



The 47th Flyer

News for California's 47th Congressional District
from Congressman Alan Lowenthal



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January 10, 2015

This week marked the start of the 114th Congress, during which I was sworn in for my second term representing California's 47th District.

I look forward to continuing my work on issues that impact all of the residents of the 47th District and providing direct assistance through my district office to those that need it.

This is only the first week and we have already seen several major legislative actions by the House leadership.

On Thursday, a bill was put forward that would have changed the definition of "full-time employee" within the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The definition is important because under the ACA, businesses will soon have to start providing health care coverage for their workers if they have over 50 full-time employees.

Currently, the law defines a full-time employee as someone who works 30 or more hours a week. Wednesday's bill would have changed this to 40 hours.

The average American currently works 34 hours a week--meaning that under the current 30-hour definition vastly more Americans would be covered than under the 40-hour proposal.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that this bill would result in up to 1 million Americans losing their employment-based health care coverage.

While the bill passed the House by a vote of 252-172, I voted against it. On Friday, the House also took up a bill that would strip the President Obama Administration of its authority to determine if the Keystone XL pipeline was in the United States' best interest. The pipeline, if built, will transport carbon intensive tar sands oil from Canada down through the US Midwest to Texas for export overseas. The Obama Administration is currently reviewing the project, which cannot move forward without approval from the federal government.

I believe this flawed bill will absolve the operator of the pipeline of any liability in the event of a spill. If signed into law, the bill would unlock some of the dirtiest crude oil in the world, and allow the operator to avoid paying into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund that is used to pay for the industry's inevitable oil spills.

I believe our resources would be better spent on developing the alternative energy sources of the future. This is why I voted no on the bill, which passed the House Friday.

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Should the President approve the Keystone XL pipeline, which will transport tar sands oil from Canada to Texas for export?

Yes - America needs this project

Maybe - But more review on the possible impacts need to be done

No - This is a bad project for America

[If you have a problem, click here to open survey in a new window](#)

On The Hill

A Tragedy in France

Sadly, this week was marred by the tragic terrorist attacks in Paris.

On Wednesday, Ten journalists and staff plus a police officer at the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo were executed by two heavily-armed terrorists who stormed the magazine offices in Paris on Wednesday. They also killed another police officer during their escape. According to reports from survivors, the magazine was targeted by the terrorists because of satirical articles and cartoons the magazine had run featuring depictions of the Islamic prophet Mohammed.

An attack on free speech is an attack on democracy. An attack on democracy is an attack on the rights of all free people.



Je suis Charlie. I am Charlie.

We are all Charlie.

Also on Wednesday, another pair of terrorists killed a French police officer at a traffic stop. At least one of the individuals took nearly 20 hostages at a kosher market in Paris. When police stormed the market, killing the terrorist, they found four hostages had been killed.

My heart goes out to all of the victims and family members impacted by these horrific and heartbreaking attacks.

On Friday, I visited the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. to sign a condolence book to the French people. While there I spoke with French Ambassador Gérard Araud and expressed my shock, sympathy, and America's solidarity with France

over these senseless acts.

Special Guests

One annual tradition practiced by many Congressional offices on Capitol Hill is the holding of an open house at the start of each two-year Congressional session. The open houses are held on one day and gives Members and their staff the opportunity to visit multiple offices, meet their counterparts, and learn where offices that have recently moved are now located.

On Tuesday, I held my second open house.

It was great to play host with my wife Debbie to quite a few of my colleagues and show them around our new offices (you may remember from recent issues of The 47th Flyer, that we moved from 515 Cannon to 108 Cannon.



A few of the people that stopped by were Rep. Chris Van Hollen from Maryland (top left), Rep. Janice Hahn from right next door to the 47th in Southern California (top right), Rep. Xavier Becerra (bottom left), and Rep. Mike Honda from Northern California (bottom right).

The real treat of the morning was an unexpected visit from Vice President Joe Biden, who dropped in to say hello.



College For All

Speaking in Tennessee late Friday, President Obama publicly unveiled a new proposal that would allow nearly all community college students to attend at no cost. As a former educator, I understand the critical importance not only of an education, but of the need for investment in education. In the next issue of The 47th Flyer I will go into much greater detail about the Presidents exciting proposal.

In The 47th District

Dock Worker Contract Talks

For more than six months, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), which represents nearly 40,000 dock workers on the West Coast (including more than 10,000 in Southern California), have been negotiating a new contract with their maritime industry employers, the Pacific Maritime Association. The ILWU workers have been without a contract since their current contract expired July 1.

I am encouraged that both sides have now agreed to welcome a federal mediator to the negotiating table. I sincerely hope that the talks can now move forward and be brought to a speedy resolution.

Our national economy demands the efficient flow of goods. Nowhere is this more critical than our ports. Workers depend on it, families depend on it, and our economy depends on it.

Cypress High At The Rose Parade

If you are one of the more than 70 million TV viewers worldwide that watched the 126th Rose Parade on New Year's Day, you may have noticed a familiar name right behind the U.S. Marine Band leading off the parade.

Marching as the first high school band and pageantry team in the procession this year was none other than the 47th District's own Cypress High Centurion Imperial Brigade. It was great to see that Band Director James Quirion and the members were recognized for their musicianship, marching ability, and uniqueness!

If you would like to see what their procession looked like, [click here](#) or the image below.



You can also check out this [Orange County Register article](#) on their preparations leading up to the parade appearance.

Congress U

House Reading Of The Constitution

According to the Office of the Historian of the House of Representatives, prior to 2011, there were only two examples of the full text of the Constitution coming anywhere near being read out aloud on the House floor.

In 1882, a New York Representative "appended" the text of the Constitution — minus the amendments — into the Congressional Record, and thirty-three years later, in 1915, the full text —including the amendments—was inserted into the record by a Connecticut Representative.

This all changed in 2011, when the House began a tradition of reading the Constitution at the start of each two-year Congressional session.

During the event, usually held in the first week of a new Congress, each member of the House has the opportunity to come to the House floor and read a small portion of the Constitution.

The Preamble is read by the Speaker of the House, who is then followed by the leader of the minority party. Following portions read by members of both Republican and Democratic House leadership, the remainder is read in a back-and-forth manner by Democratic and Republican Members. The order in which Members speak after the leadership slots is determined on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Earlier today, I joined my colleagues in reading the Constitution during the first week of the 114th Congress. I read Article VII of the Constitution, which dealt with how the drafted Constitution would be ratified by the original 13 states: The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

Last Week's Poll

How should the United States retaliate against countries that launch cyber-attacks on U.S. companies and U.S. interests?

32.1% - Enact financial sanctions

36.5% - Launch counter-cyber-attacks

31.4% - Pursue these nations in International Court of Justice

Thank you,



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