



The 47th Flyer

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



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August 16, 2013

I'm sad to say that Long Beach has once again lost a pioneer. Clarence Smith, a Long Beach City Councilman from 1986-1992 and the founder of Long Beach's Martin Luther King Day Unity Parade, passed away earlier this week.

I knew Clarence well. In my years as a community activist and president of the Long Beach Area Citizens Involved (LBACI), I considered Clarence a trusted City Council ally.

Clarence was a transplant from Great Depression-era Louisiana when he was only 14. Despite this, Clarence became a virtual native son of Long Beach.

He graduated from Poly High where he was an All-City Basketball Player Of The Year in 1950; from Long Beach City College where he met his wife; and, later from Cal State Long Beach.

He spent 35 years with the City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation Department where he was repeatedly recognized for his professional abilities and his love of the Long Beach community.

Just this February, as part of National Black History Month celebrations, Clarence was recognized by the Long Beach chapter of the NAACP as a trailblazer.

In 1986, he ran in a crowded ten-candidate race for the remaining two-years of the vacated 6th City Council District in Long Beach. A popular figure in the community, Clarence amassed a wide coalition of business, labor, religious, and community supporters. He won the seat in a landslide and two-years later in 1988, found himself running unopposed, and winning, a full term to the Council in 1988.

Clarence was also a founder of the Long Beach Central Area Association and successfully pushed for the creation of a Police Citizen Complaint Commission.

His passing is a loss for everyone that knew him and for Long Beach.

Alan Lowenthal

[Using My Website To Find Out How I Can Help](#)

Last week I mentioned that we had gone live with my revamped website.

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What should be the U.S. do following the latest outbreak of violence in Egypt?

Increase aid
Decrease aid
Wait and see

Increase diplomatic efforts, esp. with regional allies to stop violence

Eliminate all military aid

[Click to open survey in new window](#)

So, people have asked, "Why the change?"

Well, the House offers each new Congress member a choice of several website templates. It allows new Congress members to get online from day one helping constituents and allowing constituents to find their new Member online. The original design worked well, but I wanted more. So we redesigned it with the constituents of the 47th District in mind.

If you go to my website <link>, right up front you will see the first tab on the menu, "How Can Alan Help?" Running your cursor over this tab will give you a list of pages on my site dealing with the various services my office can provide.

To start, you can check out the general FAQ page <link> that answers many of the most common questions constituents have.

A very common request by constituents is obtaining help in dealing with a federal agency or department. On the "Help With A Federal Agency" page, you can find out how my office can help and most importantly how to start the inquiry process so that we can work on your problem.

Another common request is how to obtain a nomination from me to one of the four U.S. military service academies, such as West Point. On the "Service Academy Nominations" <link> page you can find out about the nomination process.

A lot of constituents who are planning to visit Washington ask about what help my Washington office can provide to enhance your experience of our nation's capital. On the "Visiting Washington, D.C." page you will be able to request help with tours of national monuments around Washington, D.C., and, find out about many sites of interest.

Another popular service is ordering U.S. flags that have flown over the U.S. Capitol. Did you know that you can request a flag to be flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of a special occasion? My office can provide flags at cost, plus shipping fees. On the "Flag Requests" <link> page you can find the order form as well as information about the care and display of the U.S. flag.

These are just a few examples of the many services my office can offer to constituents, and I encourage you to visit my website to see a complete list.

Two District Health Clinics Helping The Underserved

I was particularly touched by visits to two important community facilities in the District this week--the Nhan Hoa clinic in Garden Grove and the Children's Clinic in Long Beach--both for their importance to their communities but also to show support during National Health Center Week. The Nhan Hoa clinic is run by a non-profit organization and provides health care services to the needs of the underserved Vietnamese community. This facility is so critical to the Vietnamese community and it was heartwarming to get a glimpse of the amazing work they do.



Just as Nhan Hoa helps the underserved in the Vietnamese community, the Children's Clinic in Long Beach plays an equally important role in providing health care to the underserved and underprivileged children of the Long Beach area. It was a great thrill to visit during the clinic's Healthy Lifestyles Village Fair and get to talk with both staff members as well as members of the community who rely on the clinic.



Congress members have numerous resources available to them for research or analysis.

Three of the most important are the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), and, the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

Known as Congress's think tank, the CRS is Congress' public policy research arm. An agency within the Library of Congress, CRS works primarily and directly for members of Congress, their committees, and, their staff on a confidential, nonpartisan basis.

The CBO provides Congress with budget-related information, reports on fiscal, budgetary, and programmatic issues, and analyses of budget policy options, costs, and effects.

The GAO assists Congress in reviewing and monitoring the activities of government by conducting independent audits, investigations, and evaluations of effectiveness and efficiency of federal programs.

Collectively, the three agencies provide critical resources to the Congress and are invaluable to my ongoing work in Washington .

Last week's survey

Peace talks between Israel and Palestine have resumed. Do you feel these talks will lead to peace?

- 8.7%** Very hopeful
- 17.5%** Guardedly optimistic
- 66.7%** Not expecting much
- 7.1%** Don't care one way or the other

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

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