



# Rep. Grace Napolitano

Representing California's 38th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives: Industry - La Puente - Montebello - Pico Rivera - Norwalk - Pomona - Santa Fe Springs - Avocado Heights - East Los Angeles - Hacienda Heights - Los Nietos - Valinda

[www.napolitano.house.gov](http://www.napolitano.house.gov) \* [facebook.com/RepGraceNapolitano](https://www.facebook.com/RepGraceNapolitano) \* [twitter.com/gracenapolitano](https://twitter.com/gracenapolitano)

## Napolitano Welcomes Troops Home From Iraq

Rep. Grace F. Napolitano welcomes all our troops home from Iraq and calls on the community to learn how to help them readjust: "A long-awaited homecoming is finally here. We salute our soldiers and their families for their valuable service, and welcome the end of the Iraq War. We are proud of our troops and must be ready to help them readjust to civilian life. Many veterans suffered wounds both physical and mental during their service, and will need medical benefits, mental health services, and assistance in finding jobs. They have served us, now it is our turn to serve them."

**Welcome home to all our veterans!**

- Register with the Veterans Administration for a post-exit medical exam and to qualify for benefits. Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).
- Visit [www.napolitano.house.gov](http://www.napolitano.house.gov) and follow Grace at [www.facebook.com/RepGraceNapolitano](https://www.facebook.com/RepGraceNapolitano) for veterans news updates



*Napolitano discusses military training issues with a local cadet*

## Supporting Our Troops

### New Laws to Assist Troops

Thousands of our troops are coming home from Iraq to their families. Napolitano has voted to support our troops and assist our heroes:

- **Vow to Hire Heroes Act** (HR 2433). Employers will now receive up to \$9,600 in tax credits for hiring a veteran, depending on how long the veteran has been unemployed.
- **Improving Veterans Healthcare** (HR 3288, 111th). Veterans Administration hospitals received increased funding and improved mental health services.
- **Pay Raises for Active Duty Soldiers** (HR 2647, 111th). Troops received a 3.5% raise in 2008, a 3.9% raise in 2009, and a 3.4% raise in 2010.
- **Stop-Loss Pay for Extra Tours** (HR 2346, 111th). Troops and veterans received \$500 for every extra month they served under stop-loss orders since 2001.

Napolitano continues to push for increased benefits for our veterans. Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for more information.



### Assistance for Military Spouses

The Veterans Administration is offering new resources to help military families as their vets adjust to civilian life. Visit [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov) or call 1-855-260-3274 for information and assistance, i.e. phone counseling and advice on family stress, PTSD, TBI, and other issues.

### Advocate Ron Zaleski Walks Across USA for Vets Mental Health



Vietnam vet and advocate Ron Zaleski walked barefoot hundreds of miles across the country to Washington, D.C. to draw attention to veterans mental health needs. Along the way he visited with military families who had lost their children to suicide. Co-Chair of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus Napolitano welcomed him to the Capitol and introduced him to more than 20 members of Congress so he could share his message. Zaleski also appeared before the Veterans Affairs Committee. Suicide continues to claim the lives of 18 veterans daily.

### Resources for Returning Vets

Here are some resources our returning veterans and their families can use to readjust to civilian life:

- **"Coaching into Care"** is a new program to help family and friends assist veterans who may have post-traumatic stress or other mental health issues. Call 1-888-823-7458 or visit [www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/](http://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/) to receive expert assistance.
- **"Feds Hire Vets"** is a policy that gives veterans priority for government jobs. Visit [www.fedshirevets.gov](http://www.fedshirevets.gov) to find jobs with "veterans preference."
- **"Post-9/11 GI Bill"** and the "Montgomery GI Bill" are two options to help veterans pay for college. Visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) for more info.
- **VA Home Loans** can help veterans buy or refinance a home - visit [www.homeloans.va.gov](http://www.homeloans.va.gov)
- **Housing and job training** are available for homeless vets - go to [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless) for info
- **Medical treatment and benefits** are available. Visit [www.vba.va.gov](http://www.vba.va.gov) for general info, or call Rep. Napolitano's office at (562) 801-2134 for help if you have a case open with the Veterans Administration.
- **Post-Traumatic Stress** can be an issue for returning vets. Call 1-800-342-9647 or visit [www.ptsd.va.gov](http://www.ptsd.va.gov) for free assistance.
- **National Crisis Hotline** 1-800-273-TALK (8255)



### New "Wounded Warrior" on Staff to Assist Incoming Vets



Napolitano has added Chris Hainsworth to staff as a veterans field representative through the Veterans Administration's "Wounded Warrior" program. Chris served in Iraq and Kuwait as part of the Air Force before returning home after an injury in 2008 to work for the Veterans Administration helping vets. Chris joins Vietnam vet and field representative Hector Elizalde in the office, making two full-time staffers available to help veterans obtain federal assistance with benefits. Visit [www.napolitano.house.gov](http://www.napolitano.house.gov) or call (562) 801-2134 to learn more.

# Updates from Congress

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PRSRT STD

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## Napolitano Supports New Bill to Keep Infrastructure Jobs in U.S.

Rep. Grace F. Napolitano joined her fellow Democrats on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in unveiling the Invest in American Jobs Act of 2011 (H.R. 3533), which would create U.S. jobs by requiring **all** materials used in federal transportation and infrastructure projects to be **made in America**.

“It is time we brought manufacturing jobs back to America,” Napolitano said. “For too long, U.S. firms have taken advantage of tax breaks and loopholes to outsource work to other countries, removing jobs while working American families have been left behind. The Invest in American Jobs Act will ensure that *all* of our bridges, roads, and railcars will be built here in America, and all funding for these critical infrastructure projects will be used to create and sustain U.S. jobs.”



*Rep. Napolitano discusses how transportation and infrastructure issues can help the economy*

## Napolitano Helps Create Jobs with Local Transportation Projects



*Napolitano discusses infrastructure issues with her constituents*

- **Alameda Corridor East.** Helped secure \$217 million in federal funds to remove 20 railroad crossings and build tunnels and bridges to keep railways separate from streets. These projects create more construction jobs and cause fewer accidents, less traffic congestion and less pollution.
- **Metro Gold Line.** Helped secure the \$735 million needed to expand the Gold line, which Metro expects to create 6,900 jobs.
- **Electric Buses.** Secured \$10 million for new, American made, rechargeable electric buses for the San Gabriel Valley to reduce air pollution.
- **Foothill Transit.** \$7.8 million for “green” Industry Park & Ride facility currently under construction.
- **57-60 Confluence Project.** Federal funds to help improve safety and congestion where freeways meet.
- **National Transportation Bill.** Supports a fully-funded six-year national transportation bill to put people back to work building roads, railways, airports, and infrastructure in California and across the country.

## Napolitano Fights to Protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid

Rep. Grace F. Napolitano has fought to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid benefits during the recent debates on budget cuts in Washington, D.C. “Seniors and working families are still struggling in this economy, and we cannot afford to make deep cuts to the Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security benefits they rely on,” she said. Napolitano has:

- Voted against turning Medicare into a voucher program
- Voted against the debt-ceiling package that could cut Medicare
- Voted to boost Medicaid funding for families and seniors
- Voted for a cost-of-living-adjustment payment for Social Security
- Joined 46 other Members of Congress on a letter pledging to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid benefits from cuts

## Napolitano Hosts Job Fair



*Napolitano's job fair offered assistance to job-seekers*  
Napolitano hosted a free job fair with Norwalk EDD and 95+ employers to help more than 500 veterans and unemployed people from the San Gabriel Valley.