

been and is a gathering place for families and friends to join in celebration. Every day, and in every way this church has been a place of sanctity and worship. Brookland Baptist's entire church family is to be commended for its commitment and service.

Brookland Baptist Church not only has demonstrated great love and loyalty to its community, but also has shown its resilience and strength over the years. This prominent church in West Columbia started out with modest roots. In the 1800's, Brookland Baptist Church held its first meetings in the home of Mrs. Francis Millage. But from this modest beginning, the members—with faith in their hearts—were able to construct Brookland's first church edifice in Triangle City, West Columbia, in 1902. Since that time the church moved twice in order to have space for its growing congregation. Today the Church has a 2,200 seat sanctuary, and will break ground next year on a new Family Life Center. The church currently has 4,500 members in their congregation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brookland Baptist Church for its dedication and commitment, endless faith and devotion, and the love and contributions it has shown to the community of West Columbia. Congratulations on this latest milestone in its rich history. May God continue to bless the good works of this great Church and smile upon each of its outstanding members.

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#### A TRIBUTE TO ADAM N. HASKINS

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2002*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Adam N. Haskins and his commitment to service.

From an early age, Adam focused on education, personal growth, spirituality, and serving his community. After receiving his high school diploma from Brooklyn College Academy, he will pursue a Computer Science degree at Central Connecticut State University.

Mr. Haskins has always been very involved in extra-curricular activities at school. He was a member of the Leadership Team, participated in a walk-a-thon for the March of Dimes, the Toys for Tots drive and many school fundraising drives. Adam has also received many awards including the National Commemorative Certificate in the Arts from the United States Achievement Academy. The New York Metropolitan Museum of Art honored him with the Saint Gauden's medal for visual arts.

Adam's mother, Peggy, inspired him to get involved in his community. He was a valuable intern in my Brooklyn district office. During his internship, he was involved in many community projects including the Toy Gun Exchange, the community Christmas Tree lighting, town hall meetings, and health forums. He was also closely involved with Congressman Towns' Youth Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, Adam N. Haskins is a fine young man who has an outstanding record of achievement in his school and in his community. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable person.

#### NATIONAL SERVICE DAY

### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2002*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Service Day, celebrated every year on June 20, but more important to Americans this year than ever before.

Following the events of September 11, I, like many Americans, felt the need to respond not only with my checkbook but also with my actions. Indeed, many of us felt a yearning to find meaning in those tragic events by actively participating in our nation's healing process; and we came together in a way that many of us had not seen in generations.

Long before that horrifying day, President John F. Kennedy captured what so many of us felt in the wake of our national disaster. He pointed to the need Americans have always had to participate in spreading America's values of freedom, justice and opportunity around the world. "We have, in this country," he said, "an immense reservoir of men and women anxious to sacrifice their energies and time and toil to the cause of world peace and human progress . . . knowing that he or she is sharing in the great common task of bringing to man that decent way of life which is the foundation of freedom and a condition of peace." Americans since September 11 have indeed responded to that calling and contributed their share in our nation's, and the world's, rejuvenation.

Yet they have learned what many Americans have known all along: that service benefits not only the recipient of the deed, but the giver as well, in ways far less tangible, but perhaps even more meaningful. Service has always been an answer to man's quest for purpose and meaning in life, elevating him, bringing him closer to people from different backgrounds and teaching him that the world can be improved even through the small acts of individuals. Thus, when President John F. Kennedy asked Americans not to be dependent on our country, but rather to do for our country, we understood what he meant because we knew the value of national service. Our appreciation of its enriching nature ensured our overwhelming response to his call.

AmeriCorps is perhaps the most celebrated example of the drive Americans have always had to lend a hand to those in need. Since it was initiated by President Clinton in 1993, more than 250,000 men and women have served in AmeriCorps, providing needed assistance to millions of Americans, particularly in tutoring programs. The Corporation for Public Management, an independent evaluator, found that students tutored by AmeriCorps members completed their homework 67 percent more often, and 75 percent of those students improved the quality of their homework as well. In my district, in the last year alone, AmeriCorps provided in-school and after-school tutoring to 250 children in five elementary schools in order to improve children's language arts performance. The Corps members in my district also tutored 300 disadvantaged students and parents at homework centers and engaged youth in service-learning projects. AmeriCorps, however, is just one of many organizations in my district that I look to as inspiring examples of community service.

The Connecticut Commission on National and Community Service is another shining example, dedicated to incorporating volunteerism into a positive personal experience to strengthen communities. Based in Hartford, the Commission envisions a Connecticut in which every citizen embraces the ethic of community service. Through a multitude of service opportunities, individuals will understand the social needs of their communities and will embark on fulfilling their most American of wishes—to help others. By recognizing this opportunity to serve, barriers that have hindered a sense of community will be lifted, and citizens across age, ethnic, racial, and economic strata will come together around a common good.

It is therefore incumbent on us here in Congress to do all we can to encourage service in this time when so many Americans are yearning for ways to do their share and find scraps of meaning in the rubble of September 11. Now, more than ever, we can expose young people to the uplifting value of serving their community and their nation.

Therefore, I join supporters of national service across the country by calling on my colleagues and on President Bush to expand American's national service programs, such as AmeriCorps. Congressmen FORD and OSBORNE introduced the "Call to Service Act" which seeks to quintuple AmeriCorps service openings to 250,000, expand senior service, create a "citizen soldier" for short term military enlistments, and increase the involvement of college work study participants in community service. We must act to pass that legislation and its companion in the Senate in order to ensure that the opportunity to participate in service be available to all Americans. Similarly, the Senate Armed Services Committee has reported legislation creating a citizen soldier option. We must take up these pieces of legislation and move forward so that national service can become not just a special chance for a few but a way of life for all Americans.

At a time when Americans from all walks of life are asking what they can do to help make our nation safer, stronger and better, national service offers an answer that points us towards a higher politics of individual and national purpose.

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#### CONGRATULATING THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND ON ITS ANNIVERSARY

### HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2002*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Borough of Oakland on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Oakland, New Jersey is a valley community nestled in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains. It has become community known for its dedication to its people, programs, and the preservation of its history and natural resources. The warmth and intimacy of this small town make Oakland a true treasure in an industrial region. This weekend, the Borough of Oakland will begin their town-wide celebration of its 100th anniversary with a gala celebration, starting with a family picnic and concluding with a wonderful fireworks display at dusk. I am proud to recognize this wonderful event and community in Northern New Jersey.