



Update to the Community:

Spring 2015

Rep. Grace Napolitano

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

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Delivering Jobs, Safer Commutes for the San Gabriel Valley

Transportation/Infrastructure Committee member Grace F. Napolitano and her staff continue to work tirelessly to boost job creation and ensure environmental protection, commuter safety, and the safe transport of goods through our region to the eastern seaboard:

- **USDOT Announces Local Jobs Initiative**—Begun on *March 3*, local hiring permits now available to all recipients of federal transportation dollars as a 1-year pilot program. Napolitano has for years requested this on behalf of cities to provide jobs for locally unemployed, to increase jobs and restore fairness to taxpayers' federal contributions, ensuring a preference for jobs their taxes are paying for.*
- **PTC Coming Soon to Metrolink**—On *March 2*, Metrolink began demonstrating Positive Train Control (PTC) on LA commuter lines, including the San Bernardino Line (passing through 32nd District). PTC uses computer technology to monitor the position/location of different trains and automatically employs braking and safety measures if a potential collision is detected. Since 2008 Chatsworth accident, Napolitano has consistently fought to demand PTC implementation & fought against efforts to delay implementation on passenger and freight rail systems.*
- **ACE Baldwin Ave Underpass Opening/Fairway Drive Project Groundbreaking**—On *Jan 23* local elected

*U.S. Department of Transportation



Rep. Napolitano discusses transportation issues in the City of Industry with local elected officials and residents.

officials, members of Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority (ACE), and residents celebrated the underpass opening at Baldwin Ave in El Monte; *April 2*—ground broken on new Fairway Drive project in City of Industry—8 of 20 projects completed so far. Grade separations allow motorists to drive safely under railroads, eliminating traffic collisions, improving on-time delivery for truckers and businesses, providing cleaner air, and ensuring commuter safety. Baldwin Ave project created approx. 446 construction jobs; Fairway Drive project will create more than 2,500 jobs.**

Visit napolitano.house.gov/issue/transportation.

**Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority

Water/Drought Update

Napolitano's Bill to Combat Drought

H.R. 291 "Water in the 21st Century"—Would provide funds to help residents and businesses install water-efficient dishwashers, washing machines, faucets, toilets, showers, and drought-proof landscaping. "In order to stay competitive, create jobs, and strengthen our economy, we need water," Napolitano stated. "Every way of saving or adding to water supplies must be pursued." H.R. 291 would help clean and thereby create water, meeting the critical water needs of residents, businesses, and cities. Better water management would lead to lower costs for ratepayers and increased supply, ensuring access to water during times of drought. Visit napolitano.house.gov/issue/water.

La Verne Water Forum

University of La Verne College of Law made 'water' the focus for their 2015 symposium. Napolitano joined students and faculty to discuss the impact of the drought, new groundwater legislation in CA, and approaches to water allocation. "Our continued outreach to scientists and academia is critical to ensure our communities have the ability to help themselves and produce water," Napolitano said. More on symposium, visit laverne.law.edu.



Rep. Napolitano discusses water issues with students.

CA Gov. Jerry Brown ordered **mandatory restrictions** on *April 1, 2015*, instructing all water supply agencies to reduce water usage by 25%. The current extreme drought affects all Californians. We must all do our part to conserve.

Water-Saving & Handy Tips

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways & sidewalks
- Fix leaky faucets - drips can waste hundreds of gal/yr
- Run washing machine & dishwasher with full loads only
- Turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving
- Shorten your showers - just 1 minute less can save up to 5 gal/day
- Check sprinklers for leaks & drips - cut watering days
- Upgrade with water-efficient showerheads & toilets
- Use drought-resistant plants

For more info on CA's drought & tips, visit bewaterwise.com, saveourwater.com or socalwater.org/conservation.



Diamond Valley Lake is Southern California's largest water reservoir, providing critical drought relief for the region.

Military Academy Nominees

2015 nominations for appointment to the Air Force, West Point, Naval, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine Academies allow high school graduates opportunities to serve their country for a minimum of nine years: four years free tuition studying at an academy valued at over \$350k and five years in the respective branch of the U.S. Military. Nominees for 2014 were:

U.S Naval Academy

John Contouasilis, Covina, Bishop Amat H.S.
 *Adam Dechord, West Covina, Bishop Amat H.S.
 Evan Johnson, Covina, Damien H.S.
 Natalia Yniguez, Azusa, Azusa H.S.

West Point

Isaak Ramirez, Baldwin Park, Sierra Vista H.S.

Air Force Academy

*Nathan Aday, La Verne, Glendora H.S.
 *George Millard, La Puente, Los Altos H.S.
 Andrew Vieyra, West Covina, South Hills H.S.
 Daniel Wright, La Puente, West Covina H.S.
 *Indicates nominee has already received acceptance to academy.

Students wanting to serve their country, ages 17 to 22, may apply for a Military Academy nomination in November, request an Academy Nomination Application Form, and attend our annual Military Academy Day event with family to ask questions from attending representatives of academies. It is highly recommended to inquire about military academies during their freshman year, acquaint themselves with the programs, and build a strong resume. Contact Hector Elizalde at 626-350-0150 or visit napolitano.house.gov/serving-you/military-academy-nominations.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Brigadier General Mark Toy outlines the benefits of military service academies at the 2014 Military Academy Day in West Covina.

LA County Officials Praise Youth ChalleNGe Program, Support Expansion

On *March 13*, Napolitano and LA County Dept. Officials—ranging from the Sheriff’s & Probation Departments to the Office of Education—toured Sunburst Youth Academy, Southern CA’s only National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, and saw the tremendous impact it is having on the lives of many of our region’s at-risk youth. “I am inspired by what I heard and saw here today,” said 5th District Bureau Chief Paul Vinetz, LA County Probation Dept., after visiting Sunburst. “This program is remarkable, and what they learn here is one of the most important things we can do for young people,” added Chief Buddy Goldman, LA County Sheriff’s Dept.—South Patrol Division. CA has two NGYCPs—Sunburst (Los Alamitos) and Grizzly (Camp San Luis Obispo)—with a third in Stockton anticipated in 2016. NGYCP is a 22-week free joint federal-state partnership run by the



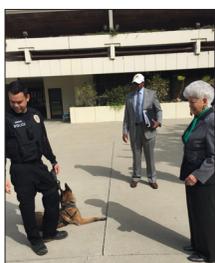
Rep. Napolitano & LA County officials met to discuss programs for at-risk youth.

National Guard that enhances education levels, life skills, employment potential, and brightens prospects for the future by providing the education, training, and opportunity for students to earn their high school diploma or GED. CBS Evening News’ 7-part series about Sunburst: <http://www.cbsnews.com/national-guard-challenge-academy/>.

West Covina Police Dept. K-9 Unit

32nd District is lucky to have WCPD K-9 Unit available to surrounding communities to protect & safeguard the public. A *Feb. 19* visit included demonstration of K-9s & started a much needed discussion for establishing a K-9 training facility in the San Gabriel Valley. “Public safety is not only critically important, but a priority for our residents. We will be searching in Congress for assistance to enhance training programs and establish a training facility in the SGV since officers are forced to travel outside the county for training and certification needs,” Napolitano said. “We are so very grateful to WCPD, all law enforcement officers, and their families who knowingly put themselves in harm’s way to protect our communities.”

Napolitano and staff were privileged to meet two Police K-9 teams, including Reiko, who was shot in the line of duty on *November 23* of last year and is active now. WCPD seeks funding to establish a K-9 training facility of 3 acres to cut costs, increase K-9s, and better serve the region. As a member of the bipartisan Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, Napolitano pledged to continue working to support this and similar efforts. For more info, visit reichert.house.gov/issue/law-enforcement-caucus.



Rep. Napolitano discusses safety issues with Officer Bryan Rodriguez.

Committee Assignments for 114th Congress

Transportation and Infrastructure—covering surface (cars, buses, trucks) transportation, freight and passenger rail, aviation, inland waterways, international maritime commerce, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water projects, and the federal clean water programs. Napolitano was also selected to be Ranking Member (top Democrat) on the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment with jurisdiction over U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA Clean Water Act programs; also serving on two additional subcommittees: 1) Highways & Transit and 2) Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. For more info, democrats.transportation.house.gov/.
Natural Resources Committee—overseeing energy production, mineral lands and mining, fisheries and wildlife, water management, public lands, oceans, and Native American issues. Current member and Former Ranking Member on Subcommittee on Water & Power. For more info, democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/.

We Proudly Serve Those Who Served Us

Continuing to Serve Homeless Veterans

After visiting Los Angeles earlier this year, VA Secretary Robert McDonald set the goal of getting all veterans off the streets by 2016. Napolitano applauds Sec. McDonald in prioritizing ending veterans homelessness and joins him in this goal. The El Monte Veterans Village, a 40-apartment complex that serves chronically homeless veterans, just marked one year in service to the San Gabriel Valley veteran community. For more info, visit napolitano.house.gov/issue/veterans.

SGV Veterans, mark your calendars!

• ‘Heroes in the Shadows’ Veterans Stand Down

May 25-29--Pomona National Guard Armory, 600 S Park Ave, Pomona, CA, 91766. 4th annual tribute to honor fallen heroes and serve those in need; Attendees receive medical care, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and aid in receiving veteran’s benefits from the federal and state VA.

• 4th Annual Veterans Forum

July 11--National Guard Armory, 1351 W. Sierra Madre Ave, Azusa, CA 91702. Appointments w/ VA reps. will be first come, first served, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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 refinance a home. www.homeloans.va.gov.
- Medical treatment and benefits www.vba.va.go or call the El Monte 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.

For assistance, contact Hector Elizalde at 626-350-0150.

Promoting Mental Wellness

The Mental Health in Schools Act – H.R. 1211

To fund pilot programs with critical on-site school-based mental health services, Napolitano and Congressman Chris Gibson (R-NY-19) reintroduced the Mental Health in Schools Act. Patterned after Napolitano’s successful local area pilot program—begun in 4 schools, now serving 26 schools in LA County with county financial support, has a waiting list—this proposal educates on the warning signs and symptoms of mental illness, so students can be referred directly to clinicians on site in schools with the goal of promoting mental wellness, reducing stigma, and ensuring a brighter future for our youngsters.



Visit napolitano.house.gov/legislative-work/mental-health-schools-act.

Congresswoman Napolitano’s 32nd District Mental Health Initiatives

• **Task Force** - A group of prominent figures who volunteer their work to reduce the stigma against mental health and raise awareness for H.R. 1211, the Mental Health in Schools Act. Current members include: **Metta World Peace**, former NBA Player and current high school basketball coach; actor **Arjay Smith**; NFL Wide Receiver **Brandon Marshall** and his wife **Michi Marshall**, World Boxing Cares Chair **Jill Diamond**. All underwent mental health training before volunteering to act as spokespersons, counseling all to recognize symptoms and ask for help.

• **Consortium** – A dedicated group of local mental health professionals and advocates meets quarterly with great speakers to discuss and also share mental health related information, advising the Congresswoman on public mental health policy and related issues. Topics include: youth, seniors, veterans, local and state health care resources. If interested, contact Norma Lopez-Reid at 626-350-0150.

“Access to mental health care is essential for overall health and well-being, especially for our youth. Early intervention is key to help people live full, meaningful, and productive lives. H.R. 1211, the Mental Health in Schools Act, will make services available to our youth, so they can rise above the challenges they face in their lives and can live up to their potential. It has proven to be more cost-effective to provide services early on, rather than wait until a condition exacerbates and becomes worse.

I am passionate about this because my own personal experience with mental health counselors has made an enormous, positive difference in my life. We need to pass the Mental Health in Schools Act to provide youth with the tools to succeed in life.”

~ Metta World Peace

May Mental Health Month

May Mental Health Month 2015—A time when mental health advocates across the country help raise critical awareness and reduce stigma of mental health. You

can show support and help us get rid of stigma by wearing lime green during the month of May. Learn about warning signs and ways to fight stigma, visit napolitano.house.gov/legislative-work/may-mentalhealth-awareness-month.



Rep. Napolitano met with Members of Congress & mental health advocates to decrease stigma in May 2014.



If you or someone you know needs help, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8253).

Updates from Congress

Contact us:

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M.C.
PRSRT STD



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

Letter to Our Constituents

It is a great privilege and distinct honor to serve the residents and businesses of the 32nd District of California as your member of the House of Representatives in Congress.

Among the many issues facing the 114th Congress, I remain focused on public service, keeping in mind San Gabriel Valley's most critical needs. I will continue to seek and secure federal resources that will create jobs; expand educational opportunities for our children and access to much deserved services to our veterans and their families; improve our roads, highways, and public transit systems; help prepare water agencies in our region for drought and protect our access to clean water; and increase the access and availability of mental health services.

We look forward to continuing to serve you, so please let us know your concerns by contacting my office any time. We hope you find this report to be informative and helpful.

Warm regards,

Grace

Staff Directory

District Office – El Monte

Perla Hernandez Trumkul, District Director
Hector Elizalde, Deputy District Director
Elena Robles, Field Representative/Caseworker
Phyllyp Bardowell, Field Representative/Caseworker
Norma Lopez-Reid, Mental Health Liaison
Licett Figueroa, Field Representative/Scheduler
Carrie Lam, Caseworker
Bob Pence, Staff Assistant/Systems Administrator

Capitol Office – Washington, D.C.

Daniel Chao, Chief of Staff
Joe Sheehy, Legislative Director
Jerry O'Donnell, Press Secretary
Joseph Ciccone, Legislative Assistant/Scheduler
Jonah Cunningham, Legislative Assistant
Morgan Leonard, Staff Assistant/Legislative Correspondent



Rep. Napolitano and staff in U.S. Capitol Building.

Constituent Services Guide

- **Academy Nominations:** H.S. students recommendations to U.S. military academies
- **Flags:** U.S. Capitol-flown American Flag with certificate on a specific day, only if given one month's notice
- **Immigration/Naturalization:** We inquire on your 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>.

INTERNSHIPS

DC

Responsibilities will vary--unpaid interns may be asked to answer phones, run errands, research legislation for the Member & legislative staff, attend hearings/briefings, and answer constituent letters on various issues before the House. For info, contact Morgan Leonard at 202-225-5256.

El Monte

Although unpaid, interns learn about vital community service organizations and varied aspects & responsibilities of Federal, State and local governments, learning from experienced staff the value of constituent services. For info, contact Phyllyp Bardowell at 626-350-0150.

2015 Coming Events

July.....Veterans Forum
August.....California Water Forum
September.....Immigration Casework Fair
October.....Military Academy Day;
Small Business & Export Seminar

Specific dates to be announced; visit napolitano.house.gov/events or call the El Monte Office at 626-350-0150 for latest info.