



# The 47th Flyer

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



HOW CAN ALAN HELP? | LEGISLATION | 47th DISTRICT | ABOUT ALAN | CONTACT ALAN

May 2, 2015

## Commemorating Black April

On April 30, 1975, the capitol of the Republic of Vietnam, Saigon, was invaded by communist forces in an event known as "Black April" or the "Fall of Saigon". This event is remembered in Vietnamese American communities across the United States each year. Following the collapse, millions of Vietnamese were forced to leave their homeland in search of freedom. Many found their way to the U.S., where today they comprise a strong, vibrant community that has given invaluable contributions to our nation.

April 30 is one of the most somber moments for Vietnamese Americans across our nation, and this year, the 40th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon and the collapse of the Republic of Vietnam is even more painful and poignant.

To watch my April 30 video speaking on Black April, [click here](#).

This annual commemoration serves as a celebration of survival, a remembrance of tremendous loss, and a hopeful reminder of what the Vietnamese community has built in America. Today, in communities throughout our nation, Vietnamese Americans contribute daily to the tapestry of American life.

That is why I introduced a House resolution this week recognizing the significance of the 40th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon.

The resolution also honors the contributions of Vietnamese Americans over the past 40 years, the service of U.S. and South Vietnamese forces who fought and died in Vietnam, and those who lost their lives attempting to flee Vietnam. We must also take this time to reflect on Vietnam today in respect to human rights, religious freedom, and democracy.

As we speak, hundreds of prisoners of conscience are still imprisoned in Vietnam, religious leaders are still facing persecution for practicing their faith and freedom, young people are still demanding their rights to social justice, environmental justice, and countless people are still demanding a say in what's going on with the country in term of democracy and national sovereignty.

Let us re-dedicate ourselves to fighting for real democracy, freedom and human rights for all the people of Vietnam.

## On The Hill

### Transparency On Greenhouse Gas Emissions

EMAIL ME

NEWSLETTER  
SIGN UP

CONNECT WITH US



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is visiting the United States this week. Which of the following events is the most important event in relations, negative or positive, between the United States and Japan over the past 75 years?

- 2011 earthquake & tsunami in Japan
- World War II
- US-Japan military alliance since end of World War II
- US-Japan "trade wars" of the 1980s and early 1990s
- Other

[If you have a problem, click here](#)

The National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), the federal law that requires federal agencies to create Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) on federal projects, is the key legislative tool to provide transparency to all Americans about the environmental impacts of federal activities.

However, there has been a large blind spot when it comes to the carbon footprint of federal actions. That means that you and I are not getting the full picture on the environmental impacts of federal projects.

The environmental risks of the greenhouse gas emissions from federal activities, not currently part of the discussion, should be a part of the decision process. The American people have a right to know how the use of our resources affects the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the earth we call home.

But right now, because we have no way on knowing where these greenhouse gas emissions are originating, every American is footing the bill for the resulting environmental, health, and infrastructure impacts.

This is why I have authored a letter to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) calling for NEPA environmental evaluations to use what is called the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC), which estimates and calculates the total costs of putting each ton carbon dioxide into the environment—including all of those environmental, health, and infrastructure costs.

Including these costs is critical to building a clear and complete picture of the real impacts caused by emissions from federal projects.

Federal agencies have a chance to lead in this area of transparency on climate change impacts and now is the time for action.

### **Building Our National Freight Infrastructure**

Recently, I welcomed Rep. Brenda Lawrence (MI-14) and major goods movement leaders from both the public and private sector to join me in a Capitol Hill press conference to call for immediate Congressional action on passing a surface transportation reauthorization bill that specifically includes dedicated, protected, and sustainable funding for rebuilding and upgrading our nation's crumbling freight infrastructure.



The heart of our national economy is our goods movement system, but our ports, bridges, highways, and rail systems are falling apart around us. What was once a transportation system envied by the rest of the world has now gone underfunded for more than a decade. To remain competitive as a nation we must invest in our national freight infrastructure--repair it, and upgrade it.

Congress has until the end of May to reauthorize Map-21, the national transportation law, or hundreds of transportation projects across the nation will be thrown into funding limbo. We must end the politics of postponement and deferral when it comes to transportation funding.

We met last week to call for the inclusion of a comprehensive freight infrastructure program in MAP-21 that includes a dedicated, protected and sustainable revenue source to fund freight projects throughout the nation.

This is not a bold stance. This is common sense. And it should be universally bipartisan.

*You can read the press release on the event by [clicking here](#).*

The reality is that there is no painless or magic solution to this problem. It is going to require a serious long-term investment.

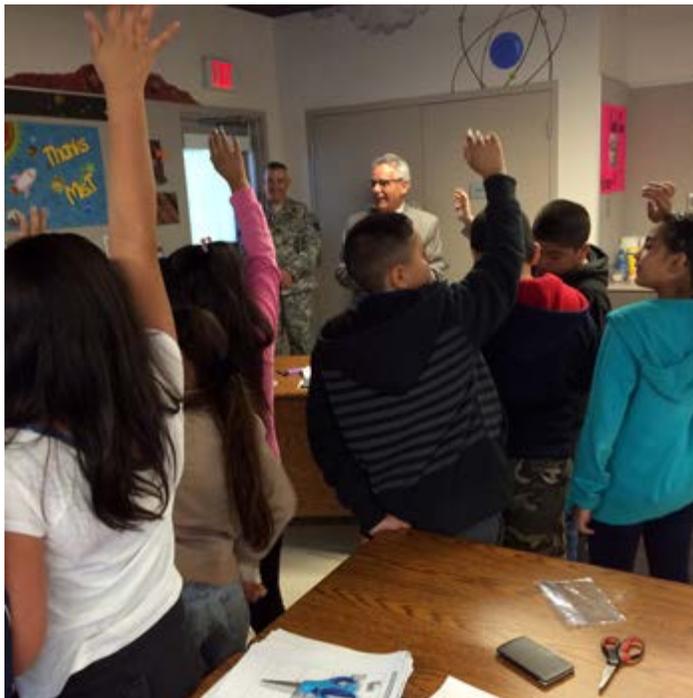
### **Meeting with L.A. County Supervisors**

The Los Angeles County Supervisors visited the Capitol last week and we were able to discuss many critical issues, from securing healthcare for the most vulnerable members of our communities to improving our criminal justice system—it's always great to meet with our LA County Supervisors and I was so glad I was able to sit down and talk with Supervisor Don Knabe, Supervisor Hilda Solis, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, and Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas to discuss how we can continue to work together on crucial issues that impact our area. [Pictured below Supervisor Hilda Solis and Supervisor Don Knabe]

## **In The 47th District**

### **Visiting Mars with Starbase Students**

I recently visited the Starbase (STEM) program at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos and observed the new interactive MARS table. In the photo I'm talking about the robots that the students build to navigate the table that simulates the surface of Mars. Executive Director Stacey Hendrickson and Lt. Colonel Joel Armstrong are pictured in this photo.



#### **Los Alamitos Completion of General Plan**

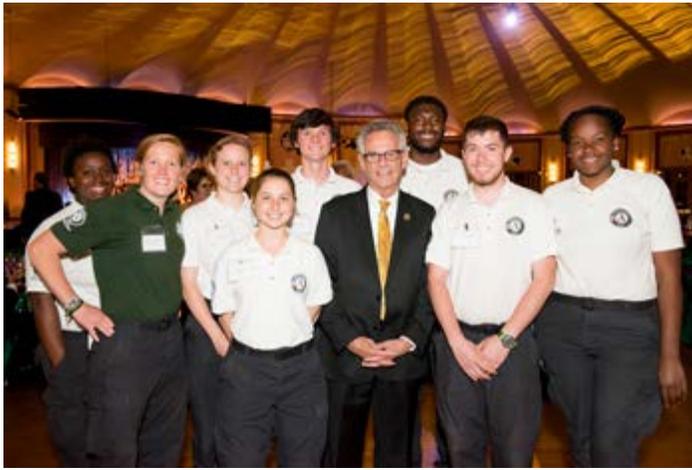
Congratulations to the City of Los Alamitos Council, City Manager and staff as they celebrated the official completion of the General Plan for the city on Thursday, April 23, 2015. This Plan addresses bridging the community through education, recreation, safety and service.

#### **City of Long Beach Adopts Resolution to Recognize the Armenian Genocide**

I commend the City of Long Beach for joining several cities, states and countries in recognizing and commemorating the 100th Anniversary of a tragic period in our collective human rights history known as the Armenian Genocide, one that saw upward of 1.5 million Armenians tortured, killed and deported as the Ottoman Empire sought to erase the people from existence over the course of eight years between 1915 and 1923.

#### **Catalina 20th Annual Conservancy Ball**

I had the pleasure of attending the 20th Annual Conservancy Ball in Avalon to support the Catalina Island Conservancy organization. The organization's mission is to be a responsible steward of its lands through a balance of conservation, education, and recreation. Through its ongoing efforts, the Conservancy protects the natural and cultural heritage of Santa Catalina Island, managing approximately 42,000 acres of land and more than 60 miles of rugged shoreline.



During the event it was a privilege to meet with the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) members (see photo). It is great to see people helping the Conservancy and its important conservation, education and recreation projects.

### **Holding a Community DAPA/DACA Event**

I recently hosted an informational event to discuss and answer questions on President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration. I partnered with the Long Beach Rights Immigration Rights Coalition, the Filipino Migrant Center, CSULB and the LA County Bar Association to provide information and resources to members of the community who might benefit from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of U.S Citizens or Legal Residents (DAPA).



### **Service Academy Appointees from the 47th District**

Each year, it is a distinct honor to nominate some of the best and brightest of the 47th District to the finest service academies in the world. I am tremendously proud of each of them. They are the leaders of tomorrow and they fill me with confidence and hope that the security of our nation is in good hands.

The five appointees from the 47th District are:

- **Ryan J. Dorris** from Long Beach; attends Lakewood High School;

appointment to U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO.

- **Lucas W. Echeverry** from Lakewood; attends Lakewood High School; appointment to U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO.
- **Timothy R. Getscher** from Garden Grove; attends Servite High School; appointment to U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD.
- **Analise Howard** from Westminster; attends River Springs Charter; appointment to U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO.
- **Robert A. Niscior** from Cypress; attends Oxford Academy; appointment to U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY.

Congratulations to these amazing young people!

Entrance to four of the five U.S. service academies--West Point (Army), Annapolis (Navy), Colorado Springs (Air Force), and Kings Point (Merchant Marine)--requires nomination by a Member of Congress or the Vice-President. The United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, does not require a nomination.

### **Visiting the Travelling Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Buena Par**

I recently paid my respects to the more of than 58,000 veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice defending the freedoms of our nation at the Wall That Heals, a 250-foot replica of the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Along with a mobile Education Center, the Wall was visiting Buena Park's Walter D. Ehlers Community Center. The Wall That Heals honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces during the Vietnam War and its walls, like those in the full-sized Memorial in Washington, D.C., bear the names of the more than 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington is the most visited memorial in our Nation's Capital, with more than four million visitors each year. However, many Americans have not been able to visit what has become known to many as "The

Wall." The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), the organization that built The Wall, wants to give all veterans and their family members all across America an opportunity to see the Memorial.

## Congress U

### Delegates and Resident Commissioner

While there are 435 voting Members of the House (when all are filled), there are also six other non-floor-voting Members. Five of these are called Delegates and one is a Resident Commissioner.

The office of Delegate was established by ordinance of the Continental Congress (1774–1789) and confirmed by the first U.S. Congress. Since the start of the nation, the House has admitted Delegates from territories or districts organized by law. In the 114th Congress there are five non-voting Delegates, representing:

- District of Columbia
- American Samoa
- Guam
- The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- The Virgin Islands.

In addition, Congress created the post of Resident Commissioner in 1900 to apply to Puerto Rico. Resident Commissioners have the same non-floor voting privileges as Delegates.

Delegates serve a two-year term, and the Resident Commissioner serves a four-year term. In most respects, Delegates and the Resident Commissioner have most of the authority that Members have. On the House Floor, they can speak, introduce bills, and offer amendments. They can serve on House Committees and possess most of the authority that other Committee members have, including voting in committee.

Delegates and the Resident Commissioner also may offer amendments while the House is conducting business as the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union. However, unlike Members, they may not vote on the floor, while the House is conducting business as the Committee of the Whole, or vote when the full House is meeting.

## Last Week's Poll

**In 2012, the state of California banned so-called "gay conversion" therapy, which claims to use different techniques to 'convert' homosexual people into heterosexual people. Recently, President Obama suggested that the controversial practice should be banned nationwide. Do you think a ban like that in California should be expanded nationwide?**

55.6% - Yes, the practice is harmful to people and based on junk science

37.3% - No, it is a personal choice of the person seeking treatment

7.1% - Maybe, but it should be left to the individual states to decide

Thank you,



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

**Washington, D.C. Office**  
515 Cannon  
House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-7924  
Hours: M-F 9-5:30pm

**Long Beach District Office**  
100 W. Broadway  
Long Beach , CA 90802  
West Tower Suite 600  
Phone: (562) 436-3828  
Fax: (562) 437-6434

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)