



The 47th Flyer

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



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March 30, 2014

I joined nearly 160 of my colleagues in Congress on Wednesday in signing a "discharge petition" that would bring to the floor a House vote on H.R. 15, a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform legislative package that I cosponsored. This bill secures our borders, provides an earned pathway to citizenship, and increases economic opportunity for all Americans.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform legislation introduced by my colleague Congressman Joe Garcia, which has 199 cosponsors, will reduce the deficit by \$900 billion over the next two decades.

Not only will immigration reform save billions of dollars, but the vast majority of the American people support finally fixing our broken immigration system. We must seize this opportunity to pass comprehensive immigration reform. I look forward to voting yes on comprehensive immigration reform this year.

In The 47th District

LGB Made the Top 10

Way to go, Long Beach Airport (LGB). According to a recent article in Yahoo Travel, the latest \$140 million makeover of LGB made our airport one of the top 10 airport terminals in the world (something we already knew).



Serving three million passengers annually, many travelers through LGB spend an average of about 20 minutes going from curb to concourse, and only about seven minutes of that time in security lines.

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Do you think the President should utilize his executive authority on issues that are unable to be decided upon by Congress?

Yes - Congress is currently too divided to pass effective legislation, therefore the President must act whenever and wherever he can

Maybe - He should only use his executive authority when it is a matter of national security

No - It is an overreach of his Presidential duties

I do not know

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

Read more [here](#).

Jobs for Veterans & My Visit to the Joint Forces Training Base

I spent some time at the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) in Los Alamitos last week, where I met with General Keith Jones, Commanding General 40th Infantry Division, Major General Megan Tatu, Commanding General of the 79th Sustainment Support Center, Lt. Colonel Nathan Range, Deputy Base Commander, Lt. Colonel Joel Armstrong, Director of the Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy, Lt. Colonel (ret) Tom Lasser, and several others.

During the briefing, I was able to hear from the JFTB team about the need for jobs and challenges facing returning veterans. I also heard about the programs that are assisting in that effort.

After the briefing, I was given a tour of the Office of Emergency Services command center located at the JFTB with Mitch Medigovich, Assistant Secretary of Logistics Management, Governor Brown's Office of Emergency Services, and Mona Lisa Bontty, Regional Administrator. The Command Center is vital to the logistics involved in natural disasters, wildfire, earthquake, and civil unrest.



Posing with Major General Megan Tatu (left) and General Keith Jones (right)

On The Hill

Climate Action

Human-caused climate change threatens almost every aspect of human existence. Left unchecked, the world of tomorrow will be a vastly different world than the one we know today.

Read my full op-ed, as part of a series in conjunction with the Congressional Safe Climate Caucus, on HuffPost Green by [clicking here](#).

Protecting Our Nation's Water Sources

Under current law, there must be at least a 100 foot buffer between the toxic residues resulting from mountain top mining and nearby waterways. Unfortunately, the House voted this week on a bill that allows this form of strip mining within the 100 foot stream buffer.

Furthermore, the bill undermines regulations adopted by states that more stringent than federal regulations. In order to protect our drinking water sources, I introduced two amendments to the bill. One that reinstates the 100 foot stream buffer zone rule, and the other to ensure that states can maintain the ability to issue more stringent stream buffer rules.

Regrettably, my two amendments failed, and the bill passed 229 to 192.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Awareness Week

I wanted to recognize the son of one of my staffer, who has been afflicted with multiple sclerosis, I spoke on the floor to advocate for all those afflicted with MS and to recognize March as Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Awareness Month.

MS is a disabling, chronic health condition that attacks the central nervous system, and causes vision problems, overwhelming fatigue, difficulty with balance and coordination, and impaired mobility.

Click [here](#) or on the image below to watch my speech on MS Awareness Month



Congress U

“Voice Vote”

A voice vote is a type of floor vote where Members who support a bill say "aye" aloud as a group, subsequently followed by opposition saying "no." The presiding officer of the session, either the Speaker of the House or another member of the Majority party designated to lead the session, then decides which group was the loudest and announces the result. Although the names of those who participate in a voice vote are not recorded, members who do not agree with the result may request a recorded vote.

Thank you,



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

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