



Update to the Community:

March 2014

Rep. Grace Napolitano

Representing California's 32nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives: Azusa - Baldwin Park - Industry - Covina - Duarte - El Monte - Glendora - Irwindale - La Puente - La Verne - Monrovia - San Dimas - West Covina

www.napolitano.house.gov * facebook.com/RepGraceNapolitano * twitter.com/gracenapolitano

Transportation Funding Creates Jobs in San Gabriel Valley

Helped secure federal funds producing jobs, spurring economic growth in the San Gabriel Valley, Napolitano also voted to enact **H.R. 4348**, Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012, designating funds for critical projects:

- Joined 2 Southern CA colleagues on letters to LA MTA to fund **Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Phase 2A** (Pasadena to Azusa), resulting in approval of \$741 million, creating 6,000 jobs.*
- **Alameda Corridor East (ACE)** secured \$235 million for 18 ACE grade separation projects, creating 30,532 jobs.**
- Supported H.R. 4348, for \$180 million to add **new I-10 Carpool Lanes**, creating 6,500 jobs.***

*Source: Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority

**Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority

***House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure



Because of her work on transportation issues in Congress, Rep. Napolitano was recognized by Union Pacific at the opening of the Whittier Greenway Trail.

Helping Restore Veteran's Widow's Benefits

Gisela Bandurraga (Covina), widow of Vietnam War Vet Faustino Bandurraga, requested assistance obtaining her Veteran's Widow's pension she had applied for since March 2012. Hector Elizalde, Veterans Liason, contacted L.A. VA. On February 15 she was informed her application would be processed with retroactive pay from April 2012. "I want to commend Rep. Napolitano's office for intervening on our behalf and connecting us with the VA," said Christine Breese, Gisela's daughter. "We cannot thank them enough for what they have done." Visit <http://napolitano.house.gov/serving-you/help-federal-agency> for more info.



Rep. Napolitano discusses veterans issues in Azusa.

Services for Vets: Call or Visit

- **"Feds Hire Vets."** Gives vets priority for government jobs www.fedshirevets.gov
- **"Post-9/11 GI Bill"** and **"Montgomery GI Bill"** college tuition www.gibill.va.gov
- **VA Home Loans** buy or refi a home www.homeloans.va.gov
- **Medical treatment and benefits** www.vba.va.go or call office at (626) 350-0150 for VA case assistance
- **"Coaching into Care"** help family & friends to assist veterans with mental health issues **1-888-823-7458** or visit www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/
- **Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS)** - **1-800-342-9647** - www.ptsd.va.gov for assistance
- **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)** - **1-866-966-1020** www.dvbic.org for resources
- **Assistance for Homeless Vets** - "Vet Hunters" at info@vethunters.org.



ART CONTEST

Student artists - Ask your art teacher about our Congressional Art Contest! Congress pays tribute to talented high school students at our yearly **Congressional Art Competition**. Young artists will be able to display their artistic talent at local and at national levels. 1st place winner will be flown to Washington, D.C. for awards reception and the art piece will be displayed in the Capitol Tunnel; 2nd displayed in Washington, D.C. Office, 3rd in El Monte Office. **Requirements:**



- High School students must **reside** in 32nd District
- Art entered may be up to **28" by 28" (including frame)** and may be up to 4" in depth
- Art must be **2-dimensional**, of **any medium** (paint, charcoal, photography, drawing, etc.)
- Judging: in May; **date & location TBD**
- To view 2013 submissions, visit www.facebook.com/RepGraceNapolitano.

Military Academy Nominees

2014 nominations for appointment to Air Force, West Point, Naval, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine Academies allow high school graduates opportunities to serve for a minimum of nine years:

U.S. Naval Academy

Jacob Adams, La Verne, Damien H.S.
 Amanda-Nicole Alvarado, La Puente, Bishop Amat H.S.
 Jane Lee, Covina, Walnut H.S.
 Michael Lopez, West Covina, West Covina H.S.
 Hayden Ward, San Dimas, Damien H.S.
 Kevin Wong, West Covina, Bishop Amat H.S.

West Point Academy

Prasad Dipak, La Puente, US Mil Academy Prep School
 Greg McKnight, West Covina, South Hills H.S.
 Matthew Measer, Glendora, Damien H.S.
 Roberto Nunez, West Covina, Edgewood H.S.

Air Force Academy

Morgan Galvan, San Dimas, Bonita H.S.
 Jennifer Garcia, West Covina, Santa Fe H.S.
 Ashley Gauthier, Covina, San Dimas H.S.
 Ryan Gorski, Covina, Damien H.S.
 Kenneth Moore, Arcadia, Rio Hondo Prep School

Dedicated students who want to serve their country, ages **17 to 22**, can apply to this Office in **October**, request an **Academy Nomination Application Form**, and will be invited to attend our annual Military Academy Day event with family to meet with representatives of all academies. **Recommendation:** Freshmen, acquaint yourselves with the program to build a strong resume.

Contact Hector Elizalde at **626-350-0150** or visit <http://napolitano.house.gov/serving-you/military-academy-nominations>.



Napolitano discusses military issues with Matthew Measer at 2013 Military Academy Day in West Covina.

Students - Important Selective Service Info

Young men must register with Selective Service by **age 26**, be eligible for:

- State or federal student financial aid: Pell Grants, College Work Study, or any government education loans
- Qualifying for U.S. citizenship (registration necessary if a man immigrated before his 26th birthday)
- Federal job training programs
- Jobs in federal agencies and the post office require applicants to be registered in order to apply.



To register, go to www.sss.gov or ask for a Selective Service form at a post office. Do not wait, 23% of Calif. men already excluded.

Water/Drought Update

CA Gov. Jerry Brown declared the State in a **drought emergency** on January 17, 2014. All residents are urged to reduce their water usage by 20%.



Santa Fe Dam & Recreation Center in Irwindale

Some helpful water saving tips:

- Installing aerators on faucets, **save 1.2 gal a day**
- Turning off faucet while brushing teeth or shaving, **save up to 10 gal a day**
- Reducing shower time from 10 to 5 min, **save 12.5 gal a day**
- Installing a high-efficiency toilet, **save 19 gal per day**
- Sweep sidewalks, driveways, and patios, not using a hose **saves 8-18 gal a minute**

For more drought info & tips, visit www.saveourh2o.org or www.bewaterwise.com.

2014 Coming Events

April.....Women of the Year
May.....High School Art Competition
June.....Veterans Forum
September....Immigration Casework Fair
October.....Military Academy Day
 Small Business & Export Seminar
 Specific dates to be announced; visit <http://napolitano.house.gov/events> or call the El Monte Office at 626-350-0150 for updates.

HEALTH CARE REMINDER:

March 15th is the last day to choose a health plan through Covered California, (marketplace set up through the Affordable Care Act (ACA)), that begins April 1st. Visit www.coveredca.com or call **1-800-300-1506**.



Protecting American Truck Manufacturing in CA

On a recent visit to LA Freightliner, a national innovative truck manufacturing company in Whittier, transportation policy/issues favorable to American manufacturing and businesses were discussed. Company produces and sells low emissions heavy-duty rigs for movement of goods. As a result, Napolitano became a cosponsor of H.Con.Res. 52, which opposes an unfair increase in the Federal Excise Tax on new trucks, which are in addition to clean energy equipment now required in excess of \$30,000 per truck. "It is inspiring to see the technology being developed in our own backyard," Napolitano said. "We must encourage more companies like Freightliner to promote American-made products here and abroad, and assist in creating jobs while continuing to reduce air pollution."



Rep. Napolitano toured LA Freightliner in January to discuss transportation issues.

Napolitano is the Senior CA Democratic member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mental Health Update

- **Latina Adolescent Suicide Prevention Program**, begun locally in 2001 to provide mental health services on-site in 4 schools to assist **ANY** child in need, has grown to 26 schools K-12 in southeast L.A. County, with financial assistance from L.A. Co. Dept. of Mental Health. On-site clinicians work with family, school officials, to provide immediate treatment to children identified with signs of high risk behavior, who are **encouraged**, through assemblies, presentations, open house events, **to seek** help to address personal stress ensuring progress in school. Now serves as a pilot program for H.R. 628, the Mental Health in Schools Act of 2013. Schools recently starting Youth Suicide Prevention Programs:

1. Northview Intermediate School – Duarte
2. Duarte High School – Duarte
3. El Monte High School – El Monte
4. Magnolia Learning Center – El Monte
5. Mountain View High School – El Monte
6. Torch Middle School – City of Industry



For more info on H.R. 628, <http://napolitano.house.gov/legislative-work/mental-health-schools-act>.

- **32nd District Mental Health**

- **Task Force** - Napolitano welcomed actor, Arjay Smith; NFL Wide Receiver Brandon Marshall and his wife Michi Marshall; and World "Boxing Cares" Chair, Jill Diamond, as the newest members of her Mental Health Task Force. Members undergo mental health training before volunteering to act as **spokespersons** to increase access and awareness of mental health services, specifically to help rid the stigma against mental health.



Arjay Smith



Brandon & Michi Marshall



Jill Diamond

- **Consortium** – A dedicated group of local mental health professionals and advocates meet quarterly to discuss and share mental health related information regarding, but not limited, to youth, seniors, veterans, local and state health care resources, advising the Congresswoman on public mental health policy and related issues. If interested, contact 626-350-0150.

May Mental Health Month

May--observed as National Mental Health Awareness Month since 1949, when advocates and activists began to draw attention to the mental health issues that affect 1 in 4 Americans. More people die from suicide than from traffic accidents or homicides. We lose 22 veterans to suicide daily. You can show support for mental health and help us get rid of stigma by wearing lime green during the month of May. Learn about warning signs, visit <http://napolitano.house.gov/legislative-work/may-mental-health-awareness-month> for more info on **May Mental Health Month**. National Mental Health Crisis Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK.



Rep. Napolitano met with mental health advocates to decrease stigma in May 2013.

Updates from Congress

Contact us:

Capitol Office

1610 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
tel.: (202) 225-5256
fax: (202) 225-0027

District Office

4401 Santa Anita Ave, #201
El Monte, CA 91731
tel.: (626) 350-0150
fax: (626) 350-0450

Online

www.napolitano.house.gov

Grace F. Napolitano
M.C.
PRSRT STD

*This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Constituent Services Guide

- **Academy Nominations:** H.S. students recommendations to U.S. military academies
- **Flags:** U.S. Capitol-flown American Flag with cert. on a specific day, only if given two weeks' notice
- **Immigration/Naturalization:** Assistance w/ visas, work permits, legal residency, naturalization
- **IRS:** Assistance with difficult tax problems
- **Military:** Hardship discharge, extension of leave, compassionate reassignment, medals
- **Passports:** Emergency expediting the passport process.
- **Presidential Greetings:** Presidential greetings for special occasions (birthday for 80 + years, anniversary for 50+ years, wedding, baby's birth) must be requested at *least one month before*
- **Seniors:** Medicare, Social Security, disability, and Supplemental Security Income issues
- **Small Business:** SBA loans, government contract opportunities, seminars, info
- **Veterans:** Info: VA hospitals, pensions, benefits, education, home loans, military records
- **Tours:** Help plan your trip to D.C. 6 weeks advance notice; 6 months if you inquire White House tour.

We are ready to help you cut through "red tape," secure the services and benefits paid for by your tax dollars. More about "casework," visit <http://napolitano.house.gov/serving-you/help-federal-agency>.

Visit www.napolitano.house.gov or call (626) 350-0150



32nd Congressional District Constituent Survey - Share Your Views

What do you think is...

The top issue facing the area Write-in: _____

Our priority should be? _____

Job creation through?

- A) Bring manufacturing home B) Transportation & Infrastructure C) Cut taxes D) Improve Education
E) Remove regulations F) Other: _____

Congressional immigration reform to include:

- A) Securing border **only** B) Earned path to citizenship with border security C) No reform is necessary
D) Other: _____

Small businesses create more jobs by:

- A) Providing tax credits B) Lowering healthcare costs C) Increasing access to credit
D) Other: _____

Any additional comments or views: _____

Thank you for your participation!

Please mail: Rep. Grace Napolitano,
1610 LHOB, Washington, D.C., 20515 **OR**
take online survey at napolitano.house.gov

EMAIL ADDRESS - write below to receive the
results of this poll, e-news, and other updates:

Connect Online

Follow Rep. Napolitano online to share your thoughts and get the latest news:



Website: napolitano.house.gov



Facebook: www.facebook.com/RepGraceNapolitano



Twitter: www.twitter.com/gracenapolitano



YouTube: www.youtube.com/RepGraceNapolitano