



# 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*

# September 11, 2009

## Rep. Clarke Attends 9/11 Ceremony on Capitol Hill

On Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009, I joined my colleagues on Capitol Hill and paid tribute to those who lost their lives as a result of the violent attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. We were honored to be joined by the family members of those who lost loved ones on Flight 93. During a special ceremony a plaque commemorating the heroes of Flight 93 was unveiled in the Capitol. I was honored to meet Christine Homer, the sister of LeRoy Homer Jr., the co-pilot of Flight 93. Her very presence reminded me of LeRoy's bravery and the countless stories of the many other lives that were taken that day, both in



Sept. 09, 2009 Rep. Clarke Meets Christine Homer, the sister of LeRoy Homer Jr., the co-pilot of Flight 93

Washington, D.C. and New York City. Americans will never forget that almost 3,000 lives were lost, including 343 firefighters and 23 police officers, on that day. Their memory shall always live on.

## Rep. Clarke Hosts the "Green the Block" Event Observing a National Day of Service

Today, it was my honor to host the "Green the Block" event for National Day of Service in remembrance of the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Eight years later, we commemorate this tragic day by giving back to our community. The Source Magazine, the Hip Hop Caucus, and high school students from my district, joined me in volunteering their time at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. There we participated in a planting exercise, mural project, and a letter writing campaign to encourage others to protect the environment and serve their community. Just as the 9/11 attacks had a lasting impact on our nation; this National Day of Service will have a lasting impact on our children. I commend Source Magazine and the Hip Hop Caucus for using their influence on young people by encouraging them to help their community. I am also very grateful to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden for their contribution to Brooklyn and their ongoing dedication to environmental education. I look forward to continuing my work in motivating young people to volunteer and serve their community.



Dear Neighbor:

I began my public life as a member of the New York City Council shortly after the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>. I have dedicated myself to the issues of security and preparedness, which continues to be my focus on Capitol Hill.

On Monday, September 14, 2009, at 9:30am, I will host a House Homeland Security Subcommittee field hearing at the SUNY Downstate Alumni Auditorium entitled "Status Report on Federal and Local Efforts to Secure Radiological Sources."

As Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cyber Security, and Science and Technology, I will listen to testimony given by expert witnesses on interagency efforts to secure radiological sources on the federal, state, and local level.

It is important that we discuss better ways to establish protocol for securing radiological materials so that potential terrorist can't have access to make dirty bombs. I invite all my constituents to come out and hear how our government is protecting our nation eight years after the 9/11 attacks.

Sincerely,  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

# Caribbean American Day Carnival



Congresswoman Clarke was joined by Mayor Bloomberg, General Colin L. Powell (Ret), New York State Governor David Paterson, Borough President, Marty Markowitz, and other leaders at the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of West Indian American Day Parade.

On Monday, Sept. 7, I had the distinct pleasure of serving as this year's Grand Marshall for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual West Indian American Day Carnival. Every year this event attracts millions of people from all over the world. It provides an opportunity for all to "exercise culture" and

that make up the shared history and culture of the Caribbean. I applaud the efforts of the West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) in creating awareness and appreciation for Caribbean culture and highlighting its influence in the U.S. This celebration embodies the talents and contributions of the numerous Caribbean Americans who have played a significant role in shaping America's political and social landscape, including: former U.S. Representative Shirley Chisholm, the first African American female Member of Congress; former Secretary of State Colin Powell; novelist Jamaica Kincaid; social activists Stokely Carmichael and Malcolm X; and world-renowned dancer, Pearl Primus, to name a few. Celebrations like the West Indian American Day Carnival are critical to our community, helping to promote diplomacy and cross-cultural understanding between the United States and Caribbean nations. Again, I offer my sincerest congratulations on another successful celebration and I am blessed to have witnessed the fruits of yet another year's West Indian American Day Carnival.

## Health Care Reform: The Time Is Now!

On Wednesday, Sept. 9th, President Barack Obama outlined his vision for health care reform in America. The President's plan would include three components:

1. Make health insurance secure and stable for those who currently have it
2. Provide health insurance for those who don't currently have it
3. Slow the unsustainable growth of the cost of health care

The President noted that under his plan, the insurance that Americans currently have will work better for them. Under his plan, it will be against the law for insurance companies to deny Americans coverage because of a pre-existing condition. Also, it will be against the law for insurance companies to drop coverage when a person is sick or to provide less than basic coverage to a person. Under the plan, insurance companies will be required to cover, with no extra charge, routine checkups and preventive care, like mammograms and colonoscopies. All of these things will lower health care costs, which doubled in the past ten years and will continue to rise at an untenable pace unless a strong health care reform bill is passed. I am excited and re-energized to stand by the President's decision to guarantee that a health care reform bill will cover the nearly 47 million uninsured Americans across our nation. I was particularly pleased by President Obama's support of a public health plan option. I have been and remain a firm supporter of having a public option included in the plan. Not only would a public option provide more choice to Americans, but also provide the necessary competition to keep private health insurance premiums down.

## Legislative Spotlight

As we commemorate the anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>, we are reminded to honor the employees of the Department of Homeland Security, their partners at all levels of government, and emergency response providers for their dedication to securing our Nation.

This week, I introduced H.RES.731, the National Preparedness Month Resolution. The resolution supports the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month, a nationwide coordinated effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

The resolution accomplishes a few specific goals. It commends the public servants of the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal agencies for their outstanding contributions to our Nation's homeland security.

It also expresses the Nation's appreciation for the sacrifices and commitment of our law enforcement and emergency response personnel in preventing and preparing to respond to acts of terrorism.

Finally, it urges the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Preparedness Month with appropriate events and activities that promote citizen and community preparedness to respond to acts of terrorism.

Eight years after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, our nation fully understands the value of our first responders and the importance of being prepared for any emergency situations that our nation may potentially face. This resolution gives our first responders the recognition they deserve and continues to stress the importance of our nation's preparedness.

