



Congresswoman

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Norton Introduces Voting Rights Bill as Residents Go to War in Iraq



Three distinguished D.C. veterans stood with Congresswoman Norton when she introduced her congressional voting rights bill, as the Iraq War began: former Army Secretary Clifford Alexander, U.S. Army, Harvard College, Yale Law School; George Keyes, U.S. Air Force Academy, Rhodes Scholar, Yale Law School; and Wesley Brown, first African American graduate of the U.S. Naval

Academy, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Representing nearly 50,000 D.C. veterans, they joined her in demanding full congressional representation for residents who have served their country and for other D.C. citizens. Senators Joe Lieberman and Russ Feingold introduced Norton's voting rights bill in the Senate. *(More voting rights news, page 2.)*



Ashley Gaddis, a Bruce Monroe 1st grader, showed the Congresswoman a poster at a Coalition for Accountable Public Schools public event where Norton and others opposed vouchers and advocated federal funds for charter and low-income neighborhood schools. (See page 3.)

Mark Your Calendar Today for Two Important Norton Events!

*Town Hall Meeting
In conjunction with Norton's*

Commission on Black Men & Boys

**Why are So Many Black Males in the
Criminal Justice System?
Can Ex-offender Programs Help?**

*We Cannot Eliminate the Problems of the
Black Community Without Facing the
Problems of Black Males*

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

9th & G Streets, NW

Hear From:

Eric Holder, Former U.S. Attorney for D.C.

**Ex-offenders and Other Expert
Witnesses Will Testify About Their
Problems & Successes**

*Share Your Views with Norton and her Black Men &
Boys Commission to Form an Action Plan for the City*

**Former Washington Redskin
George Starke, Chair**

Metro: Metro Center-- Blue & Orange Lines
Gallery Place--Green, Red, & Yellow Lines

Buses: 42, 66, 68, 70, 71, 80, S2, S4 & X2

Parking: Private Lots & Street Meters

Job Opportunity Fair VI

Monday, June 30, 2003

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where D.C. Residents Get Real Jobs!

**Don't miss 30 minute workshops on
Interviewing Skills, Preparing a Resume,
Completing Federal & D.C. Employment
Applications, Dressing for Success
at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.**

**The New Washington Convention
Center – Hall D**

801 Mount Vernon Place, NW
(Use Mt. Vernon Place Entrance)

Many

**Private & Federal Employers with Jobs
Job Fair for D.C. Residents Only**

Must Have Valid D.C. ID—(D.C. driver's
license or non-driver's license, voter registration)
or other **Proof of D.C. Residency**--
(Utility bills, pay stubs, leases, etc.)

Business Attire

Bring Lots of Resumes & OF-612's

Metro: Mt. Vernon Sq/7th St.-Convention Center--
Green & Yellow Lines, Gallery Place--Red Line

Buses: 70, 71, 66, G8, P6

Parking: Private Lots & Street Meters

Norton Adds Homeland Security to Her Committees

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA) named Congresswoman Norton to the new and much sought after Select Committee on Homeland Security (HSC). On being named Norton said, this "committee will be critical to the safety and economic well being of the nation's capital." She recently drew on her existing committee experience in a successful effort to keep the interim headquarters in the District, even after Virginia was named the likely choice. She won the right to retain her seat on the Government Reform Committee, one more committee assignment than generally allowed, because of its D.C. jurisdiction. Congresswoman Norton votes in all committees.

NORTON'S COMMITTEES	
Committees	Subcommittees
Homeland Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Emergency Preparedness and Response ❖ Intelligence and Counterterrorism
Transportation & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Economic Development, Public Buildings, & Emergency Management (Ranking Member) ❖ Aviation
Government Reform <i>(Handles D.C. Matters)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Civil Service ❖ Criminal Justice

Ridge Goes on Record

Tells Norton: No Plans to Move Homeland Security Department From D.C.

At a hearing of the Homeland Security Committee, the Congresswoman received assurances from Secretary Tom Ridge that DHS would be using its present headquarters at the U.S. Naval Station for the foreseeable future. She has given special priority to keeping good, stable federal jobs in the city.

Fighting Wars and Paying Taxes

Tom Toles — *Washington Post*, April 13, 2003



Some Citizen Ideas from Voting Rights Town Meeting

Constituents said Norton should:

- ✓ Tell Congress that D.C. veterans and residents serving in Iraq are entitled to voting rights
- ✓ Get Budget and Legislative Autonomy bills passed
- ✓ Use media to raise awareness on Voting Rights bill
- ✓ Launch educational awareness projects for students and congregations

Fax Your Ideas to 225-3002

Calling D.C. Students & Other Residents! It's time to Visit the Capitol & the White House

Throughout the Iraq War and terrorism alerts, Norton has pressed Capitol officials and the President to keep D.C. sites open to residents and tourists. "The federal sites attract 20 million visitors annually to our hometown," she said, "We must not let the feds shut down our city and our economy." Call our office at **225-8050** to book group tours.



Capitol Tours Open to All:

Group tours (10 or larger) Monday–Friday only
Individual tours Monday - Saturday
Individuals may visit by checking in at the SW corner of Capitol Grounds at 1st & Independence



White House Tours Open to Groups:

Youth ❖ Schools ❖ U.S. Military ❖ Veterans
Special Congressional Member Tours
Book at least 6 weeks in Advance
Tuesday - Saturday

Norton Gets Big Money for Transportation and Energy Priorities

- ▲ **\$1 million** to relieve D.C. traffic congestion
 - Synchronization of traffic signals at 60 downtown intersections
 - Installation of bigger and easier to read signs
 - Installation of close circuit TV cameras to manage traffic near the White House where Pennsylvania Ave. & E Street closings create congestion
- ▲ **\$263 million** for advanced solar power electrical generators for federal buildings to reduce fossil fuel consumption
- ▲ Requested: **\$41 million** in FY'04 for new state of the art traffic light system throughout city

Norton Fights for Public Money for Public Schools



Congresswoman Norton views a science experiment with students at Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School in Ward 8. Most of D.C.'s 42 charter schools—the most extensive in the United States—are in crowded, inadequate churches or commercial space and “yet have long waiting lists, of parents clamoring to get their kids in,” said Norton. “Transformation schools in mostly low-income neighborhoods must have the extra support the city has promised or these schools won’t be transformed.”

D.C. Parents Speak Out for Choice and Against Vouchers

Norton and Iris Toyer, Stanton Elementary Transformation School PTA President and Parents United Co-chair, recently spoke at a Coalition for Accountable Public Schools at a news conference. Norton agreed with Toyer, who said:

“School choice and public schools are not mutually exclusive. Proponents of vouchers have it wrong. D.C. schools do offer choice – transformational schools, the out-of-neighborhood boundary program, the charter schools, and many alternative educational programs. Washington abounds with publicly funded school choice that allows for standards, public accountability and access. D.C. parents don’t want just any choice – they want real choice, which D.C. has, and vouchers do not really offer that.” Iris Toyer, Parent

Students for D.C. Voting Rights Bill And for Affirmative Action

I am encouraged that a new generation of students wants to preserve the desegregated education won by my generation of civil rights activists. I am thrilled that they will try to accomplish this in addition to supporting my congressional Voting Rights bill,” said Congresswoman Norton.

- ▲ Norton meets with D.C. High School students at Woodson High School to focus on the benefits of affirmative action and on D.C. voting rights.
- ▲ Norton meets with college students about the University of Michigan affirmative action Supreme Court case
- ▲ At a town meeting hosted by Howard University, Howard President H. Patrick Swygert and Congressional Black Caucus Chair Elijah Cummings support Norton’s D.C. Voting Rights bill and affirmative action.



Howard President H. Patrick Swygert and students express support for D.C. voting rights and affirmative action.

Norton Cosponsors Bill for Immigrant Higher Education

- ◆ HR. 1684 would allow states to determine their own residency eligibility rules so children of undocumented immigrants could get in-state tuition. As a co-sponsor, she wants Hispanic and other immigrant children to be able to take advantage of her D.C. College Access Act that allows D.C. residents to attend any U.S. public college at in-state tuition rates, or receive \$2,500 to attend any private college in D.C. or the region, or any private Historically Black College and University (HBCU) nationwide.
- ◆ Texas, California, Utah, and New York have already passed laws allowing undocumented immigrants who graduate from high school to pay in-state tuition rates, but the states are limited by federal rules.

“...I have learned English, I graduated from a D.C. Public Charter School and attained my GED, and I have even received a scholarship ...that would pay up to \$1,000 a semester. But I cannot even use that. I am up against a wall, unable to get into college and unable to get a job. There are many immigrant young people all over this country in similar situations as me. We want a chance to continue our education ...to live out our dream.”

An immigrant seeking legal status to go to college

Saving Historic Sites

HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAILBLAZERS

House Passes Norton Bill To Make Shaw Carter G. Woodson Home a Tourist Attraction

- ▲ To be renovated and become a National Park Service property like Mt. Vernon and the Frederick Douglass Home
- ▲ Tourists to learn about the "Father of Black History"
- ▲ NPS to work with Shiloh Baptist Church to renovate entire block
- ▲ Association for the Study of African American Life and History, founded by Woodson, also to be housed in renovated property

Finally, \$2 Million for Frederick Douglass Home, Big Tourist Draw

- ▲ Norton seeks \$2 million to preserve the Frederick Douglass home from Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
- ▲ House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist recommend funding over three years
- ▲ Funding follows years of work with residents and local and national preservation groups frustrated that funds had not been appropriated
- ▲ Thousands of national and international tourists visit landmark annually

DoT "Best Real Estate Deal"

The **Washington Business Journal** has named, the New Department of Transportation Headquarters the Best Real Estate Deal of 2002. Norton pressed this project through Congress.

"Many anticipated that DoT's location at the site will spur residential, retail and office growth." Washington Business Journal, 4/25/03

- ❖ Keeps 7,500 good federal jobs in D.C.
- ❖ To be located on 11 acres of 57-acre Southeast Federal Center property designated in her bill
- ❖ Allows residential and retail construction on remaining 46 acres

Administration Funds Homebuyer Credit Extension

Study Shows Norton's \$5,000 Homebuyer Tax Credit Led to Rapid Growth in D.C. Home Sales

Year	Actual Home Sales (with tax credit)	Projected Home Sales (without tax credit)
1997	8,700	8,700
1998	13,000	8,600
1999	13,800	9,700
2000	12,700	11,300
2001	12,700	10,600
2002	12,900	10,000

Source: National Association of Realtors, March 2003



Bill to Make Credit Permanent

Norton held a news conference at the home of Tania Shand, a homeowner who took advantage of the tax credit and renovated her home, to announce her bill to make the federal credit permanent. It expires at the end of this year, but the President's 2004 budget includes a 2-year extension.



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★ **Job Opportunity Fair VI**
★ **A Town Hall Meeting on Black Men & Boys**