here, Rod’s presence will be everlasting.

As Book Editor, I pay tribute to the extraordinary, wise, generous and thoughtful co-Editors. Rose Brewer, for your depth and steady intellect and sensibilities; Daniel Douglas for your willingness to assist at every stage and for being a wonderful example of someone coming into their own with grace and determination; Loretta Chin, for your long consistent friendship and your fight; and Robert (Bob) Newby for being there again and again for whatever was needed. This volume would not have come to fruition without all of you.

To every author, each of whom gave so much of themselves in sharing insights about the impact Rod had on their lives. Rod would be so humbled by the love you so freely gave in the process of producing
this book. From him to me, to you, huge appreciation.

To Mohammad H. (Behrooz) Tamdgidi, for being open to the publication of this book and giving of yourself so freely to make it happen. Your wise guidance and profound contribution to this volume shaped it in ways that make it both powerful and accessible. You understood immediately why this anthology is important and how to materialize that in the publication. That this volume follows one about Terence K. Hopkins is not just circumstance. Rod was also so grateful for the intellectual mentorship Terry provided. He would be so honored. Thank you.

Rod always insisted that acknowledgments are an expression of principle, so that we recognize all those who from the past to the present have contributed to our ways of thinking, knowing and being. The challenge, however, is that the very process of naming means some names are not spoken as we are always being shaped and influenced by those around us. So let this brief nod of recognitions stand as a tribute to all whose journeys have crossed ours, who have given of themselves to each of us individually, and all of us collectively in the struggle for liberation, love and justice and day to day sustenance. For, you matter and are the fibers of our threads. We are because you are, and this volume is the result of that unity. Please see your name here.

We give thanks to our families, our friends old and new, our teachers, mentors, co-workers, neighbors, our students and the many communities that keep us whole.

We seek to recognize all those who contributed to the memorials held in Rod’s honor—at St. Johns’ University, in Flatbush, Brooklyn, at the Critical Sociology meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems and the Left Forum. To the Editors at Temple University Press, Brill Publishers, and Palgrave McMillan, we appreciate your generosity in granting permissions for this volume for Rod’s writings as listed at the end of this acknowledgment.

Great appreciation is to be conveyed to Adelphi University for the many ways that support was provided in the last several years since Rod passed. Whether sabbatical or release time, patience or just being present, I am both humbled by and very grateful to the institution and
so many associated individuals.

To Renzie and Pete for providing a guidepost for understanding Rod over the course of his entire life; to the many members of our family in New York, Florida, South Carolina, California and places near and far, friendship circles and communities such as at the Flatbush YMCA, and all the people who helped me process Rod’s transition in big ways and small through listening, encouraging, and just being, I am profoundly indebted to you. This anthology is an expression of that care.

To Muriel, Donna, Perry, Walter, Kenneth, Freda, Millicent, Yuan, Edward and family, Margarita, Mattie and Sandy, Phares, Miguel, Kizzie and Carolyn, your consistent presence made this book possible. To Robin who always shows us places we can stand to navigate life’s challenges whether personal or political. To Nokuthula and our entire decolonial text team; all the Mayfirst folks, those involved with Cooperation Jackson, thank you. You provide a way forward. Rod is so grateful to all of you, and we are, too.

This acknowledgment closes with recognition of that which kept Rod on track, and provided/s a reason to work tirelessly toward liberation, that being our elders (most particularly Momma Margaret Janette Craddock Bush, Roslyn “Rozzie” Levine, Barkoo Craddock Johnson, Aunt Honey Margie Whipper, David Bush Jr. and Stanley Levine); our children, Malik Lumumba Bush (Donna) and Thembi Niambi Bush Tillman (Jamal)/Penda Kane, Sojourner Truth Bush (1977-2000)/Cynthia Holliday) and Sarafina Fidelia Bush; and our most wonderful grandchildren: Tajalia Nia Tillman, Angelo Taiwo Bush, Orlando Kehinde Bush, Jedidiah Darius Tillman and Wisdom Marshal Bush. You are the sun that shines upon all of us.

May we go forth together with liberation, love, and justice as our theme song. Thank you.

Melanie Bush
May 1, 2018
The editors of this volume acknowledge and appreciate permissions granted by the respective publishers for reprinting or excerpting from the following writings in this volume:

Excerpts from *Tensions in the American Dream: Rhetoric, Reverie, or Reality*, by Melanie E. L. Bush and Roderick D. Bush (eds.). Used by permission of Temple University Press. © 2015 by Temple University. All Rights Reserved;
