



# 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 18, 2009

## Rep. Clarke and New York State Launch U.S. Cybersecurity Challenge

On Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, I joined the New York State Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure in launching the U.S. Department of Justice's U.S. Cyber Challenge competition at Erasmus High School.

Recently, the federal government announced that it needs to hire at least 1,000 cyber security graduates each year in effort to effectively protect our nation from potential Cybersecurity threats. The Cyber Challenge is comprised of a series of online competitions, open to high school and college students, to demonstrate excellence in the relatively new field of cybersecurity and to foster the next generation of experts who can help meet the challenges of cyberspace.



Rep. Clarke Joins NY State Officials, Principal Dr Eric L. Blake and Students at STAR Erasmus High School for Cybersecurity Competition

The US Cyber Challenge will help our government meet the growing cyber demand. I am excited to launch the New York State competition right here in the heart of Brooklyn at the Science, Technology and Research (S.T.A.R) Early College School at Erasmus. The students at STAR have the talent and potential to be the next generation of cyber warriors.

## Rep. Clarke Brings House Homeland Security Subcommittee Field Hearing to Brooklyn

On Monday, September 14, 2009, I hosted a field hearing for the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, Science and Technology entitled, "Status Report on Federal and Local Efforts to Secure Radiological Sources" at SUNY Down State Medical Center. As Chair of the Subcommittee, I heard testimony from expert witnesses on the interagency efforts to secure radiological sources at the federal, state, and local levels. The discussion included better ways to establish protocol for securing radiological materials to prevent potential terrorist from utilizing 'dirty bombs.'

In April, I reintroduced the Radiological Materials Security Act. This bill requires the three federal agencies with jurisdiction to carry out trilateral efforts in detecting radiological devices. Although the bill has not yet been passed, it has helped me push for appropriations to fully fund essential radiological source security and detection efforts that are ongoing in the New York metropolitan area.

This hearing is a part of my ongoing strategy to closely monitor the progress within the federal government to close potential loop holes in securing radiological sources. As the only New York City Member on the Homeland Security Committee, I will continue fighting to ensure that our nation is adequately prepared for any potential terrorist attacks.



Dear Neighbor:

My office will be hosting an art contest this fall for all those currently residing in Brooklyn's 11<sup>th</sup> District.

The theme of the Art competition is "My Brooklyn" and the submissions should showcase the artists' vision of Brooklyn.

Artists can submit any framed photograph, painting, drawing, or charcoal sketch measuring less than 24" by 24", which features our great borough. The winning creations will be displayed in my Washington, DC and Brooklyn offices for one year.

Please feel free to contact, Veronica Aveis, at 718-287-1142 if you have any questions, or for more information.

Contestants must be, 18 or older and currently reside in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of New York.

Applications can be picked up in my District Office at 123 Linden Boulevard, or by emailing [Veronica.Aveis@mail.house.gov](mailto:Veronica.Aveis@mail.house.gov). All applications are due by noon, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

## Honoring Brooklyn's First Responders



Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke presents the U.S. flag to Deputy Inspector Corey Pegues and Police officers of the 67<sup>th</sup> precinct in Brooklyn Remembering the September 11<sup>th</sup> Terrorist Attacks

To commemorate the 9/11 terrorist attacks, I presented United States flags that were flown over the U.S. Capitol building to the brave men and women of the NYPD precincts and FDNY firehouses located within the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional district.

I was humbled at the opportunity to address many of the firehouses and precincts in the district that had lost family members, friends, and colleagues 8 years ago on that tragic day.

My prayers remain with the families and loved ones whose lives were changed forever on that horrific day. The courage and selfless sacrifice of the first-responders and other Americans will always be remembered. To fly a flag over the Capitol Building in honor of their service to our nation is a small token of my indebted gratitude to them and their families.

## Celebrating Brooklyn's Rich Diversity

As Representative of the 11<sup>th</sup> congressional district of New York, I represent one of the most diverse districts in America. I would like to recognize those ethnic and religious groups who are celebrating their customs and traditions this month.

### *L' Shanah Tovah!*

Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> marks the first night of Rosh Hashanah or the Jewish New Year. It is observed on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. Rosh Hashanah is a time for joy, a time for new beginnings, celebrations, and counting blessings. *L'Shanah Tovah* to all of the residents of the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and throughout Brooklyn.

### *Eid Mubarak!*

Eid ul-Fitr or Id-ul-Fitr is a Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. Blessings go out to each and every one of you, as you sit down for the traditional breaking of the fast or Iftar.

### *Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!*

Each year, the President designates September 15 to October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. Economically, culturally, and politically, Hispanic communities have contributed significantly to the growth and history of our great Nation. Hispanics have played a significant role in all sectors of our society, from the military, to education, to government, to business. Just this year, New York's very own Sonia Sotomayor became the first Hispanic Justice to serve on the United States Supreme Court. Hispanics are the fastest growing ethnic group in our country. Hispanic Heritage Month provides a prime opportunity to build and strengthen ties to this vital and vibrant community. Happy Hispanic Heritage Month to all in Brooklyn. *Feliz Mes de la Herencia Hispana!*

## Legislative Spotlight

Yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009. I co-sponsored and voted in support of this bill both in the Education and Labor Committee and on the House floor.

This bill is a landmark investment in America's economic future. It will transform the way our student loan programs operate and make more college accessible. Starting in 2011, the Pell Grant will be tied to the Consumer Price Index(CPI) so that increases in the Pell Grant will be automatically linked to the rising cost-of-living;

Specifically, this legislation will:

- Invest \$40 billion to increase the maximum annual Pell Grant to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$6,900 by 2019.
- Invest \$3 billion to bolster college access and completion support programs;
- Invest \$ 2.55 billion in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institution, which includes Predominately Black Institutions such as Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn;
- Build a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce by encouraging partnerships between community colleges, states, businesses, job training centers, and adult education location; and finally,
- Converts all new federal student lending to the Direct Loan program, thereby bypassing banks, who charged significant fees to act as middle men, and saving money. The Congressional budget Office estimates \$87 billion in savings over ten years, \$8 billion of which will be used towards deficit reduction.

Education is the gateway out of poverty and has historically been the vehicle through which Americans achieved social and economic mobility. It has enormous benefits - for individuals and for society. Americans need affordable, quality educational opportunities, and this bill helps make our economy strong and competitive again.