



The 47th Flyer

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



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The ISIS Threat

This week President Obama outlined his strategy for dealing with the terrorist group known as ISIS.

I agree with his overall strategy but am concerned about its implementation.

I agree that ISIS can no longer be merely contained; we must work to dismantle a group that has shown no respect for the rule of law or the sanctity of life. We must act to end this reign of terror.

However, I also agree with the President that America must play a limited role in this goal.

I believe that the air strikes in Iraq should continue in an effort to degrade and destroy ISIS forces. Moreover, we should continue to provide humanitarian assistance to those groups being directly threatened, sometimes with genocide, by ISIS.

While the president proposes airstrikes within Syria, the core of his Syrian strategy is regional as well as international support for Syrian freedom fighters to be trained and equipped to fight against ISIS, when these same freedom fighters are already fighting against Syrian dictator Assad.

I expect a full discussion of these issues when more details about the parameters and rules of engagement to be used by U.S. forces will be forthcoming.

I remain opposed to any engagement of U.S. military forces in ground combat during this conflict.

On The Hill

Black Patriot's Memorial

I had the opportunity to help manage five bills on the floor this past week, including a bill to establish a memorial in Washington, D.C., to honor the more than 5,000 slaves and free Black men who fought for American independence during the Revolutionary War.

The bill, written by Rep. G. K. Butterfield of North Carolina, noted that over 2 million descendants of the slaves and free Black men who fought in the American Revolution live in the U.S. today.

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Do you think that ISIS poses a direct threat to the United States?

Yes - ISIS poses a direct threat

Maybe - Not now, but in the future if not dealt with now

No - ISIS does not pose a threat

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

Set to be built near the National Mall, here in Washington, DC, the memorial will be called the “National Liberty Memorial.”

I was proud to have some small part in the history of the creation of this new memorial.

Fighting to Protect Nature

This week, during a hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, I stood up for the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In my opinion, the hearing was only focused on weakening the ESA. During the hearing, the committee was considering six different bills—each of them a different way to weaken the ESA. Not a single one of these bills, if ever passed, would help protect unique species from being wiped-off of the face of the earth. Instead, the bills would only make it harder for endangered animals and plants to recover from the brink of extinction.

When species are gone, they are gone forever. We cannot bring them back. They are gone from planet Earth. Some of the species that our forefathers walked the fields and forests with we do not now have with us today; and some of the birds that sing to us and the plants we marvel at today, our children will not know if we let those species goes extinct.

It is critical for all of us to be responsible stewards of our natural world, and one of the most important tools of this stewardship is the ESA. This is why I will continue to fight to defend and preserve the ESA.



To watch a video of my full hearing statement, click the image above or [click here](#).

In The 47th District

Counting Sea Turtles For Conservation

Last weekend, I had the opportunity to join volunteers from the Aquarium of the Pacific and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program to take part in the San Gabriel River Citizen Science Sea Turtle Monitoring program which regularly counts sea turtles in the San Gabriel River.

The project, which began in the summer of 2012 as a California State University Long Beach survey project utilizes multiple volunteers to collect simultaneous observations of sea turtles along a broad stretch of the river.



NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) West Coast Region Protected Resources Division staff served in an advisory role in the development of the program, and they maintain a role as a partner and ultimate recipient of the data for use in aiding research and conservation of populations of green sea turtles in the Long Beach area.

These green turtles likely originate from populations nesting along the Pacific coast of Mexico, which are currently listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.



Once a month (first Saturday of each month), a group of up to 20 volunteers simultaneously monitor 10 pre-selected stations spaced along about a 1 mile stretch of the San Gabriel River for 30 minutes and record observations of green sea turtle presence and activity.

The data being collected at each monitoring station include: a count of the total number of observations of sea turtles surfacing to breathe, including general size categories of turtles observed; the specific location of sea turtle observations; and minimum estimates of the number of green sea turtles seen.

Congress U

The House Chaplain

The authority to elect a House Chaplain is derived from Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution, which states: "The House of Representatives shall choose

their Speaker and other Officers."

In addition to opening daily floor proceedings with prayer, the Chaplain provides pastoral counseling to the House community, and arranges memorial services for the House and its staff. In the past, Chaplains have performed marriage and funeral ceremonies for House members, as well.

The House Chaplain also coordinates and welcomes Guest Chaplains to open daily floor proceedings with a prayer. House members are allowed to invite one Guest Chaplain of their choice once per two-year session of Congress.

Since the first House Chaplain was named in 1789, House Chaplains have represented many of the major denominations in the United States and Guest Chaplains have represented every major religion in the world.

Last Week's Poll

Given the gruesome beheading of two American journalists by ISIS, how do you think the U.S. should react (multiple answers allowed)?

16.1% - Provide full military backing with ground troops

51.8% - Provide advisors and air support, and seek international support

24.8% - No ground forces, but provide military equipment and humanitarian supplies to local groups

7.3% - No ground forces and provide no support

Thank you,



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