



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

August 15, 2014

Humanitarian Crisis In Iraq

During the past week, the world learned of the humanitarian crisis created when ISIS militants drove tens of thousands of the Yazidi people from their homes in northern Iraq and into hiding on the ISIS-encircled Mount Sinjar. The ISIS militants killed at least 500 Yazidi and kidnapped hundreds of Yazidi women and children. ISIS militants have made it clear that their goal was to kill as many Yazidi as possible.

President Obama rightly ordered humanitarian air drops to the trapped refugees, and then air strikes against ISIS positions immediately threatening the Yazidi.

The air strikes, in conjunction with Kurdish peshmerga fighters on the ground, helped create a safe passage allowing the Yazidi refugees to escape their Mount Sinjar refuge. The likely conclusion without assistance would have been genocide.

However, while we have proved that the U.S. can effectively help with surgical strikes from the air, humanitarian relief, and situational intelligence, I am against U.S. ground forces being redeployed to Iraq. We should continue to support the Kurdistan regional authorities and the Iraqi government in their efforts to provide not only relief and safety to the Yazidi, but stability to the Iraqi people as a whole.

On The Hill

Condemning Anti-Semitism

In recent days, Jewish communities around the world have seen an increase in the incidents of murder, violent attacks, and death threats against Jews, as well as arson, graffiti, and other property desecration at Jewish places of worship.

Publications from The New York Times, which recently featured a disturbing article on the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe amid the current conflict between Israel and Hamas, to Newsweek, which featured a recent cover story on the growing anti-Semitism in Europe entitled, "Exodus: Why Europe's Jews Are Fleeing Once Again," have covered the topic.

Earlier this month, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated that he "deplored the recent upsurge in anti-Semitic attacks, particularly in Europe."

I also condemn these deplorable acts in the strongest possible terms.

EMAIL ME

NEWSLETTER
SIGN UP

CONNECT WITH US



The U.S. is currently providing military advisors and air strikes to help the Iraqi government defeat ISIS militants. Should the U.S.:

Provide full military backing with ground troops

Continue providing just advisors and air support

Withdraw all forces and only provide military equipment and humanitarian supplies

Withdraw and provide no support

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

This is why I have joined with more than 30 of my House colleagues in sponsoring H.Res. 707, a bipartisan resolution which condemns “all forms of anti-Semitism...as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere.”

The resolution is also supported by the Anti-Defamation League, AIPAC, AJC (American Jewish Committee), J Street, and the Tom Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice.

In The 47th District

Tibor Rubin stamp ceremony

It was my honor to join Medal of Honor recipient and Garden Grove resident Tibor Rubin (seated in picture) this past Friday to celebrate the first United States Postal Service stamp honoring the extraordinary courage of the 145 Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine service members who received the Medal of Honor for action during the Korean War.

Mr. Rubin was born in Hungary in 1929. He survived fourteen months in a German concentration camp in Austria during World War II and was liberated by the U.S. Army. Inspired by the American soldiers who rescued him, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, eventually being deployed as a member of the 1st Cavalry Division during the Korean War.



During his service, he faced anti-Semitic discrimination from his sergeant who sent Mr. Rubin on the most dangerous assignments in South Korea's Pusan Perimeter, where he fought valiantly. He was eventually captured by the North Koreans on one of these missions. During his captivity he continued to inspire others, providing moral support and improvised medical techniques to save his fellow soldiers.

Mr. Rubin's wartime heroism, both during combat and later as a prisoner-of-war, are true examples of the Medal of Honor goal to recognize "... conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty."

New VA Facilities for LB

I'm proud to announce a contract has been awarded for the design of a new mental health facility, Community Living Center, and parking structure at the

Long Beach VA complex near Cal State Long Beach. The project will also see the design and construction of a new combined heating and power system for the complex.

With the design phase scheduled to run through December, construction on the new facilities could begin next year. This is great news for our local VA complex and especially for our veterans.



Congress U

War Powers Act

The U.S. Constitution gives Congress alone the power to raise armies and declare war. In addition, the Constitution spells out the President's military powers: he or she serves as Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. armed forces.

Conflict between the executive and legislative branches, over who has greater military authority, has occurred throughout U.S. history.

In response to nearly a decade of U.S. troop involvement in Southeast Asia by the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon Administrations, all without Congressional approval, Congress took action in 1973 by passing the War Powers Act over President Nixon's veto.

The goal of the War Powers Act, as stated in text of the law itself, was to, "insure that the collective judgment of both the Congress and the President will apply to the introduction of United States Armed Forces into hostilities."

This statute states that a President can initiate military action on his or her own, but "in every possible instance" must notify Congress within 48 hours of committing U.S. troops, "into hostilities or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances." In addition, the President must "regularly" report to Congress while troops remain deployed.

The law also sets a time limit on such Presidential actions, requiring the President to remove all troops after 60 days, unless Congress grants an extension. If Congressional permission is not granted upon the President's report, and the President still deems it an emergency, the troops can stay for an additional 30 days.

Since the War Powers Act was adopted nearly 40 years ago, Presidents have submitted more than 120 reports to Congress on various military actions.

Congress has never formally challenged a President for not adhering to the

War Powers Act, and the law's constitutionality has never been ruled on by the Supreme Court.

Last Week's Poll

Should the public be fairly compensated for natural resources extracted from public lands by private companies?

66.2% Yes - These are public lands

24.3% Maybe - It would depend on what 'fairly compensated' means

5.4% No - Private companies are made up of members of the public, who have a right to use public lands

4.1% I don't know

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](#)