

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