

and Terry has managed to successfully carry out his duties over an extraordinary period of time.

Speaker Spence continues to serve as a dignified leader in the General Assembly and I wish him luck as he begins his work with the 144th session of Delaware's legislative body. I commend him for a life of service and thank him for his tireless dedication to Delaware.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I was unable to record Rollcall votes nos. 56 and 57 due to prior commitments in my District. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall votes nos. 56 and 57.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 51, a resolution that honors the contributions of Catholic schools and supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week.

The many accomplishments of Catholic schools and their positive impact on students and communities throughout the nation are evident in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, where schools such as St. Pascal Elementary, St. Bartholomew Elementary, and Gordon Technical High School provide a quality education while instilling values that will serve their students throughout their lives. These schools provide strong academic curricula and promote significant parental involvement. They teach students the importance of academic achievement while also providing a balanced perspective on life that promotes responsibility, justice and social service.

Catholic schools also promote ethnic and racial diversity. An increasing number of children in Catholic schools in my district come from our minority communities. Students in Catholic schools achieve exceptionally high graduation rates, and an increasing number are advancing to college and giving back to the community through volunteer service.

Catholic schools foster more than scholastic excellence alone. They provide spiritual guidance to students by encouraging fundamental ideals and an appreciation for family values, community service, and faith in their own lives. This, in turn, shapes Catholic school students into leaders of tomorrow.

I want to take this opportunity to applaud the 2007 "Heart of the School" award winners. Each year, the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools presents these awards to recognize outstanding and innovative accomplishments of individual teachers at Archdiocese of Chicago schools.

Two 2007 "Heart of the School" award winners teach at schools in the Fifth Congress-

sional District, Kristin McCreary of St. Josaphat School and Lauren Costa at St. Pascal School. I thank these outstanding educators, past winners, and all of the dedicated Catholic school teachers in my district for their devotion to their students and for setting the standard for teaching excellence.

Madam Speaker, I support H. Res. 51 and encourage Catholic schools in my district and across the United States to continue contributing to the development of strong moral, intellectual and social values in America's young people. I thank the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for their sponsorship of Catholic Schools Week.

HONORING MS. YVETTE CLARKE—NEWLY-ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor YVETTE CLARKE, newly-elected Representative of the 11th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York and to enter into the RECORD an article in the New York Carib News by Tony Best entitled "Brooklyn Celebrates Yvette Clarke's Assumption of Duties as Representative for 11th Congressional District, Hundreds Attend Community Event at Brooklyn College."

YVETTE CLARKE was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She is the daughter of Leslie Clarke, father, and former Brooklyn councilwoman Una Clarke. The Clarks migrated to the United States before Congresswoman CLARKE was born. CLARKE attended New York City public schools and received a scholarship to Oberlin College in Ohio.

YVETTE CLARKE was elected to the New York City council in November 2001 as the representative for the 40th District in Brooklyn. CLARKE was overwhelmingly re-elected to office in November 2003 and November 2005. She succeeded her pioneering mother, the former city councilmember, Dr. Una Clarke, making them the first mother-daughter succession in the history of the council.

In November 2006, CLARKE was elected to represent the 11th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York. CLARKE, a life-long Flatbush resident, will continue to ably represent her mostly working-class constituents in her district the same way she did while sitting on the council, particularly as Congress takes up immigration reform and long-deferred issues of economic fairness.

YVETTE CLARKE has the reputation of being a good listener and a true leader. She distinguished herself as a strong negotiator and has a record of getting things done to meet the needs of the residents of her district. I look forward to working closely with YVETTE on the issues facing the American people and I ask you to join me in welcoming Congresswoman CLARKE into the 110th Congress of the United States of America.

[From the New York CaribNews]

BROOKLYN CELEBRATES YVETTE CLARKE'S ASSUMPTION OF DUTIES AS REPRESENTATIVE FOR 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT; HUNDREDS ATTEND COMMUNITY EVENT AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE

(By Tony Best)

After one of New York City's big political flash points: a brutal election campaign to fill a Congressional seat once held by the iconic figure Shirley Chisholm, it was time for a community celebration.

And the emotional atmosphere that enlivened the ceremonial swearing in of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke was punctuated with music, dance, prayers, poetry, glowing tributes by prominent elected officials, tears of joy and the obvious satisfaction of the Clarke family that one of their own had made it to the halls of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"She got there the old fashioned way, she earned it," asserted U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, a Democrat of New York and one of his party's major architects of the successful mid-term election which resulted in the ousting of the Republicans from control of Capitol Hill.

"We are proud of Yvette," he told a cheering crowd. "She worked hard to get elected. She didn't rest on her laurels. It's a great day for Brooklyn, a great day for the Clarke family, and a great day for the United States."

Actually, the ceremonial taking of the oath of office followed the official swearing-in which had taken place in Washington a week earlier, and when Brooklyn Civil Court Judge Sylvia Ash asked the freshman member of the House to pledge to carry out her duties in accordance with the country's constitution, members of the audience joined in responding in the affirmative as if they too were going to the nation's capital.

Clarke won the 11th Congressional District election last September when she defeated three other candidates in the Democratic Primary. Among the competitors was the well-financed Jewish City Council member David Yassky who had moved into the District just before launching his campaign with the clear and opportunistic goal of capturing the white votes while leaving the Blacks to split their support from the Hispanic, Asian and Black majority. Yassky had raised almost \$2 million for his campaign war chest, more than the combined funds raised by the other three candidates. But it didn't work.

The seat had become vacant when Major Owens who had occupied it for at least two decades after succeeding Chisholm in the 1980's decided to retire. He had hoped that his son, Chris Owens, a community activist would succeed him. But like Yassky's plans, that goal failed.

Clarke went on to win the November election with about 90 percent of the vote.

"She worked hard," said U.S. Representative Anthony Weiner, who shocked the political establishment when he endorsed Clarke in the Primary campaign and campaigned with her, instead of backing Yassky. "She shares the values of the community and understands its needs," he told the audience.

The Congressman was on a list of speakers, mainly members of the state legislature in Albany and the City Council in Manhattan, who joined Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President and others in extolling the qualities which catapulted Clarke from City Hall to Congress, a feat which eluded her mother, Una Clarke, several years ago when she sought to replace Major Owens in a hard fought race.

New York State Assemblyman Nick Perry alluded to that election battle when he told

the crowd that while he had political differences with the Congresswoman's mother it didn't stop him from vigorously backing "Yvette" and helping to raise money for her. "I feel like I won too," said Perry who dropped out of the Congressional race early last year and then threw his support behind Clarke. "She will do great things for America. She is young and bright."

State Senator John Sampson was another of the elected office holders, who at the urging of both "Yvette" and her mother, not only backed her drive for the House but contributed campaign funds and material support. He became philosophical when he invoked the presence and role of the Almighty God in people's lives and reminded the Congressperson that prosperity and success breed many friends but "adversity proves them."

State Senator Kevin Parker, who had declined to back Clarke during the Primary, supporting Karl Andrews, at the time a State Senator from Brooklyn instead, said that he too was confident "Yvette" would succeed in Washington. In his brief remarks, the Borough President, who sat out the Congressional race by opting not to endorse any of the four candidates, said the new House member was "committed to public service."

Dr. Kendal Stewart, a City Councilman, joined in the chorus of praise, saying her victory was a reminder to immigrants and their children, "those who came by plane or by boat" that they too could succeed and perhaps follow in "Yvette's" footsteps.

Dr. Edison Jackson, President of the highly successful Medgar Evers College, put it differently, describing the lawmaker as a worthy "advocate" of the community that sent her to Capitol Hill.

When the time came for Clarke to respond after wiping away tears, she spoke out against the Iraq war and the Bush Administration's misplaced priorities which had resulted in \$130 billion needed to fix schools in the 11th Congressional District and elsewhere in the City, State and country being diverted to the Persian Gulf to finance a conflict "we don't want."

She said that as a member of the House's Committee that monitors the work of the Department of Homeland Security, she had already backed a measure, which would bring more funds into the City for the Police and Fire Departments as well as the Emergency Medical services.

Congresswoman Clarke insisted that the City urgently needed funds, federal dollars, for its schools, drug treatment programs and other social services. She took time out to thank the community, the hard-working campaign volunteers, staff and others who "came together" and worked to place her in Congress.

"I am thankful," she said.

She spoke about her parents, Leslie Clarke, father, and Una Clarke, mother, for the way they raised her, and the rest of the family from Jamaica who instilled core values in her.

With the Rev. Barbara Lucas as "the officiating minister, the celebration featured a mix of ecumenical blessings offered by a variety of religious ministers, including a Jewish Rabbi; dances by young performers of different cultural backgrounds; inspirational songs by a plethora of artists, among them was Brooklyn Temple Seventh Day Adventist mass choir; steelband music by members CASYM, a youth orchestra; and a celebratory procession by the Panamanian Marching Band. Dr. Harold Robinson, Trinidad and Tobago Consul-General, summed up the situation when he said that the Caribbean, the source of Congresswoman Clarke's early strength, might consist of countries with different languages but "we are all one."

Cynthia Brown-Franklin, Panama's Vice Consul-General, said afterwards "great things are expected of the Congresswoman and she will deliver on those dreams."

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE
STANLEY W. TAYLOR, JR.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the career of Stanley W. Taylor. Stan has served in Delaware's Department of Correction for 30 years. He has proven to be a tough and formidable leader in an organization that requires exceptional skill, knowledge, and dedication. I commend Mr. Taylor for his years of service.

Stanley W. Taylor has been a Delaware resident since the age of 5. He was educated at Indian River High School and the University of Delaware. He began his career with the Department of Correction in 1976 when he served as a correctional officer at the Sussex Correctional Institution. He quickly moved through the ranks at Sussex Correctional, being promoted to the positions of correctional counselor, training academy director, security superintendent, and warden.

Stan's hard work and skill was recognized when he was promoted to chief of the Bureau of Prisons, a position in which he was responsible for all prison operations. When Department of Correction Commissioner Robert Watson retired in 1995, my colleague Senator TOM CARPER, who at the time was serving as Governor of Delaware, appointed Stan Taylor to serve as commissioner of the Department of Correction.

For more than 10 years, Stan Taylor has overseen an organization that is responsible for over 6,500 incarcerated offenders, over 18,000 probationers, and more than 10 correctional facilities. He is the first person in the history of the First State to begin his career as a correctional officer and rise through the ranks to eventually lead the Department of Correction as its commissioner.

I join with the people of Delaware to thank Stan for his continued dedication to the correctional system. He has served in a role that can be difficult at times, but is a necessity to the security of our State. I commend him for a life of service and thank him for his tireless dedication to Delaware.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, January 22, I was unavoidably detained in my home district and unable to record my roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote #46.

HONORING BOBBY L. MAXWELL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bobby L. Maxwell. Mr. Maxwell may not be familiar to you or to most of America, but on January 23rd, he accomplished something that the Bush Administration has failed to do for the last six years: hold oil companies accountable.

During recent consideration of H.R. 6, the Creating Long-term Energy Alternatives for the Nation or CLEAN Act, our Democratic majority called attention to the fact that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) at the Department of the Interior has failed to collect millions of dollars of royalties from oil and gas companies drilling in public waters. The Administration has largely ignored this problem and possible negligence by top officials at Interior, but last week's federal court decision that the Kerr-McGee Corporation has underpaid the government by approximately \$7.5 million should serve as a wake up call on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Unlike the Director of the Minerals Management Service and others at Interior, Bobby Maxwell did not turn a blind eye to the problem of oil companies underpaying or refusing to pay royalties for the use of public lands. Mr. Maxwell used to serve as a top auditor at MMS, but while he was doing his job investigating royalty underpayment by Kerr-McGee and others, senior Interior Department officials ordered him to drop his case. Additionally, Mr. Maxwell lost his job due to a "reorganization" shortly thereafter.

Bobby Maxwell did not give up, though. He knew that Kerr-McGee and others were cheating the Federal government and the American taxpayers out of millions of dollars, so he became a whistleblower. Despite having lost his job, Mr. Maxwell continued to stand up to the oil companies by bringing suit under the False Claims Act.

The jury found what Mr. Maxwell and many of us already knew: Kerr-McGee had indeed failed to pay the Federal government approximately \$7.5 million they owed for oil production from publicly owned coastal waters. I regret that Mr. Maxwell had to lose his job to expose the greed of this company and the failures at MMS, but his story is a positive one. Both he and the Federal government will benefit from his diligence and service. Kerr-McGee will have to pay significant penalties as a result of underpayment and false statements in their royalty reports. Additionally, Mr. Maxwell is not alone—three other auditors from MMS have filed whistleblowing cases against companies that the Interior Department blocked them from investigating.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Maxwell and these other dedicated public servants deserve our recognition and gratitude. They have stood up and declared that the public's trust and money both deserve our attention, respect, and protection. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Maxwell and congratulating him on a job well done. Let us follow his example by continuing to put accountability ahead of corporate profits.