



The 47th Flyer

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



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Issue #7

As we near Memorial Day, there will be more and more talk about our military veterans. The debt we owe our men and women of the armed forces can never be overstated. We simply would not be a nation today without the dedication and sacrifice of so many of our men and women in uniform. But we need to honor our debt to them in the most earnest way.

We need to revamp the healthcare and assistance programs offered to our returning warriors. We need to assure them that the G.I Bill remains in place to offer them a chance to grow and develop professionally. And we need to make sure that when our service men or women return home, there is a job waiting for them.

And lastly, we need to remember that our returning service members are veterans 365 days a year, not just for the couple of weeks leading up to Memorial Day.

President of South Korea Speaks To Congress

Joint sessions of Congress outside of the annual State of the Union Address by the President are uncommon. So I was excited to attend a joint session to listen to an address to Congress by The Honorable Park Geun-hye, the President of the Republic of Korea (South Korea). She offered the gratitude of her nation to the American men and women who served in the Korean War, including singling out four current members of Congress who are Korean War veterans, and said that even though it may seem a distant possibility today, she believes that North and South Korea will one day be unified again.

She was also firm in the face of recent antagonism from North Korea, saying, "The Republic of Korea will never accept a nuclear armed North Korea. Pyongyang's provocations will be met decisively."

At the same time the President laid out a path to peace and a hope for Korean reunification.

Since the end of World War II, our foreign policy path in Asia has been tied inextricably to freedom and democracy in South Korea. The United States has stood by South Korean in times of great struggle and in times of great prosperity. We as a nation remain committed to that relationship even more so in the face of tyranny.

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Federal student loan interest rates are set to nearly double on July 1 unless Congress acts. What should Congress do?

- Make the current lower rates permanent
- Temporarily set rates at the same low rate banks charge each other to borrow
- Set student loan interest rates to open market rates, allow the free market to decide
- Do nothing, allow the rates to double

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

Veterans Workforce Conference

Workforce professionals who work for veterans service organizations came together in Long Beach on May 15 to compare notes, learn new skills and hear the experiences and concerns of veterans. While I couldn't join them—because I was in Washington—I taped this video to welcome attendees to the conference:



Student Loan Rates Set To Nearly Double

On July 1, 2013, federal student loan interest rates will double from the current 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent—a rate well above the going market rate. This is the third time in six years that the rate has been set to double for nearly ten million Americans that have federal student loans, costing the average borrower more than \$1,000 over the life of a loan.

I believe that we need a long term solution to permanently set student loan rates, but in the short term we have to make sure the rates don't double on July 1. This is why I have co-sponsored the Student Loan Relief Act of 2013. This bill will keep the interest rates at their current 3.4 percent for the next year, protecting middle class families and children while also giving Congress more time to develop a comprehensive, long-term solution.

Let me know how you feel on this issue by taking the survey in the right column.

Last Week's Survey Results

Question: 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 – **58.5%**

Change laws so a worker can choose overtime or comp time – **36.6%**

Change laws so employers can dictate overtime or comp time – **2.4%**

Change laws to do away with overtime – **2.4%**

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