



# The 47th Flyer

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



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June 20, 2014

It was another busy week on Capitol Hill. I had a short, but sweet, visit back in CA-47 last weekend, but on Monday it was back to D.C.

Congress is almost halfway through a three-week stretch of being in Washington, D.C. during the work week before entering into a week-long district work period, where we go back to our home districts and reconnect with our constituents. Until then, I am doing everything I can to represent CA-47 and enact positive changes for our community.

## In The 47th District

### Presidential Visit and UC Irvine Commencement

University of California, Irvine graduates were in for quite a treat last weekend as President Obama flew into town to give the commencement speech for the Class of 2014. Congratulations to all of the UCI Anteaters as they take the next big step in their lives!

I had the honor of welcoming President Obama as he arrived aboard Air Force One at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos.



In addition to congratulating and encouraging the Class of 2014 graduates, the

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#### Do you agree with President Obama's student loan repayment reform?

Yes - Capping student loan repayments at 10 percent of annual income will keep recent graduates from drowning in debt

Maybe - It is a good first step, but I think the President and Congress should work to make higher education more affordable.

No - It is an overreach of the President's executive powers.

I do not know

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

President was also commemorating the 50th anniversary of the university's dedication in 1964. In his speech at the dedication, President Lyndon B. Johnson praised the ability of Californians to translate "good words into good deeds." I want to thank the President for coming to Southern California to make it clear that this remains true to this day.

### Executive Order to Prevent Discrimination

The President this week announced that he planned to sign an Executive Order on LGBT discrimination. This is a huge step forward, as it bans all federal government contractors from discriminating against employees based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Congress must now pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) so we can finally close this chapter of inequality. ENDA has 205 bipartisan cosponsors and will ban all workplace discrimination against the LGBT community; this bill will bring the change we need and the dignity the LGBT community deserves.

### Cypress Coffee

**Congressman Alan Lowenthal**  
invites you to a ...

**COMMUNITY COFFEE**

Join me for a cup of coffee and conversation about the issues facing our community and nation. I will provide a Congressional update and answer your questions.

**Date:** Saturday, June 28, 2014  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
**Location:**  
Cypress Community Center  
Community Room  
5700 Orange Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630

On the Web at [lowenthal.house.gov](http://lowenthal.house.gov)  
/replowenthal @replowenthal

Please RSVP to my District Office:  
(562) 436-3828

I hope you can join me for a cup of coffee and conversation about the issues facing our community and nation. I will be providing a Congressional update to attendees and, as always, will answer your questions.

I hope to see you there.

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### Promise Zones

On Monday, I led a Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation member letter to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan commenting on the Promise Zone rule making process. Promise Zones are specially designated areas that are eligible for critical federal resources to invest in manufacturing and job creation.

While I am appreciative that President Obama announced that the City of Los

Angeles would be one of our nation's first Promise Zones, I believe that the opportunity should be expanded to other parts of the region, due to our geographic make-up and population density.

[Click here](#) to see the letter.

### **Sergeant Paul T. Nakamura**

There will be a memorialization ceremony and building dedication of the Sergeant Paul T. Nakamura United States Army Reserve Center this Saturday, June 21st at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos. Sergeant Nakamura was the first Asian American United States Army Reservist to be killed in 2003 in "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

While I did not know Sergeant Nakamura personally, I thank him and his family for their sacrifice to our nation. My hope is that this building dedication will serve as a testament to his bravery and dedication.

## **On The Hill**

### **Customer Protection and End User Relief Act**

This week, I voted "no" on H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End User Relief Act. This disingenuous bill would actually hamstring our financial agencies' efforts to regulate derivatives and roll-back the critical protections in the Dodd-Frank Act, which was made law after the financial collapse that was turned into the Great Recession.

I believe that unregulated derivatives contributed to massive taxpayer bailouts that caused great harm to the American economy just a few years ago. We must not undo the work that was done to enact some of the most important provisions of Wall Street Reform, including enacting consumer financial protections that keep the financial industry accountable for their actions.

### **Continuing the Fight for STEM Education in the 47th District**

This week, I introduced a bipartisan amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act (DoDAA) that directed an additional \$5 million to the STARBASE Youth Program, which provides Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education to underserved students nationwide, including students right here in the 47th District. The amendment was accepted, and the DoD App Act passed by a vote of 340 to 73.

I learned from the Appropriations Committee that, because of a letter I sent in March, \$25 million was made available to STARBASE programs. I still think we need more funding for STEM education which is why I requested the additional \$5 million. And I was pleased that it was added to the overall appropriations bill.

In the 47th District, the STARBASE Youth Program Facility at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) serves nearly 4,000 students a year, and is funded by \$1 million in state funds and \$750,000 in federal funds.

Our 21st century economy requires 21st century skill sets. Investing in our children's education in the STEM fields will make them better prepared for the job market and equipped for success. I have been an educator for much of my adult life, so I appreciate the importance of programs such as STARBASE. Our STARBASE program at the Joint Forces Training Base is doing great work for our community, and we must invest in their continued success.

### **Department of Defense Appropriations Act**

During the floor action on the Department of Defense Appropriations Act (DoDAA) I voted against an amendment which prohibited the use of funds to transfer or release any individuals detained at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo.

Unfortunately, the amendment passed and detainees must remain at Guantanamo indefinitely. I also voted for an amendment to prohibit the use of funds for combat operations in Iraq. And unfortunately this amendment failed.

However, I did vote for the overall DoDAA. While the DoDAA did not go far enough in cuts to the DoD, and contained provisions I did not agree with, I felt, overall, it was important to fund and support our troops.

### **Violence in Iraq**

One of the reasons we went to Iraq in the first place, a reason we shed American blood there, was to create a strong foundation for the Iraqi people to provide their own security and stability. The current situation in Iraq is a culmination of the country's civil war and deep-rooted religious differences.

We must make sure Iraqi forces are able to defend themselves. However, putting our boots on the ground and potentially sacrificing more American lives is not the answer. If we learned nothing from our headlong and ill-conceived rush to start the Iraq War, I hope we at least learned that in these situations we must proceed carefully, cautiously, and with full consideration of all of our options.

Any solution to the problem must include a unity government with all factions participating. This is not the case today. And, whatever we do, we cannot do it alone – this must be a unified effort on the part of our allies both internationally and inside Iraq.

## **Congress U**

### **“Revenue Neutral”**

Many Members of Congress often introduce bills that are “revenue neutral,” meaning they do not cost the federal government, or the taxpayers, any addition money. Bills that are revenue neutral typically may involve removing funds from one program to give to another program; tax rates for certain people or products may also be decreased in one area, then increased in another. It is important to note that bills do not always need to be revenue neutral. However, given the current fiscal climate, the odds of revenue neutral bills passing and becoming law are much higher than if they were not revenue neutral.

Thank you,



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

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