



# BROOKLYN'S IN THE HOUSE

## NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE D. CLARKE

### 11<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Representing: Brownsville, Ocean Hill, Crown Heights, Greater Flatbush, East Flatbush, Kensington, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, Prospect Heights, Prospect Gardens, Grand Army Plaza, Windsor Terrace, Flatbush and Midwood

# November 13, 2009

## Rep. Clarke Hosts the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District 2009 Job Fair



Dear Neighbor:

On Thursday, November 19, 2009, I will host a Telephone Town Hall Meeting to discuss how New York City is handling the nationwide shortage of the H1N1 vaccine.

Special Guest and expert, Dr. K. Aletha Maybank, the Assistant Commissioner of New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, will be joining the discussion to talk about how New York City has been affected by the shortage and how the city is protecting its residents from the spread of the H1N1 virus.

The Telephone Town Hall Meeting will take place on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 6.00 PM to 7.00 PM.

To participate, please call: (877) 229-8493 and enter in the following pin number: 13319

If you have any questions, please contact my office at 718.287.1142.

Sincerely,  
Yvette D. Clarke



Macy's Human Resources Manager Claudine Edwards Joins Rep. Clarke at the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District 2009 Job fair

On Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> 2009, I hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District 2009 Job Fair. I am happy to say that almost 1,000 people used the event as an opportunity to market their skills to over thirty potential employers. As we all know, New York City has been hit hard by this recession. As of October, the unemployment rate sits at 10.3 percent. While I am optimistic about early economic indicators pointing to a recovery, many New Yorkers are still having a hard time finding jobs. With over 40,000 jobs created by the stimulus, I am confident that this great state and nation is headed towards economic prosperity. I want to thank all the companies and employers for taking the time out of their busy schedules to participate in this event.

As a result of the job fair;

- Macy's has scheduled 48 interviews;
- Sears has identify 3 prospective managers;
- Healthcare Industry Consultants has hired 6 people,
- the Caribbean Woman Association has scheduled 6 interviews; and
- America Choice has hired 2 people.

I want to congratulate all the individuals who were able to find employment as a result of this job fair. You have my commitment that my office will continue to help my constituents find high quality jobs.



Over 1000 residents participated in Rep. Clarke's Job Fair

## Rep. Clarke Commemorates Veterans Day

On Wednesday, November 11th, our nation celebrated the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Veterans Day. On this day we paused to remember those brave men and women who so selflessly served our nation.

While we may be divided on support of the current wars we must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine is welcomed back with compassion and gratitude.

Right now, the Veterans Affairs Committee is working on measures to extend oversight for the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, improve care for female veterans, increase support for veteran caregivers, curtail veteran homelessness, increase support for veterans suffering from PTSD/TBI, and address Vietnam Veterans suffering from the effects of Agent Orange.

Supporting our troops begins at home. We must never forget the sacrifices of our veterans.

## Rep. Clarke Remembers the Victims at Fort Hood

On November 5th, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan killed thirteen people and wounded thirty. Fort Hood and the nation has suffered a great loss and my thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the victims.

As a Member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I will be working to ensure that our nation works to prevent such horrific actions from ever happening again. I will be closely following any congressional inquiries looking into the tragedy.

It has been determined that Maj. Hasan was a devout Muslim. Some have wondered whether his faith played a role in his horrific actions. We must remember that Islam is a peaceful religion. We must be careful not to allow this man's despicable acts to taint the core principles of this religion. Thus underscores the importance for mental health evaluations as well as a greater attention to the affects of PTSD on our military service men and women

I also praise the Fort Hood community for their resilience and support during this difficult time. I encourage our nation to refrain from actions of retribution against the Muslims community. As our nation celebrated Veterans Day, let us never forget how these brave man and woman have sacrificed for this nation.

## House of Representatives Passes H.R. 3962 Affordable Healthcare for America Act

Healthcare is a fundamental human right, not a privilege. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Americans casted a historic vote that signaled a demand for change. On Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>, the House of Representatives answered the voters call by passing health care reform. I proudly voted in favor of this bill.

This bill extends healthcare coverage to 96% of Americans and includes a strong public option that will provide the needed competition to lower premium costs. In the 11th Congressional District of Brooklyn, the Affordable Health Care for America Act will:

- improve employer-based coverage for 367,000 residents. As a result of the insurance reforms in the bill, there will be no co-pays or deductibles for preventive care; no more rate increases or coverage denials for pre-existing conditions, gender, or occupation; and guaranteed oral, vision, and hearing benefits for children;
- provide credits to help pay for coverage for up to 160,000 households, if they need to purchase their own coverage;
- under the bill's insurance reforms, 11,900 individuals in the district who have pre-existing medical conditions will now be able to purchase affordable coverage; and
- allow 11,300 small businesses to obtain affordable health care coverage, and provide tax credits to help reduce health insurance costs for up to 11,400 small businesses.

This is a historic time for our nation. As the legislative process continues, I am confident that the final bill will include a robust public option. While we have come a long way, the fight is not over. There are still those who want to stand in the way of progress.

That is why I am continuing to issue a call to action. As supporters of health care reform, you must mobilize by contacting your elected officials and demanding action. Let the whole country know that you support comprehensive healthcare reform. It's now or never, because we will never get an opportunity like this again in our lifetime.

## Legislative Spotlight

Earlier this month, the House of Representatives introduced H.R. 1182, entitled *Military Spouses Residency Relief Act*.

This Act amends the Service members Civil Relief Act. This small measure will provide relief to numerous military spouses who uproot their lives to accommodate the needs of our Armed Forces.

Presently, military spouses experience barriers in voting and property ownership as well as restrictions in employment and education. This bill offers fair treatment of the military spouse and improves the quality of life for military families.

H.R. 1182, the *Military Spouses Residency Relief Act* will:

Make it possible for military spouses to claim state residency in one place rather than having to change residency when the military moves their family.

Allow service members to pay taxes, vote, and keep vehicles registered in one place regardless of where they are stationed.

In the wake of our nation's celebration of the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Veterans Day, I am confident that this comprehensive military family legislation will legally recognize the burden the military spouses often carry. This bill will provide them the option to claim the same state of residence as their active duty spouse.

Office of Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (NY-11)

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