



The 47th Flyer

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



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May 29, 2015

Let the Voters Control Congressional Districts

Congressman Dana Rohrabacher and I wrote an op-ed on a new bipartisan bill we introduced last week to protect the will of voters nationwide. I wanted to share it with you:

"Depending on how the Supreme Court rules in the next couple weeks, partisan gerrymandering could become the only way that congressional districts are drawn. The Court heard arguments on March 2 in *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*, a case challenging Arizona's non-partisan, citizen-run redistricting commission. Based on indications from the Justices during those arguments, we're preparing for a possible decision taking away the power of Arizona's redistricting commission, established by a vote of the people of Arizona, to draw congressional districts.

"In addition to Arizona's citizen-led commission, the Citizens Redistricting Commission in California, which was given the authority to draw congressional districts by more than 60 percent of California voters in 2010, could also have their congressional district-drawing powers taken away. Other independent redistricting commissions in Washington, New Jersey, Hawaii, Idaho, and potentially other states could be similarly affected by the Supreme Court decision. Furthermore, states looking to create new non-partisan redistricting models for their congressional districts could be preemptively stymied in their efforts.

"Yesterday, we introduced bipartisan legislation, H.R. 2501, the Citizens' Districts Preservation Act, to ensure that the will of our constituents and the democratic process is respected. Our bill, which already has 16 bipartisan co-sponsors, protects the decision of our voters to keep politics out of redistricting and maintains the current congressional districts that were drawn by independent redistricting commissions in place until after the next census occurs in 2020."

To read more on my website, [click here](#).

On The Hill

Protecting Our Priceless Wilderness

Last week I introduced the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act that will protect 9.2 million acres of unique and spectacular public lands in Southern Utah, including places like Desolation and Labyrinth Canyons, the Dirty Devil River, Bitter Creek, White Canyon and the San Rafael Swell.

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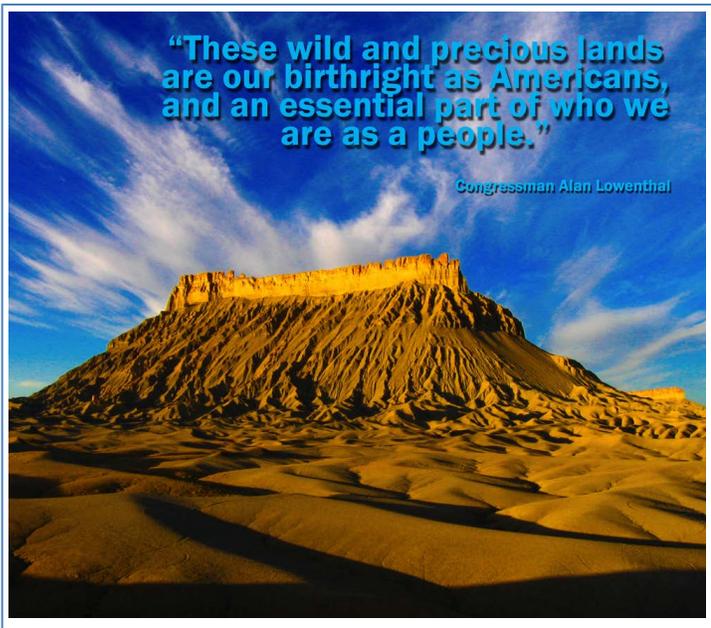


What do you think is the most important problem facing the nation today?

- Dissatisfaction with government
- Economy in general
- Unemployment/Jobs
- Race relations
- Immigration
- Healthcare
- Terrorism
- Gap between rich and poor
- National security
- Education

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

These wild and precious lands are our birthright as Americans, and an essential part of who we are as a people. My bill will safeguard these special lands, and the waters, flora, and fauna within them. It furthers the great American conservation ethic of John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, and the many others that have helped to preserve the great wild places we now cannot imagine living without.



The wild lands of Utah are world famous for their twisting canyons, “spooky hoodoos” and other unique geologic and biological features, and are replete with priceless archaeological sites. While Utah has some of the most pristine unprotected wilderness areas in the nation, less of these public lands have been formally designated as wilderness in Utah than in any of its neighboring Western states.

H.R. 2430, which has 77 cosponsors, would finally protect these important lands for future generations, while also nurturing the modern tourism economy.

National Democracy Essay Contest For Students

In pursuit of its mission to promote the history of the United States Congress and American representative government, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society sponsors the annual Making Democracy Work Student Essay Contest. The deadline to mail or email entry packages for the 2014-15 contest is June 5.

The nationwide contest is open to all students in two categories: a junior division contest for students in grades 6-8 and a senior division contest for students in grades 9-12.

Three prizes will be awarded in each division:

- a first place prize of \$1,000 and a trip to Washington, DC to accept the prize,
- a second place prize of \$500,
- a third place prize of \$250.
- The schools of the two first place winners will also receive a \$1,000 cash award.

The subject of the 2014-15 contest is: Why is voting rights an important issue in American History? The Voting Rights Act of 1965 will be 50 years old in 2015. Why is voting so important to this nation, and why has the extension of voting rights been such an important and controversial issue in American history?

Full details are available at the U.S. Capitol Historical Society website, www.uschs.org.

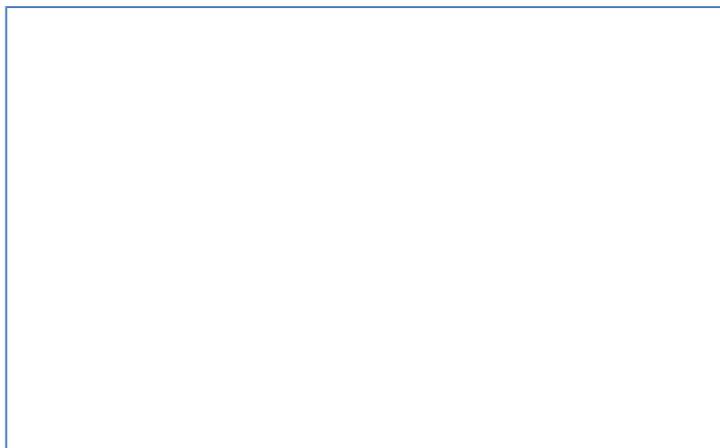
In The 47th District

Honoring The Fallen This Memorial Day

In observance of Memorial Day, I honored those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and their families at the American Gold Star Manor in Long Beach, where I presented a commemorative plaque to Daniel and Martha Garcia, parents of U.S Army Staff Sergeant Juan de Dios Garcia Arana. Staff Sgt. Garcia lost his life on April 30, 2005 when his vehicle was attacked by enemy forces in Khaladiyah, Iraq, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the support organization 'Honoring Our Fallen' for donating the plaque and a memorial tree honoring SSGT. Garcia's life.



I also attended the rededication of the newly expanded Veterans Memorial Plaza in Lakewood. I joined with Lakewood City Councilmembers, the American Legion Post 496, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 8615, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 19 and Veterans of America Chapter 756 in the unveiling of over 1,400 memorial bricks purchased in the name of veterans and Lakewood community members and groups. All of the proceeds from the purchase of the bricks will be used to maintain the Veterans Memorial Plaza which honors and commemorates military service members and their families.





Service Academy Night Coming In June

I mentioned this last week, but I think it bears repeating. It's my pleasure to invite students, parents, counselors, and school officials from the 47th District to attend a Service Academy Night on Friday, June 5, 2015 for 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The June 5 event will be held in the Theater at Cypress High School, located at 9801 Valley View Street in Cypress. Representatives from the Military, Naval, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine service academies.

There are four service academies in the United States that require a nomination from an authorized nominating source.

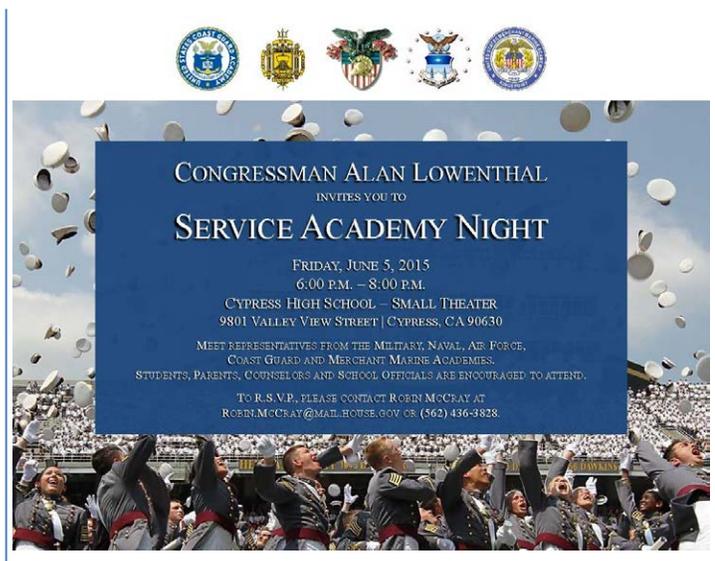
Each academy offers young men and women a free college education at a highly-ranked, nationally-recognized academic program while preparing them for an officer's commission in the armed forces. The academies are: the Air Force Academy, the Merchant Marine Academy, the Military Academy at West Point, and the Naval Academy. The fifth service academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, does not require a Congressional nomination.

To learn more, visit my webpage about Service Academies and the nomination process by [clicking here](#).

To R.S.V.P., please contact Robin McCray at robin.mccray@mail.house.gov or (562) 436-3828.

[Click here](#) or the image below for a full size version of the event flyer.





Solidarity Sabbath

Last Friday I attended a solidarity Sabbath to support, promote and advocate for the freedom of religion, conscience and belief. Solidarity Sabbath is an ongoing worldwide initiative to promote the fundamental right of religious freedom and to confront anti-Semitism. According to the Anti-Defamation League the total number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States increased by 21 percent in 2014, a year marked by violent attacks targeting Jewish community buildings in Kansas and anti-Jewish expressions linked to the war in Gaza.

57th Annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival

On Memorial Day weekend, I attended the 57th Annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival, one of the largest community festivals held in the 47th Congressional District. It was a great honor for me to attend the event and participated in the parade featured many of our local veterans and also celebrities.

This year's theme was Honoring Our Returning Veterans and the Grand Marshall was Lt. Col. Patricia Murray from the California Air National Guard. The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival has deep roots in celebrating the harvest season and the strawberry farms that were a historic part of this area.



Congressman Lowenthal joins Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Councilmembers Phat Bui and Kris Beard.

Started in 1958, The Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce put on the first Garden Grove Strawberry Festival as a way to bring together the east and west sides of Garden Grove. Since then, a group of citizens formed a non-profit organization, the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association to carry on the tradition. The festival is a charitable event benefiting local organizations and according to the organization, in the past 50 years, over \$4.5 million has been donated to hundreds of non-profits serving the local community.

Congress U

Overriding a Veto

If the President disapproves of a bill that has been sent to him by Congress, this is called a veto, and the President sends it back to either the House or the Senate (whichever chamber the bill originated in) with a message stating his objections.

This doesn't mean the bill is dead because Congress has the ability to override the President's veto and enact the bill into law. The override of a veto requires a recorded vote with a two-thirds majority in each chamber. However, neither chamber is required to attempt to override a veto, even if the other chamber does.

The official question put to each chamber when the bill is brought back is "Shall the bill pass, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?"

If the bill passes both chambers with a two-thirds majority, the veto is overridden, and the bill becomes law directly, without being sent back to the president.

Historically, Congress has overridden fewer than ten percent of all presidential vetoes. The President most thwarted when it came to vetoes was President Andrew Johnson, who out of 21 vetoes had 15 overridden by Congress. By comparison, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who vetoed more bills than any other President with 372 vetoes, was only overridden 9 times.

Last Week's Poll

Do you support the President's Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal?

6.5% - Yes, I believe the deal will be beneficial for the United States and raise labor, human rights, and environmental standards around the world.

8.2% - Yes, I believe the deal will help the middle class and working families by breaking down trade barriers overseas and increasing jobs in the United States.

71.1% - No, I think the deal will cost us American jobs and only result in more offshoring as businesses use cheap labor in poor countries.

14.2% - I don't know enough about the trade deal at this time.

Thank you,



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