

her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

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. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, as a member of the National Service Caucus, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigoration, and Education or GIVE Act.

President and First Lady Obama have encouraged a renewed spirit of service and active citizenship in America. The GIVE Act answers that call to service by reauthorizing and expanding the National and Community Service Act of 1990.

H.R. 1388 will increase national service opportunities for many more of our citizens. This bill expands AmeriCorps, an existing and outstanding service-learning program with a proven track record of integrating academic study with community service. It also creates four new service corps in the areas of clean energy, education, health care, and veteran service and adds new programs to enable middle and high-school youth and retirees to serve their communities. Finally, this bill expands the National Civilian Community Corps to include disaster relief and energy conservation and provides funds to help non-profits recruit new volunteers.

The GIVE Act more than triples the number of federal volunteers serving in our communities so that an estimated 250,000 Americans will be able to participate in a year of service by 2014. These extra volunteers will help their neighbors endure these tough economic times by improving education, providing food and other services to the disadvantaged, and rebuilding towns and cities after disasters. This bill will also strengthen the economy because every dollar invested in service produces up to \$3.90 in direct, measurable benefits.

Volunteerism is growing in America. From 2002 to 2007, one million more citizens across the country started dedicating their time to worthy causes. Twenty-seven percent of all Americans are now volunteering. My state of Minnesota has a proud tradition of civic engagement. In a study conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Minneapolis-St. Paul was ranked number one for volunteer rates in a large city.

American men and women who choose to better their communities and themselves by responding to the nation's critical education, safety, homeland security, and health needs exemplify the values of America. I want to thank every American volunteer and urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

HONORING MAYOR CAROLYN RISHER OF INGLIS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true public servant who dedicated nearly two decades to serving her community. Mrs. Carolyn Risher, long time mayor of Inglis, Florida will retire this week after 18 years of public service.

Born and raised in Inglis, Mayor Risher's dedication to the town of Inglis is deep seeded. She followed her father's example, first serving as Road and Bridge Commissioner before being elected mayor in 1993.

Fondly known as a "Working Mayor," Mayor Risher led by example as hands-on manager, from helping neighbors in the aftermath of hurricanes to raising funds for the annual community Fourth of July celebration. Without Mayor Risher's efforts, the South Levy Recreation Park would not be what it is today.

Mayor Risher cherished her roles as wife, mother and mayor. Married for 50 years, Carolyn and James Risher are parents to five children and eight grandchildren, many who live in the area and will continue the family's involvement in their community.

Madam Speaker, it is public servants like Mayor Risher who keep our communities and towns running strong at home. Her dedication and willingness to serve are admired and stand as a model to others. We thank her for her service. She may no longer be Mayor, but Mrs. Risher will not be forgotten and will surely be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to personal reasons.

On Monday, March 23, 2009 I missed Rollcall votes 145 and 146. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the following votes:

Rollcall vote 145: Yes on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 918, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 East 3rd Street in Jamestown, New York, as the "Stan Lundine Post Office Building";

Rollcall vote 146: Yes on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1218, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 South 5th Street in Saint Charles, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building".

COMMENDING BALDEEP DUA OF UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month and to congratulate Baldeep Dua of Berkeley Heights, New Jersey who will be honored on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the 17th Annual Women of Excellence Dinner held in Union County, New Jersey.

This special annual event is hosted by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women in the Seventh Congressional District and highlights the amazing work of individuals who are making our communities better places to live. The Commission on the Status of Women recognizes the contributions of women in the fields of education, health care, the arts, government, business, law, community service, technology, public service and women's advocacy and lifetime achievement.

This year's Entrepreneurial Award will be given to Baldeep Dua because of her extensive leadership, management skills and efforts to benefit her community. Specifically, Baldeep utilizes her management skills in her position as the Chief Financial Officer of Kirusa Inc., an international communications Technology Company located in New Providence, New Jersey. Through her position as CFO, Baldeep has managed to steer her technologically oriented start-up company that is a leading developer of value added mobile services, towards its goal of profitability.

Baldeep is active as an advisor to the New Jersey Technological Council, a group that connects companies, capital and government. Members are involved in research, development, manufacture, supply, and sales of high technology products, services, materials and components. Under her direction, the company is the proud recipient of the Business Employment Incentive Program, recognized as a high-growth company in the critical industry of technology.

Baldeep is also a member of the Board for The Indus Entrepreneur, a group that fosters entrepreneurship globally through mentoring, networking and education. Dedicated to giving back to the community, this group is focused on cultivating and nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs. In 2008, Baldeep was recognized by the Executive Women of New Jersey for her professional distinction. Through this association she mentors other women, encouraging them to take charge and advance their own careers.

Baldeep Dua of Berkely Heights, New Jersey has made significant achievements both in business and in her community. And I am very pleased to congratulate Baldeep for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.