



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2004

FOR INFORMATION CALL
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Special A.M. Capitol Tours Reopened For Constituents Visiting Washington

Washington, DC – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) was delighted to let his constituents know today that while visiting Washington, DC, they can now tour the Capitol before it opens to the public, a service that was suspended in September 2001.

“There is nothing quite like the U.S. Capitol when its corridors are quiet,” Lantos said. “The usual hubbub of public tours and the press of Congressional business hasn’t yet begun. And the historic building’s marvelous frescoes, statues and paintings can best be viewed then, when foot traffic is exceptionally light.”

The chance to enjoy the Capitol under these conditions is due to the Capitol Guide Service, which has just resumed its “Congressional Tour” program. Tours are available from 8 to 9 a.m. Monday through Friday. They must be scheduled through the office of a member of the House of Representatives, who can make only one reservation for up to 15 people per day on a first-come, first-served basis. The program is being offered on a trial basis through September 3, and if it proves to be as popular as it was before, it will be made permanent.

“I encourage anyone making the trip from our congressional district to the District of Columbia between now and September 3 to call my San Mateo office to sign up for this special opportunity,” Lantos said. “We will accommodate as many requests as we possibly can.”

To reach the office, constituents in the 12th District living in San Francisco can call 415-566-5257. Peninsula residents can phone 650-342-0300.

In addition, public tour tickets for the rest of the day are distributed Monday through Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m., at the Capitol Guide Service kiosk on the Capitol Grounds. There are no reservations for these tours.

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