



# The 47th Flyer

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



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January 24, 2014

This past Monday marked Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which is also the National Day of Service.

Martin Luther King, Jr. stood bravely in the face of injustice and inequality everywhere. His life and legacy remain an American treasure that is shared in classrooms, living rooms, work places, and the halls of government around the world. He was an inspiration to me, both personally and professionally, and I am reminded daily of his dream that still has yet to be fully realized.

I want to start this edition of "The 47th Flyer" by sharing one of my favorite quotes by the great MLK: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

## In The 47th District

### State of the Cities

On Tuesday and Wednesday, I attended the City of Garden Grove and the City of Cypress' State of the City. These are two of the largest cities in the Orange County portion of the 47th district, boasting a combined quarter of a million constituents. I found each of their presentations very informative. They provided an overview of economic growth, new developments, achievements in local school districts, public safety, and prospects for the future. This type of annual city-wide update allows me to take back to Washington a more complete perspective on the critical local issues that affect all of us.

### State of the Port

I was also pleased to join the Port of Long Beach on Thursday for their annual State of the Port address. The annual executive address was held at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach, and featured updates on upcoming infrastructure projects, cargo trends, jobs, security, and other Harbor Department initiatives. I learned a lot about their issues and new projects, and I am looking forward to continuing my long-standing support for the Port of Long Beach.

## In The Hopper

### An End To The Helicopter Noise

The Omnibus budget bill, which passed on the 16th, included a provision contained in the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act. This Act, which I

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**How should Congress tackle the issue of reforming the NSA's surveillance and data collection program?**

Deliberate the President's reforms, and pass bipartisan legislation that sensibly reforms the NSA and protects the privacy of every American

Eliminate just the NSA's data collection program

Shut down the NSA in its entirety

I'm not troubled by the NSA's collection of data if it helps keep our country safe

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

cosponsored along with Reps. Adam Schiff, Karen Bass, Tony Cárdenas, Brad Sherman, and Henry Waxman, requires the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to evaluate and revise existing helicopter routes to reduce noise impacts on residential areas and landmarks.

This is a huge win for the quality of life and public health in our communities!

## On The Hill

### Reforming the NSA

President Obama recently announced reforms to the National Security Agency's (NSA) phone data mining program, transitioning data records known as "metadata" out of government control. It is critical for us to vigorously defend the privacy of all Americans, while protecting national security. The President's proposed NSA reforms strike a legitimate balance that must be carefully deliberated by both parties of Congress, as it is up to us to implement these reforms.

Later this month, I will be reviewing the findings and recommendations of the independent Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. I look forward to joining with my colleagues from both parties, as well as the Administration, in enhancing these new initiatives and protecting the privacy and civil liberties of all Americans.

### State of The Union

The President's 2014 State of the Union address will be on Tuesday, January 28th at 6:00pm PST. Each Member of Congress is allowed to bring one guest with them to the State of the Union address. This year, like last year, I will bring a constituent from the district with me.

Her story is touching. She used to be in the construction management business until the recession hit and she lost her job. Unable to find work, she went on unemployment insurance. Unfortunately, her benefits have expired. Since December 28th, 2013, more than 1.6 million Americans, just like this constituent, have seen their benefits expire because Congress has not renewed unemployment insurance. I am bringing her with me to the State of the Union address to show my colleagues the real face of what they have done and what needs to be done to protect these vulnerable Americans.

You can get ready for the State of the Union address by visiting The White House's new web page: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/SOTU>

## Congress U

### "Hopper at the Rostrum"

The hopper is a mahogany box located at the rostrum, which is where the Speaker of the House presides. The hopper is where Members place bills they are introducing. Every time I wish to introduce a bill or a resolution, I must drop it into the hopper where it then gets a bill number and is referred to the pertinent committee. In the Senate, there is no box. Instead, Senators hand their bill to a clerk at the Senate rostrum.

## Last Week's Poll

Do you think my small business jobs bill, the "American Unemployed Worker Investment Act," which offers tax credits to employers for hiring Americans currently receiving unemployment insurance, should be made law?

**46.2%** Yes - It is a good policy that will sensibly put people back to work, stimulate

the economy, and save our country billions of dollars currently spent on unemployment insurance

**19.2%** Yes - But it should include all workers, not just those receiving unemployment insurance

**3.8%** Maybe - Congress needs to focus first on other forms of economic growth

**30.8%** No - It is too costly, and I'm not sure it will have its intended effect

Thank you,



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

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