

WINNING FUNDS FOR THE 11TH DISTRICT



Congressman Owens with Mayor Bloomberg and other officials speaks at announcement of new funds to upgrade Eastern Parkway.

Bringing federal dollars back home to the 11th Congressional District has been a top priority in Washington. In the past two years, I am proud to have secured more than \$30 million in federal funds for local projects.

\$22.7 million - Transportation upgrades for Eastern Parkway, Empire Blvd., Kings County Hospital, Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn Children's Museum, Smith & Court Streets, and Gowanus Expressway

\$1.069 million - Brooklyn Academy of Music's cultural, educational and delinquency prevention programs

\$1.050 million - Prospect Park's new Lakeside Center and Rink

\$900,000 - SUNY Downstate Medical Center advancing biotech research and development to create jobs for the 21st Century

\$135,000 - Jewish Children's Museum Building Fund

\$821,250 - Brooklyn Public Library expansion and facilities upgrade

\$150,000 - New York Methodist Hospital patient follow-up

\$140,000 - New York ACORN's Youth Union Diversion Program

\$100,000 - Brooklyn Arts Council support for cultural and educational organizations

\$100,000 - Central Brooklyn Martin Luther King Commission's tutorial program

\$100,000 - Weeksville Society program for at-risk children and families

\$75,000 - Fifth Avenue Committee's new computer lab

\$50,000 - Ifetayo Cultural Arts Society programs of dance, drama, and tutorials for youth

\$385 million additional Title I dollars since 1995 through the "**County Amendment**" which mandates that NYC funds be distributed to each county based upon the per capita poverty population.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Official Business

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Representing the 11th Congressional District
Congressman
Major R. Owens
Crown Heights • Brownsville • Flatbush • East Flatbush • Park Slope • Cobble Hill • Kensington • Windsor Terrace • Carroll Gardens • Midwood • Ditmas Park • Prospect Heights • Brooklyn Heights

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Dear Friends:

Every month, my office serves hundreds of constituents with immigration, veteran, social security, military and housing problems. Additionally, I receive thousands of e-mails expressing your thoughts and concerns. I value your comments and take great pride in the service we provide. Over the past 23 years of my service as your Congressman, my district office has completed an estimated 138,000 constituent cases. Some of the letters and cards that you have sent to thank my staff and me are on display in my office and I take great pride in reading each one. I will continue to value your thoughts and opinions and urge you to continue to share them with me.

Major R. Owens
Member of Congress



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PENSION FIGHT FOR JEWISH IMMIGRANTS



The Association of New Immigrants for the State of Israel and Social Justice (ANISISJ) is a group that represents Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union who live in the District, the US, Canada and Israel. Congressman Owens met with officials from ANISISJ which is urging all former Soviet

Union countries to pass legislation which would provide for full pension payments to all eligible persons. Appeals are being made through their Washington embassies.



Worker Amnesty and Opportunity Act (H.R. 4847) - Provides for legal permanent resident status for certain undocumented or nonimmigrant aliens.

Alien Child Protection and Family Union Act (H.R. 4848) - Ensures permanent resident status for any alien orphan physically present in the United States who is less than 12 years of age and to provide for deferred enforced departure status for any alien physically present in the United States who is the natural and legal parent of a child born in the United States who is less than 18 years of age.

Terminating the Draft (H.R.1495) - Amends the Military Selective Service Act to terminate the registration requirement and the activities of civilian local boards, civilian appeal boards, and similar local agencies of the Selective Service System, and for other purposes.

Protecting America's Workers Act (H.R. 2004) - Expands coverage under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to increase protection for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for certain violators, and for other purposes.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Expansion Act (H.R.2931) - Expands the eligibility requirement to include Predominantly Black Institutions of higher education to allow colleges like Medgar Evers to receive regular annual appropriations of federal funds.

Fairness in Testing (H.R. 4852) - Curtails the use of high-stakes tests in elementary and secondary schools.

THIS YEAR IN CONGRESS

Congress and the nation experienced a difficult 2005 and unfortunately much of what we experienced in 2005 continues to haunt us in 2006. The war in Iraq continues to take the lives of our young men and women and my heart goes out to their families and friends. Katrina victims in New Orleans and Mississippi are still feeling the impact and effects of gross neglect and are in need of our continued support. For the past 24 years, I have worked on a wide variety of issues and have authored numerous bills covering education, health, domestic violence, disability, immigration and labor safety. Here is a brief summary of my selected positions on vital issues this year:

Iraq

It is estimated that the war has cost taxpayers over eight billion dollars. With eight billion dollars we could have built 78,325 additional public housing units, hired 150,752 additional public school teachers, provided 421,720 students four-year college scholarships at state universities, insured over five million children for one year and paid for over one million children to attend a year of Head Start. With a growing insurgency that targets our troops and with a majority of Americans feeling no safer than before the war, we need to end our occupation of Iraq and bring our troops home. The "Murtha Resolution" is the best vehicle to accomplish this task.

Tax Cuts

With a national debt over 8 trillion dollars, Congress pushed through tax cuts that exclusively benefit high-income households -- primarily millionaires-- in December 2005. To support the tax cuts for the rich Congress made cuts in programs serving low-and moderate-income families and individuals. I voted against the 2005 tax cuts and will continue to fight budget cuts in vital programs.

Haiti

For a little country that gave African Americans the courage to fight for freedom from slavery and taught the French a lesson about conquest, it is shameful that we can't get it right when it comes to Haiti. The February 7, 2006 election represents yet another example of the United Nations' being played as the puppet of the United States in Haiti. The United Nations lack of resolve in confronting U.S. sponsored destabi-

lization and restoring democracy in Haiti is unconscionable. I strongly support humanitarian aid and the harnessing of all international resources to help Haiti reach its full potential.

Immigration

Comprehensive immigration reform providing **AMNESTY FOR ALL** is the best way to legalize the status of undocumented immigrants in the United States. For a society to create an underclass of individuals without rights or without the ability to exercise their rights is harmful and unjust. The process of finding, catching, imprisoning, and then transporting 12 million people by buses, trains and planes to destinations across the globe would generate crimes against humanity.

Voting Rights Act and Power Sharing

The Voting Rights Act is now "**settled American law.**" As a result of the Civil Rights struggle, which forced the passage of the Voting Rights Act, the United States is in a position to offer the rest of the world a workable model for power sharing within a democracy. But while we may display this great social and political innovation with pride, it must be recognized that our successful design is a vulnerable one. Of equal importance is the fact that an unwritten compact between the political parties and the minorities may be dishonored at any time. Overwhelming advantages of money and manipulation may be used against minorities to rob them of representation even after the law provides the "**enhanced opportunity.**" I support the renewal of the Voting Rights Act since it creates the enhanced opportunity to elect minorities and the complementary processes which make power sharing possible.

OWENS HONORS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Congressman Major Owens and New York State Assemblymember Karim Camara commemorated Women's History Month by honoring the bravery of Sarah Louise Keys who in 1952 refused to give up her seat to a white Marine on a bus in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. Ms. Keys was fined, arrested, charged with disorderly conduct and spent a night in jail before being released. A proclamation from the constituents of the 11th District, stated, "*We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Sarah Louise Keys for sitting down so we could stand up. Her dedication to the cause of social justice by risking her life, in a South ravaged by hatred against African Americans, is remarkable. The pathway she made in 1952 gave others, like Mother Rosa Parks, the strength to do the same.*"

CONSTITUENT CORNER

What constituents are saying about us!

Dear Mr. Owens,

I would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere, "thank you" to you and your staff for all your help in regards to my son-in-law's, immigration case. On Monday, May 10th, his permanent residence card arrived in the mail. We are all very grateful, and relieved, and most certainly owe a debt of gratitude to you and your staff.

Once again, on behalf of my daughter, her husband and myself I thank you.

Sincerely,

Marcus M.

Dear Congressman Owens:

I would like to thank you for the assistance you gave to me in securing my Green Card. My

case was confusing and I believe that I would not have my Green Card today had you office not intervened on my behalf. I have waited many years for this and I am so happy that I will be able to return soon to my birthplace, Grenada, to visit my ailing mother.

Sincerely,

Ann A.

Dear Congressman Owens:

On behalf of my brother Joseph F., we want to thank Mr. Owens for his open door policy towards his constituents. We thank him for all his help to reunite us our family. Thank you for your diligent work fir contacting the US consulate in Haiti...They are finally here!!!

Pierre H.