



# The 47th Flyer

News for California's 47<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
from Congressman Alan Lowenthal



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February 3, 2014

From the Orange County Vietnamese American community in Little Saigon to Cambodia Town in Long Beach and the Korean Business District in Garden Grove, I am proud to join with thousands of constituents across California's 47th Congressional district this year in celebrating the Lunar New Year with festivals, parades, and family gatherings. During this time of festivity, let us honor and celebrate our families and communities as we look forward to a new year, filled with good health and good fortune.

I hope the Lunar New Year serves a reminder of the important work that we must carry on in Congress on issues important to the Asian American community from human rights to immigration reform, to expanding access to health care.

## In The 47th District

Last Saturday, the LGBTQ Center of Long Beach presented its annual State of The Center Program. The event provided the community an opportunity to learn more about The Center's successes in 2013 and a look ahead to 2014.



(Speaking at the LGBTQ Center of Long Beach's State of The Center)

During this work period I also reviewed requests for Congressional nominations from 23 outstanding Service Academy applicants from the 47th District. Each year, congressional offices across the nation nominate Americans to the nation's Service Academies. Acceptance at an Academy involves at least a five year obligation to the Service after four years at the Academy. Appointments in the 47th District are very competitive, and the members of my Service Academy Nomination Panel – composed of military

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**What did you think about the President's State of the Union address?**

It was inspiring, and he laid out a clear vision of where we are and where we have to go

The speech was good, but I did not hear everything that I was hoping to hear

The speech was not good, and I did not agree with his vision

I did not get a chance to watch it

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veterans and academy graduates – worked on the interview process.

I am pleased to announce that 23 Service Academy nominees from the 47th District have been submitted to the Academies. The final decision will be made by the U.S. Military, Naval, Air Force, Merchant Marine, and Coast Guard Academies as they consider each of these talented and dedicated individuals from the 47th District for admission.

The Academies base acceptance on many factors, including: the applicant's grade point average and class rank; extra-curricular activities; SAT scores; motivation; and interview with my Service Academy Nomination Panel. I wish each of these 23 applicants the best of luck!

## In The Hopper

This week I introduced, along with original cosponsors Rep. Mike Thompson (Napa, CA) and Rep. Elizabeth Esty (Newtown, CT), legislation that I sincerely hope will refocus attention on the issue of gun violence.

Study after study, report after report, and tragedy after tragedy bear witness to the prevalence of gun violence. It is, quite simply, a public health epidemic. Even more heartbreaking than the devastation gun violence has brought to families across our nation, is the sad fact that Congress has failed—so often and so completely—to do anything meaningful about it.

Of the dozens of bills introduced this year that aimed to reduce the prevalence of this epidemic, none of them have been brought to the House Floor for a vote. Our Resolution supports multiple components of these bills, and it instills a sense of urgency for Congress to act this year.

Since I believe that gun violence is a public health issue, I will continue pushing for responsible reform that enhances the safety of our communities.

On Wednesday, the Huffington Post wrote an article about this Resolution. To read the article, visit: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/29/congress-gun-control\\_n\\_4689909.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/29/congress-gun-control_n_4689909.html)

## On The Hill

I was very disappointed that the House Republicans voted on H.R. 7, legislation which chips away at the fundamental right of women to make their own medical decisions. I voted “no” on H.R. 7.

You can see my speech on H.R. 7 by [clicking here](#).



After voting on H.R. 7, I attended the State of the Union address. Each Member of Congress invites one guest to the Capitol to hear the President speak on the current state of our nation and his plans for the coming year. This year, in order to raise awareness about the damaging effects of Congress' inability to renew unemployment benefits for more than 1.6 million Americans in need, I invited a long-term unemployed constituent named Alexandria with me to the State of the Union address.

She is a civil engineer who earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Civil Engineering and Ocean Engineering and has spent her two-decade career building water treatment and waste water plants. She was laid off in 2010 after eight years with her employer and has been unemployed since that time. I am grateful that she was willing to join me in Washington to share her story about the challenges she has faced due to being unemployed. I hope it helps to eliminate the myth that "unemployed" people are different that you or I.



(At a press conference with Alexandria before the State of the Union address)

I finished this week's votes by voting "no" on the Farm Bill, which provides funding for our nation's agricultural sector but contains deep cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). While I supported many parts of the bill, cutting SNAP benefits was unacceptable. I am saddened to think of the millions of Americans struggling each day to get enough to eat, especially children who are not receiving proper nutrition. While it is important for us to pass a Farm Bill, it must include sufficient SNAP funding to help families in need. The bill passed the House by a vote of 251-166.

## Congress U

State of the Union

The State of the Union is an annual address by the President of the United States to both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The annual

address, which was President Obama's fifth State of the Union address, reports on the condition of the nation and allows him to outline his priorities for the next year.

The State of the Union is actually constitutionally mandated under Article II, Section 3:

"[The President] shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as [the President] shall judge necessary and expedient."

Several interesting facts:

- Starting with Thomas Jefferson and until the administration of Woodrow Wilson, almost all Presidents communicated the State of the Union to Congress in writing.
- Prior to FDR first officially calling it the "State of the Union" address, the written or verbal address was generally known as "the President's Annual Message to Congress."
- In political circles and the political media, the address is often called the 'SOTU,' which is pronounced 'sew-too.'

### Last Week's Poll

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

- 52.3%** Deliberate the President's reforms, and pass bipartisan legislation that sensibly reforms the NSA and protects the privacy of every American
- 9.1%** Eliminate just the NSA's data collection program
- 15.9%** Shut down the NSA in its entirety
- 22.7%** I'm not troubled by the NSA's collection of data if it helps keep our country safe

Thank you,



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