



The 47th Flyer

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



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May 7, 2013

Issue #6

Last week was a work week in the district, and it was great to get out and meet with so many folks while I was home. I've mentioned it before, but after a long stretch in Washington, I truly treasure the time I get to spend in the district. Meeting with constituents and getting to hear their views and concerns in person is both rewarding and critical to the work of representing everyone in the district.

Alan Lowenthal

Cambodian New Year Celebration

Chaul Chnam Thmey, Khmer for "Enter New Year", is the name of the Cambodian holiday that celebrates the New Year. The holiday lasts for three days beginning on New Year's Day, which usually falls on April 13 or 14th, which is the end of the harvesting season, when farmers enjoy the fruits of their labor before the rainy season begins.

Khmers living abroad may choose to celebrate during a weekend rather than just specifically April 13 through 15th. The Khmer New Year coincides with the traditional solar New Year in several parts of India, Myanmar, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Cambodians also use Buddhist Era (BE) to count the year based on the Buddhist calendar. For 2013, it is 2557 BE

Immigration Reform Breakfast

On April 29, I joined Congresswoman Karen Bass and Congresswoman Janice Hahn as part of a panel at a regional Congressional Prayer Breakfast where comprehensive immigration reform was discussed. Organized by Bishop Juan Carlos Mendez from Centro Cristiano Bet-El in the City of South Gate, the event was attended by numerous faith-based and community leaders from the region.

As part of the panel, I explained my opinion on the need for comprehensive immigration reform and talked about the immigration reform proposal from the Senate (The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013).

Labor Breakfast

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For nearly 80 years, federal law has required that employees be paid overtime for working more than 40 hours a week. A new bill seeks to allow employers to substitute comp time in lieu of overtime. What do you think?

[Do not change federal overtime laws](#)
[Change laws so a worker can choose overtime or comp time](#)



Meeting with representatives of labor organizations from the 47th District.

It was a pleasure to meet with community labor leaders from Los Angeles and Orange County and update them on legislative developments in the 113th Congress. I talked about labor and employment issues in Washington, federal budget impacts on our local economy, and immigration reform efforts.

Held at the United Aerospace Workers (UAW) Local # 148 in the Lakewood portion of the 47th District, the "Labor Breakfast" was attended by a very diverse group of labor representatives – from education, building and construction, entertainment, aerospace, longshore, government, food and commercial, transportation, and theater and stagehands – to name just a few.

Black April Commemoration



I was honored to attend the Black April commemoration in Little Saigon.

Black April is a solemn month for Vietnamese-Americans across the country and for the Vietnamese diaspora around the world. The commemoration of the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975 – a dark moment in time for the Vietnamese people's historic struggle for freedom and human rights – reminds us that there is still much

Change laws
so employers
can dictate
overtime or
comp time

Change laws
to do away with
overtime

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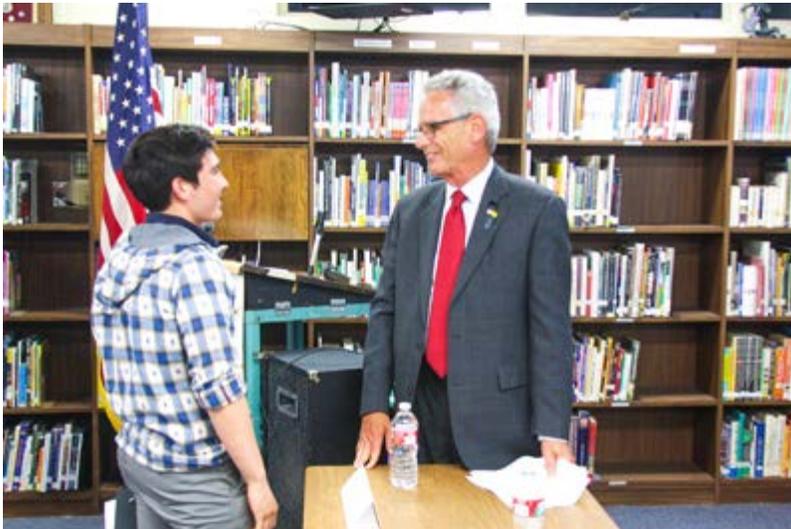
work to be done to ensure that the basic rights we enjoy here in America are upheld and respected in Vietnam. Our commitment cannot waiver until the ongoing human rights violations in Vietnam end.

I was honored to be invited to attend an April 30 Black April commemoration with 47th District constituents in the Little Saigon area of Westminster.

Black April reminds me of the sacrifices made by the tens of thousands of Americans, allied forces, and countless civilians in defending freedom in Vietnam. I am also reminded of the suffering of South Vietnamese soldiers and civilians who were forced into so-called "re-education camps" as well as the high price for liberty paid by more than one million Vietnamese boat people, close to 500,000 of which died at sea.

We must never forget the atrocities committed over 38 years ago, or forget the blatant human rights violations that are still committed today. Our children must be reminded of the struggles and the cost of attaining true freedom. The past drives us to take action. It demands we continue to stand with the people of Vietnam in their struggle for freedom, justice, and human dignity.

Service Academy Night



Meeting with a student interested in attending a service academy.

As part of my responsibilities as a Congressman, I have the privilege to nominate selected candidates to the nation's military service academies. On May 1, I held a Service Academy Night to provide information to students and their families who might be interested in attending one of the academies. We had a wonderful turnout with more than 100 prospective applicants turning out.

On hand were representatives of the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy to answer questions about attending their educational institutions.

I would personally like to thank my friend Colonel Mark Toy, 59th Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, who helped emcee the event. Col. Toy has a personal connection to the service academies as he is a proud graduate of West Point, Class of '87.

The nomination application period opens on May 15 with a deadline in mid-October. Anyone interested in more information on service academy nomination through my office can [click here](#).

Long Beach Chamber Visionary Luncheon



At the event with LB Chamber President Jerry Miller.

I was honored to be asked to speak to the Long Beach Chamber audience as the keynote speaker at their annual Chamber Visionary Luncheon on May 2.

It was wonderful to be able to tell the more than 400 attendees a bit about my background, how I got into public service, what I have been doing in Washington, D.C., and what I see for the future.

Most Chamber members are small business people, the backbone of not only the American economy, but also of the economy in the 47th District. Their success is critical to growing the middle class and it was great to hear their thoughts and concerns.

Last Week's Survey Results

There is growing evidence that the Syrian government has violated international law by using chemical weapons against its own people. How do you think the US should respond?

- a) militarily, on our own -- **2.1%**
- b) militarily, with Middle East allies -- **16.7%**
- c) through United Nations sanctions -- **39.6%**
- d) through more aid to Syrian opposition -- **14.6%**
- e) through peaceful diplomatic efforts -- **22.9%**
- (NO RESPONSE) -- **4.1%**

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