

Editorial

Maloney Is Best Choice For Senate

On Monday, President-elect Barack Obama nominated United States Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton to the cabinet level post of Secretary of State. We congratulate Clinton on the nomination and Obama for making a wise choice.

There seems little doubt that the Senate will advise and consent that Clinton be named Secretary of State. However, New York Governor David Paterson, like the governors of most of the 50 states, will then have the responsibility of choosing Clinton's successor in office to complete her term and then, possibly, run for re-election to the junior of New York's two Senate seats. Paterson has already announced that he will not exercise a time-honored prerogative and resign from office so that his successor in the governor's chair can appoint him to the Senate. He is, instead, looking among the state's legislators at all levels of government.

From where we sit, the strongest candidate—and the one best qualified—is Congressmember Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat, who represents the 14th Senate District, encompassing Western Queens and the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Maloney introduced more bills than any other member of the House of Representatives in the 110th Congress. In the past two months alone, Maloney secured passage through the House of three important measures that she authored and introduced: the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights; a bill establishing a database to better monitor all federal contracts with the private sector that was incorporated into the Defense Authorization Act, and the

reauthorization of her landmark "Debbie Smith" bill, expected to jail 50,000 rapists with the help of DNA.

Maloney has written and secured passage of bills that provide annual mammograms for women on Medicare; helped curb the demand for sex trafficking (the "End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act", signed into law in 2006); created a human rights commission in Afghanistan and provided funding for Afghan women's programs and education to combat the Taliban's oppression.

A former co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, Maloney wrote the critically acclaimed *Rumors of Our Progress Have Been Greatly Exaggerated: Why Women's Lives Aren't Getting Any Easier—and How We Can Make Real Progress for Ourselves and Our Daughters*, which offers detailed policy prescriptions for advancing the stalled progress of women's efforts to achieve true equality in American society. Maloney is the first woman to represent New York's 14th Congressional District, the first woman to represent the city's 7th Councilmanic district, and the first woman vice chair of the Joint Economic Committee, a House and Senate panel that examines and addresses the nation's most pressing economic issues. She was also the first woman to give birth while serving on the New York City Council.

Maloney also has been an outspoken authority against the persistent problem of sexual assault in the military, a vigorous advocate to restore U.S. aid to the UN Population Fund

(UNFPA), and a leader who has highlighted the persistent social and financial inequalities between men and women that still exist in America. Maloney also is the chief sponsor in Congress of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Maloney continues to lead the effort to secure federal support for the Second Avenue Subway, the largest mass transit project under construction anywhere in the nation. The second largest mass transit project in the country, the East Side Connector, is also almost entirely located in her 14th Congressional District.

After the "Dubai Ports" fiasco, Maloney wrote and secured passage of her bill to reform the federal inter-agency Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). Her work on securing adequate healthcare monitoring and treatment of 9/11 rescue and recovery workers has also been widely praised.

In the 435 House Members' power rankings posted by Congress.org this year, Maloney jumped to 57th place from the Number 80 slot she occupied in 2007. She is ranked seventh in the New York delegation; 53rd among House Democrats overall, and 57th among all House Members. We note that such a rapid rise can come about only on merit.

Maloney's continued efforts to pass legislation benefiting the district she represents and all American citizens clearly indicates her overwhelming fitness to become the junior Senator from New York. We ask our readers to join us in calling on Governor Paterson to choose the best person to fill out Clinton's term, Congressmember Carolyn B. Maloney.

Say 'No' To Foreign Oil

To The Editor:

The reduction in the price of a barrel of oil reflected at the gas pump is welcome and represents a tax cut to Americans. The recent shock of \$4 gas remains fresh in our minds. Past large increases followed by significant reductions have anesthetized us, allowing us to rationalize purchase of oversized vehicles with enormous appetites for fuel.

If the President-Elect [Barack Obama] enacts his platform of creating millions of new jobs by subsidizing alternative fuels, the nation will avoid a return to expensive oil. Unless the U.S. pursues alternatives, we will continue to fund radicals and nations whose desire is to harm the U.S.

Confronting unimaginable deficits, Congress may resist expenditures funding alternative fuels in the face of reduced oil costs. To do so will ensure the return of gas at prices that will threaten our national security.

Energy is the new weapon of diplomacy. Russia has not hesitated using gas and oil as the means to reclaim a position of power. Hugo Chavez of Venezuela has relied upon oil income to support an anti-American agenda. Russian President [Dimitry] Medvedev has signaled intention to confront U.S. power by entering into several agreements with Chavez.

Russia has agreed with Chavez to create a multi-polar world directed against U.S. interests. Russia has agreed to sell arms and to aid Venezuela to develop atomic energy for allegedly civilian use.

The new Administration will face many challenges and threats. If it fails to succeed in weaning

we were able to stuff about 500 bags with handmade cards. We'll be sure to do it again next year!! Thanks, Joanna, Maritza, Martha, Andy, Phyllis and Rene!

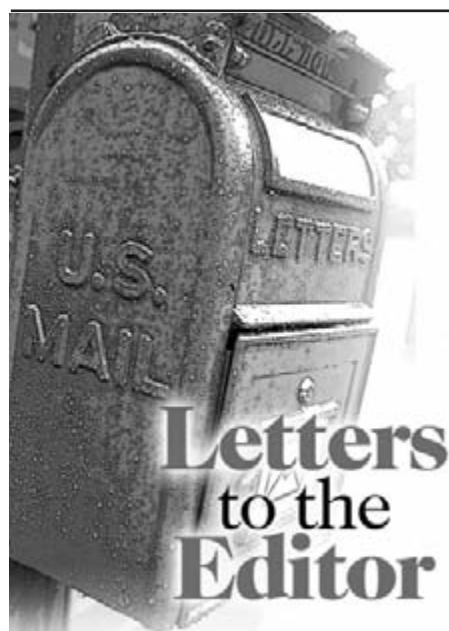
Out of the meals delivered, one senior will never leave our thoughts. Her name is Beverly. She was unaware that food was being delivered to her for Thanksgiving. We surprised her when we rang her bell. She opened the door to what seemed to be the smallest apartment in the city. She wheeled her chair to the door and invited us in. She was very overwhelmed to be a recipient of food and cried, "Thank you. This is a blessing." She bowed her head and shook it in disbelief as Joanna placed a hot meal on the cluttered desk that served as her kitchen table. Her eyes filled up with tears as we said "Happy Thanksgiving from Project Find and Seeds of Love". A moment later, we said goodbye and closed the door. We stood in silence on the other side of her apartment and began to weep. To see someone in her condition, so old, so fragile, so helpless, so alone, was heart-breaking. Be thankful for all that you have. You can't imagine what it's like to be so alone.

Project Find is an amazing organization and without them, 1,200 seniors would have gone hungry on Thanksgiving Day. God bless.

Visit our Shutterfly site to view pictures from our Thanksgiving Day deliveries at seed-soflove.shutterfly.com.

From our family to yours, we hope you had a blessed Thanksgiving.

Hugs,
Danielle Mahoney
Seeds of Love
Astoria



Giving Is A Privilege

To The Editor:

For the second consecutive year, we were honored to deliver meals to homebound seniors. We were grateful to be a part of such a wonderful day. We felt like we could have done so much more! (And next year, we will!)

The students of P.S. 212 in Jackson Heights and P.S. 234 in Astoria, loved making cards for the seniors! Thank you Martha Georgalas, Jennifer Bayer, Denise Alvarez, Maria V (I know I'll mess your new last name up if I try to spell it!!), Jennifer Panza, Marisa Trupia, Lorne Greene, and Kim Kissag! You have no idea the impact your students have made on the lives of these seniors. We had seven volunteers delivering this year with us and

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