



# Congressman George

# Radanovich



Representing California's 19th District

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## Operation Iraqi Freedom

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Rep. Radanovich returned from a congressional trip to the Middle East where he visited Iraq and Kuwait. He had the opportunity to visit wounded troops in Germany. In spite of the insurgency, Rep. Radanovich came away optimistic about Iraq and was pleased to hear confident words by Gen. George Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq.

Rep. Radanovich stressed that just over one year ago, the people of Iraq lived under one of the world's most evil dictators. With the help of our brave servicemen and women, we were able to remove Saddam Hussein from power, which was a key rec-

ommendation of the 9/11 commission. During our time in Iraq, some 200,000 Iraqis have joined with Coalition forces from more than 30 countries to patrol the streets, secure the borders and fight the insurgents.

Our troops are helping Iraqis rebuild their country, open schools and hospitals, and repair a neglected infrastructure. Almost 2,500 schools have been rehabilitated. All 240 hospitals, and more than 1,200 clinics, now provide basic health services. Also, public health funding is 30 times higher than under Saddam Hussein. Oil production is back in full swing bringing in billions in revenue. A new Iraqi currency is in existence



**Rep. George Radanovich (right) and Rep. Fred Upton tour Iraq and visit troops**

providing a stable monetary tool, which is creating financial security and economic progress for the Iraqi people. Furthermore, Iraq has developed a fully independent judiciary with 600 judges presiding over more than 500 courts backed by an interim Iraqi constitution, which guarantees human rights for every Iraqi citizen.

## Regional Jobs Initiative

Rep. Radanovich is actively supporting the Regional Jobs Initiative (RJI) in Congress. The RJI is a comprehensive private-public effort aimed at employing 30,000 people in existing, unfilled jobs in the Greater Fresno Region, over the next five years.

In two bipartisan funding requests for Fiscal Year 2005, Rep. Radanovich has worked with Rep. Devin Nunes and Rep. Cal Dooley to request a total of \$3.5 million for the

RJI. This money would be split between training programs, early education programs and the development of other programs within the RJI. Rep. Radanovich believes the Regional Jobs Initiative will help serve as a model program for communities throughout the nation.

There are between 2,500 and 3,000 available jobs in the region that are unfilled in the region today due to a mismatch between employers'

needs and job applicants' skills and basic job readiness. RJI trains people specifically for the open jobs and then fills those jobs with newly trained individuals. This leads to decreased unemployment and increased productivity.

Fresno County is currently suffering from double-digit unemployment. With the current economic upturn, we have an opportunity to jump start our local economy through programs like the RJI.

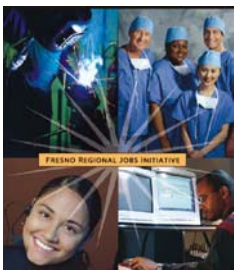


Photo provided from Fresno Regional Jobs Initiative Implementation Plan

Please visit [www.radanovich.house.gov](http://www.radanovich.house.gov) and click on RadTV to view RJI video clip

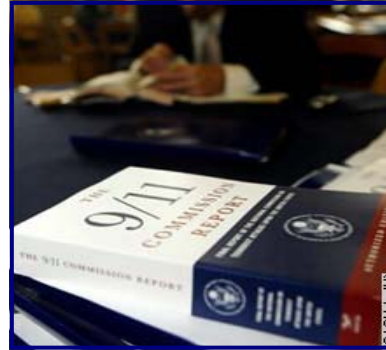
## 9/11 Commission Report

The final 9/11 Commission Report was released on July 22, 2004. The Commission report details how the threat from al Qaeda gathered and grew during the 1990s, as governmental institutions designed to protect America were slow to adapt to the new, post-Cold War threat. Despite the majority of threats pointing to attacks overseas, the Bush Administration took a series of steps to increase vigilance both at home and abroad, but the report says the attacks "fell into the void between the foreign and domestic threats."

The Commission catalogs some of the extensive contacts between Iraq and al Qaeda. There is also evidence that Iran facilitated transit of al Qaeda, including some future

hijackers, in and out of Afghanistan. The Commission report demonstrates the falsehood of every element of the widely publicized conspiracy theory that the post-9/11 Saudi flights were improper or were approved at the highest levels of government.

The Bush Administration's cooperation during the investigations and the President's prompt response to the Commission's recommendations have led to, among other things, the move to create the National Intelligence Director position. In addition, Presidential directives are currently being formulated and President Bush plans to take actions consistent with most of the 9/11 Commission's recently published recommendations.



**The Final Report** Source:  
<http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/07/22/9.11.full.report>

## Federal Marriage Amendment

As of late, some courts have spurred a reaction in other cities to distribute marriage licenses to same sex couples. I believe this action undermines the institution of marriage.

H.J. Res. 106, the Federal Marriage Amendment, which sought to protect the institution of marriage, was recently con-

sidered by the House of Representatives. Even though the vote was 227-186, the measure failed because Article 5 of the Constitution requires a two thirds majority to pass each chamber of Congress. In spite of this outcome, the Congressman will continue to be a strong supporter of the institution of marriage to remain solely between a man and a woman.

The fundamental reason for marriage is to ensure children grow up with mothers and fathers in a safe and loving environment. The main reason government and society treat marriage between a man and woman as special and beneficial is because those unions produce children and Americans have a



**The Constitution** Source:  
<http://www.yoell.org/ellyn/vlc/classic/images/constitution.jpg>

great interest in providing stable environments for children. If you take children out of the equation, then government has no more reason to grant homosexual couples special benefits than it does best friends or room-mates who live together and desire those benefits.



Source: <http://www.formarriage.org/>



**Huge savings for Medicare beneficiaries**

Please visit  
[www.radanovich.house.gov](http://www.radanovich.house.gov)  
 and click on RadTV to view  
 video clips on Medicare

*“This initiative is about ensuring access to the best health care for our children and grandchildren.”*

*-Rep. George Radanovich*

## The Medicare Replacement Drug Demonstration

Medicare beneficiaries will soon be able to save substantially on prescription drugs used to treat serious and chronic diseases.

As part of the new Medicare law, you or someone you know may qualify to participate in the Medicare Replacement Drug Demonstration program. Under this demonstration, people who have been diagnosed with serious illnesses—such as rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, osteoporosis, pulmonary hypertension and certain kinds of cancer—may be eligible to have Medicare pay for drugs that can be self-administered rather than taken in a doctor’s office.

The Medicare Replacement Drug Demonstration is limited to 50,000 participants, and all applications must be received by September 30, 2004 in order to receive full consideration. Given the tremendous savings this program could offer you or your loved ones, I encourage you to call **1-866-563-5386** for more information.

## Children’s Hospital Bond Measure

Congressman Radanovich is actively supporting the Children’s Hospital Bond Measure, Proposition 61, that is going to be on the ballot in November. For children who are diagnosed with serious and life threatening diseases such as childhood leukemia, cancer, heart defects, sickle cell anemia, diabetes and cystic fibrosis, children’s hospitals are a crucial lifeline. Children’s hospitals treat over one million children’s injuries and illnesses each year, regardless of a family’s ability to pay. “This initiative is about ensuring access to the best health care for our children and grandchildren,” Radanovich said.

The Children’s Hospital Bond Act of 2004 would provide \$750 million to purchase new medical technologies, expand children’s hospital emergency rooms, and make more room so they provide care to more children. So far, the polling for this initiative has been consistently above a 60-65 percent approval rating in California.

The nation’s premier pediatric research centers are in children’s hospitals, making them the source of medical discoveries and advancements that benefit all children. Eighty percent of children with serious heart defects survive today—compared to a 12 percent survival rate 10 years ago— and the five-year survival rate for children with leukemia is now greater than 85 percent.

## Armenian Genocide

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, the House of Representatives adopted the Schiff Amendment, by voice vote and added it to the Fiscal Year 2005 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act (H.R. 4818). The measure prohibits the Turkish government from using U.S. foreign assistance in its multi-million dollar campaign to defeat current legislation regarding the Armenian Genocide. Congressman Radanovich supports the addition of this important language.

In addition, the Congressman is the lead sponsor of H. Res 193, recognizing the Armenian Genocide. This legislation reaffirms support of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and acknowledges the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1948 (the Proxmire Act) on November 4, 2003. Furthermore, it encourages the people and government of the United States to re-dedicate themselves to the cause of bringing an end to the crime of genocide.



**Armenian Flag and Genocide Monument in Yerevan, Armenia**

Source: [http://www.april24timesquare.com/db4/00344/april24timesquare.com/\\_uimages](http://www.april24timesquare.com/db4/00344/april24timesquare.com/_uimages)



## Critical Habitat Reform Act of 2003

The Congressman is a co-sponsor of H.R. 2933, the Critical Habitat Reform Act of 2003, a bill authored by Rep. Dennis Cardoza. The legislation was approved out of the House Committee on Resources on July 21, 2003 with Rep. Radanovich's support. Now the measure is pending House floor action.

Specifically, the bill addresses the need for the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a clearly defined mechanism for establishing critical habitat. H.R. 2933 refocuses habitat designation decisions on science and helps make certain that

those impacted have a voice in the process.

It meets these goals by taking the following steps:

- 1) Requires the establishment of a recovery plan concurrent with the designation of critical habitat.
- 2) Limits the designation of critical habitat to the maximum extent "practicable, economically feasible, and determinable." More clearly defines the term "essential to the conservation of the species" when designating critical habitat.
- 3) Excludes areas that are under an HCP or under a

state or federal conservation program.

4) Requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to consider local resource data, including maps, when considering areas for possible designation.

5) Calls for an economic impact analysis to consider the impact of lost revenues to land owners and to federal, state and local governments, as well as to include costs associated with the preparation of reports, surveys and analyses for landowners seeking to obtain approval from permitting agencies.



**The California Clapper Rail**

Source: <http://www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/sbwr/SBSitejgs/Clapper1.jpg>

## Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Land Act

As Chairman of the National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands Committee, Congressman Radanovich authored legislation to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on National Park Service, Bureau

of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service lands. "Trails and federal lands must remain open and accessible to pack and saddle stock," remarked Radanovich.

The bill, Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Land Act

continues the Congressman's commitment to ensure public access to federal lands.

H.R. 2966 has been approved by the House Committee on Resources and it is now awaiting floor action.

*"Trails and federal lands must remain open and accessible to pack and saddle stock."*

*-Rep. George Radanovich*

## Landmark CalFed Measure Approved in House

The Congressman is an original cosponsor of the Water Supply, Reliability and Environmental Improvement Act, H.R. 2828. The bill is a critical step toward securing a stable, reliable and efficient water supply in the state of California and throughout the West. The bill was recently approved on the House floor with strong support by Congressman Radanovich and the majority of the California

congressional delegation.

The bill includes several important provisions. It allows for the authorization of feasibility studies for water infrastructure projects unless Congress takes action to the contrary. Specifically, the language allows for continuing storage studies in the Upper San Joaquin River, which will lead to an increase in critical water supplies for water users in the

valley. H.R. 2828 also forms the Centralized Regulatory Office to streamline permitting activities among federal agencies. This Office will be welcomed by many constituents who are often caught in redundant permitting and licensing processes at federal agencies. Further, the bill establishes the Office of Federal Water Resources Coordination to coordinate the competitive grant program for all 50 states.



**Friant Dam**

Source: [http://friant.org/jmodule/friant\\_dam.html](http://friant.org/jmodule/friant_dam.html)

## Improving Highway 99 for the People of the Valley



Congressman Radanovich, along with Congressmen Devin Nunes and Gary Miller, have been engaged in improving CA Highway 99 in order to increase commerce, safety and the overall traffic along this important corridor. Highway 99 has been ignored for far too long and even though it carries more traffic than most other highways in the United States, is in a serious state of disrepair. In fact, Highway 99 is the most heavily traveled North/South highway west of the Mississippi for trucks, including those interstate highways such as "Interstate 5" that were created for this purpose.

Radanovich and his colleagues have met with Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and Governor Schwarzenegger's office to dis-

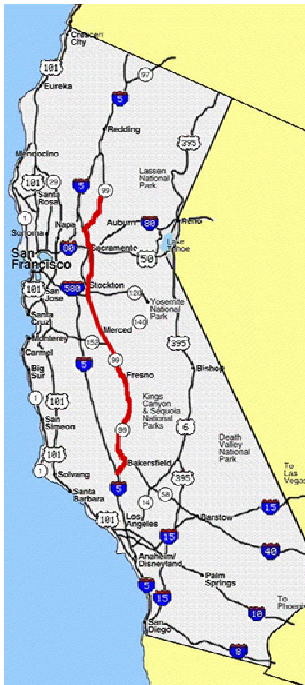
cuss plans for the much needed improvements along Highway 99. Both offices understood the importance of this corridor, as Fresno is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest city in California and the 27<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States. In addition, it is the largest city in the U.S. not on the interstate highway system.

Goods, largely agricultural, are transported via Highway 99 in trucks that make up to 29 percent of the heavily used system. The annual average daily traffic reaches up to 109,000 vehicles per day. Currently, 40,000 more trucks travel Highway 99 daily than the only North/South Interstate in California, Interstate 5.

Economic development is the key to reducing the Valley's double digit unemployment, which is more than double the state and

national average. In order to accomplish this, the San Joaquin Valley needs to use the same tools other successful regions in the nation have employed. To be successful in today's interconnected world of the post-NAFTA era, a region must have excellent transportation. In spite of the volume of trade and traffic, the Central Valley has virtually no interstate connectivity. Fresno is 70 miles from Interstate 5, the currently designated NAFTA corridor.

The Valley is the most rapidly growing section of California, and the transportation needs have far outpaced capacity along Highway 99. In order for our region to grow successfully, Highway 99 must be vastly improved. Congressman Radanovich sees this as a major priority and will continue work to designate the highway as a federal interstate.



California Map with Highway 99 highlighted



Source: [http://www.gbcnet.com/ushighways/US99/99pics\\_f.html](http://www.gbcnet.com/ushighways/US99/99pics_f.html)


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As your Congressman, I am honored and humbled to serve you. This newsletter is one way I can communicate my work as it happens in Congress to those back home. I sincerely hope you enjoyed this bulletin. The information provided is intended to increase your awareness of the important issues facing not only the beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> district of California, but our nation as well.

I would like to thank you for your support, and I welcome any feedback on how I can better serve you. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.

Best Wishes,

U.S. Congressman George Radanovich

## This Month's Hot Topic

### Methyl Bromide Bill

Congressman Radanovich is the lead sponsor of H.R. 3403, which is a bill to approve methyl bromide for critical uses in the U.S. if the parties to the Montreal Protocol, an international treaty, do not approve the U.S. request for these critical uses. Methyl bromide is a pesticide primarily used as a pre-planting product to prevent insect damage to a crop.

Chairman Ralph Hall, of the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee, held a hearing on July 21<sup>st</sup> regarding the process taking place at the Montreal Protocol where critical

use exemptions for methyl bromide are being decided. Congressman Radanovich participated in the hearing and expressed his concern with the politicized process at the Protocol that seems to be relying less and less on science to make its decisions. The hearing was conducted to provide our U.S. officials, who attend Protocol meetings, with needed support to secure adequate levels of the methyl bromide exemptions in the future.

The Montreal Protocol treaty was designed to eliminate the use of ozone-depleting

substances and includes a phase-out in 2005 of methyl bromide by developed countries. Third World countries like China are not required to phase-out their use until 2015, giving them a competitive advantage.

There are no viable, cost-effective alternatives in existence at this time. Scientific research into alternatives continues, and the Congressman is hopeful a feasible replacement will be found soon. In the meantime, he will continue his support of the U.S. critical use exemption request.



Source: <http://www.vivitar.com/Proucts/DigCams/Galleries/V3825/V3825Gal/strawberries.jpg>