

cookies and coffees, catering services and culinary classes.

"Like any new business, particularly in an area that hasn't quite reached its full potential for development, it has taken some time," Breidenthal said. "I think the same is true with the art and community meeting space and the health and fitness facility."

She described people's reactions when they see the facility for the first time, or for those who remember the old building and then notice the change.

"They are truly amazed," Breidenthal said. "Every time we have an event and people are there seeing that and they realize they can rent that space, that our food is wonderful—we have an excellent chef—that it's really a quality thing . . . seeing is believing."

When Breidenthal came on board at the YWCA in 1986, she was the only full-time staff member. Today there are 15 full- or part-time employees, and that number was even larger while some government-funded programs used the new facility for a time.

A program called the Teen Pregnancy Network shifted the focus to adolescent health issues. "It really started us in that direction that is still one of the mainstays of our program," Breidenthal said.

The Resource Sharing Project was another way of using the space and providing services. "We had an entity that was an adult day care looking for space," Breidenthal explained. "We had the space but very limited programming. So it was a very win-win for a number of years until we started growing our program and needed the full facility."

Breidenthal also chairs the Downtown Shareholders Group, working on the business improvement district.

"I have a real commitment and I really care about the YWCA and the downtown," Breidenthal said. "I've been part of that urban environment for over 35 years and certainly want it to succeed."

The YWCA board is planning the transition and there will likely be a job posting in January. Breidenthal's last day will be Feb. 28.

She expects the YWCA will continue to be a leader in downtown revitalization. "Being at the crossroads of so many cultures here—certainly that can be one of our strengths and that's another area that fits with the YWCA's mission," Breidenthal said.

Theresa Reyes Cummings echoed those sentiments. "We're going to move forward and we have a lot to offer the community," Cummings said. "It's an exciting time."

HONORING CLAUDETTE J.
STOTHART

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Claudette J. Stothart is a retired teacher with vast experience in teaching, from grade school to college and who is also an active member of her community.

For 24 years she taught in New York City as a special education teacher as well as coordinating English as a Second Language courses and Social Studies. She was an adjunct Professor at Rockland Community College for 12 years and at Mercy College for 4 years. She also worked in Greenburgh as a middle school teacher during the summer months.

She worked closely with students, especially to make sure those who were merely acting

out did not become candidates for special education, while advising parents of their rights, in the process inspiring both parents and students.

She was nominated by her students for, and accepted by, Who's Who Among American Teachers.

She is a long time member of the Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus, a member of Westchester Women's Leaders, the International Women's Round Table, and the African American Advisory Board.

She is a firm believer in education as a means to ease socioeconomic ills. She is deservedly receiving the Yonkers YWCA Inspiration Award and I congratulate her for her life's work in inspiring students, teachers and parents.

HILLSBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS WORK TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of high school students from the Seventh Congressional District who are volunteering their time to help those in need throughout the world.

Specifically, I would like to commend hundreds of Hillsborough High School students who are volunteering for an annual fundraising event known as Shelter From The Storm 4. The event takes place on Saturday, March 28, 2009 and will raise funds to help students in Haiti and Honduras have access to pure, clean drinking water.

The students have recognized that access to clean water is so basic—yet so precious to disadvantaged communities around the world. The funds Hillsborough High School students raise will help purchase water filters, rain-water collection compartments and provide education on proper sanitation.

Organized by students, Shelter From The Storm 4 will feature numerous educational guest speakers, a three-hour concert and a special festival.

Several dozen student organizations at Hillsborough High School are playing important roles in the event's success, such as the Rotary Club and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. I also commend the leadership of all the teachers involved, who provided guidance to the students throughout the planning stages and implementation of the fundraiser.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to commend all of the Hillsborough High School students who are involved with this special fundraising event. These students are clearly working hard to make a difference and help those in need.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOL-
UNTEERISM AND EDUCATION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1388, the "Generations of Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act or the 'GIVE Act'." I would like to thank my colleague Congresswoman MCCARTHY for introducing this important legislation, as well as the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Chair, this legislation will expand the already highly successful volunteer programs that empower community activists and improve the education and economic conditions of cities throughout the United States. It supports and increases funding for key community services programs, including AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, VISTA, National Civilian Community Corps, and Senior Corps.

The GIVE Act creates opportunities for green jobs that will contribute to energy conservation and environmental protection. It will create critical educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth and will create incentives for students to improve their communities.

Every year, more than 70,000 Americans participate in the AmeriCorps program alone, which provides relief to cities during natural disasters and reinvigorates communities. Over 50 million American volunteers build homes, organize food-drives, and improve schools through national service programs. The GIVE Act will broaden the opportunities for students and activists to participate in national service via education rewards that keep up with soaring costs of universities and Summer Service programs. After Ike and Katrina, thousands of local students worked to help rebuild communities and provide necessary services to distressed families. The GIVE Act is the critical lynchpin in sustaining this civic activism.

Specifically, the GIVE Act would expand the job opportunities for Volunteers in Service to America, or VISTA, to re-integrate youth into society, increase literacy in communities through teaching opportunities in before and after-school programs, and to provide health and social services to low-income communities. VISTA is a critical step toward poverty alleviation, and the GIVE Act will equip it with the resources to fulfill its obligations.

I am pleased to see that my colleague, representative CUELLAR, revised the legislation to increase the number of volunteers from 75,000 to 250,000 members and added provisions for unemployed individuals to be included in the national service workforce, a step that will be a critical step to combating the employment crisis afflicting millions. I am also pleased that Congressman MILLER further specified that the increase in volunteers is not just designed for AmeriCorps, but for all national service programs such as the Peace Corps and Opportunity Corps, and also included language promote community based

efforts to reduce crime and recruit public safety officers.

In addition, the GIVE Act will create 4 new service opportunities including a Clean Energy Corps, an Education Corps, a Healthy Futures Corps, and a Veteran Service Corps. These volunteer opportunities will further improve environmental protection, health-care access, and services for veterans. These new service corps will address critical concerns in low-income communities. I am very happy that Congressman TEAGUE revised the legislation to aid veterans in their pursuit of education and professional opportunities, and help veterans with the claims process, and assist rural, disabled, and unemployed veterans with transportation needs. Moreover, the GIVE Act will recognize colleges and universities that are strongly engaged in service through grants and rewards that will in turn improve educational access in the United States.

I am pleased to see the Retention of my Language from the 110th Congress that gives special consideration to historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal universities, and colleges serving predominantly minority populations. So strong are these universities' support of service, that "veritas et beneficium," or "truth and service" in Latin, is inscribed on their insignias.

The GIVE Act will create a Campuses of Service Program that will encourage and assist students in pursuing public service careers. It will also focus on recruiting scientists and engineers to keep America competitive for years to come. The Act will expand the Senior Corps as a way to keep Older Americans including seniors engaged in public service, and will create a Youth Engagement Zone to increase the number of young students in volunteer services.

Moreover, it expands the focus of The National Civilian Community Corps to include disaster relief efforts and infrastructure improvement to allow quicker and more effective responses to disasters like Katrina and like that devastated numerous communities in the United States. Finally, the Give Act will launch a nation-wide Call to Service Campaign that encourages all Americans to engage in national service and to recognize September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

I am honored to cosponsor this legislation that will add service before self to America's future leaders. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE INAUGURAL
NATURALIZATION CEREMONY OF
THE CITIZENSHIP COUNTS ORGANIZATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Citizenship Counts organization, whose inaugural naturalization ceremony is being held today to welcome new American citizens. The event's keynote speaker, Gerda Weissmann Klein, is one of very few living survivors of the Holocaust and the founder of Citizenship Counts. She has used her experiences to educate and inspire others in our community and all over the world.

Gerda's story is one of true bravery and heroism. She survived the perils of six concentration camps during the Holocaust and a 350-mile march through Eastern Europe before being liberated by Allied forces. In the many years since, Gerda has dedicated her life to being an advocate for the teaching of tolerance, empowerment, and respect through her extensive work with the Gerda and Kurt Klein Foundation and Citizenship Counts.

The Citizenship Counts organization motivates students through civics education and community service while bolstering pride in their citizenship. Through these programs, Citizenship Counts effectively promotes the ideal of American citizenship as a responsibility, and instills the strong moral values that Gerda has worked so tirelessly to uphold.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Citizenship Counts, an organization whose efforts have truly strengthened our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION
OF NOWRUZ

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Nowruz, a traditional Persian holiday taking place this week that celebrates the arrival of spring.

Dating back more than 3,000 years, Nowruz is observed by millions of people of Persian descent in the United States, Iran, Iraq, Central Asia, and many other regions of the world. The two-week holiday symbolizes renewal, health, happiness, and prosperity. The holiday's ecumenical values are celebrated by adherents of many religions including Islam, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and the Bahai'i faith. It is considered a special time to share with family and friends and honor cultural traditions.

Here in the United States, Nowruz serves to remind us of the many noteworthy and lasting contributions of Iranian-Americans to the social and economic fabric of American society. I am pleased to join Iranian-Americans in my congressional district and others around the country and around the world in honoring this special occasion.

FEDERAL MUNICIPAL BOND MARKETING
SUPPORT AND
SECURITIZATION ACT OF 2009

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Federal Municipal Bond Marketing Support and Securitization Act of 2009 to address the collateral damage suffered by our state and local governments as a result of the financial crisis. The nation's 55,000 issuers of tax-exempt bonds, including most state and local governments, continue to experience limited access to the capital markets due to the liquidity crisis despite the fact that municipal bonds have always been among the safest investments.

A municipal bond expert recently told me, pointedly, that it is a nightmare out there for those entities attempting to float bonds.

Prior to my election to Congress last November, I spent the last 14 years in local government as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, the last five as Chairman. I oversaw a local government with an annual budget of \$4.5 billion and a AAA rating from Wall Street's three main credit rating agencies. I understand state and local governments, and I believe they are the most effective engines for creating jobs on Main Street, whether by building new schools, fire stations and water treatment plants, or repairing our nation's ailing infrastructure and implementing our environmental agenda.

State and local governments issue debt for their myriad projects through the selling of bonds, and the municipal bond market was one of many victims of the financial meltdown last fall. After the fallout, investors and money fled from those bond markets to U.S. Treasury notes as a safe haven. As a result, the nation's 55,000 issuers of tax-exempt bonds, our state and local governments, are experiencing limited access to the capital markets due to the liquidity crisis despite the fact that "munis" are and always have been among the safest of investments.

Further complicating the issue is the fact that the private insurance market has virtually disappeared, eliminating a viable means of credit enhancement, which allows a small town water authority, for example, to attain the same credit-worthiness as a metropolitan transportation authority.

The drying up of bond markets and lack of insurance has created a double-whammy of steep shortfalls and tough financial choices for state and local governments. In light of this fiscal and capital crisis, legislation is needed to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a program to provide direct credit enhancements or insurance for municipal bonds to help our state and local partners move forward on their shovel-ready projects.

House Financial Services Committee Chairman BARNEY FRANK agreed with me during a colloquy on the subject in mid-January in which he called states and municipalities among the most sympathetic victims of the economic turmoil. Since then, I have been consulting with Chairman FRANK, my colleagues, municipal governments and others who are active in the municipal bond market to craft a solution. What I proposed today may not provide the ultimate solution, but it provides a starting point to begin addressing this critical situation.

My legislation directs the Secretary of the Treasury and Federal Reserve Board to work together to strategically intervene in the municipal bond market to restore liquidity and spark local job creation. It gives the Treasury Secretary the authority, either directly or through the Federal Financing Bank, to provide credit enhancements or guarantees or to outright purchase municipal bonds. It calls on the Federal Reserve to exercise its authority to establish a credit facility for the express purpose of assisting our local and state partners. Of course, the method, source, timing and conditions of any new financing arrangement would be subject to Treasury's approval.

The federal government historically has been reluctant to interfere with the municipal markets, but I believe such concerns could be