



Update to the Community:

Spring 2018

Rep. Grace F. 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

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Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act Passes Committee

January 10, 2018—**H.R. 801, the Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act**, introduced by Napolitano and Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL-18), unanimously passed the Natural Resources Committee and is one step closer to passing the full House of Representatives.

“We are grateful for the Committee’s leadership in advancing our bipartisan legislation, which impacts eight states, millions of residents, and countless local economies, including those in our San Gabriel Valley,” Napolitano said. “Historic Trail designation will help bring federal dollars for rehabilitation and improvement, which we would gladly welcome for our portion of Route 66, but in the meantime, we are continuing to work with our cities and local stakeholders on the preservation of artifacts, memorabilia, and other historical items to highlight as we prepare to mark 100 years.”

For the upcoming 100th anniversary of Route 66 in 2026, Napolitano has also introduced **H.R. 66, the Route 66 Centennial Commission Act**. This bill would



Historic Route 66 sign in Monrovia. The Mother Road also runs through the cities of La Verne, San Dimas, Glendora, Azusa, and Duarte in CA-32 as Foothill Boulevard and Huntington Drive.

create a 19-member Commission to recommend activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Route 66 in 2026. It also directs the Department of Transportation, in consultation with governors of the eight states through which the 66 passes, to develop a plan on the preservation needs of Route 66.* For more info, visit napolitano.house.gov/issues/transportation.

*Source: House Committee on Natural Resources

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE FOR PORT TRUCK DRIVERS



October 26, 2017—Napolitano is joined by Reps. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-10), Alan Lowenthal (D-CA-47), and Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA-44) at a press conference with port truck drivers, and with representatives from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to announce the introduction of the Port Drivers’ Bill of Rights Act (H.R. 4144) and the Clean Ports Act of 2017 (H.R. 4147).

“Hundreds of port truck drivers are being forced into working as independent operators as a way for their employer to pay them below minimum wage and deny them benefits, creating an unlivable wage for them and their families,” Napolitano said. “These drivers are compelled to lease trucks at prices they cannot afford. It is unthinkable that companies can continue to get away with this scheme to underpay hard working truck drivers. Both critical measures seek to stop the exploitation of drivers, restoring justice and dignity to them and their families.”

For more info, visit napolitano.house.gov/issues/transportation.

Honoring the Life of United States Marine Ruben Velasco

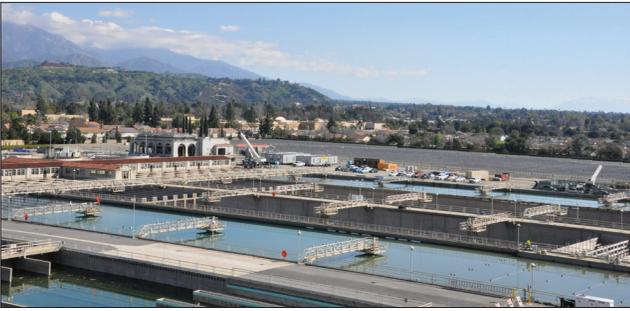
Napolitano introduced House Resolution 498 with Reps. Ron Estes (R-KS-4) and Bruce Poliquin (R-ME-2) to honor the life of Lance Corporal Ruben Velasco of West Covina and the other two U.S. Marines, Corporal Nathaniel Ordway of Wichita, Kansas, and Captain Benjamin Cross of Bethel, Maine, who perished during military operations off the coast of Australia last August. H.Res. 498 calls attention to the need for greater protection of U.S. servicemembers who are stationed across the globe. Born on July 31, 1998, in West Covina, California, Lance Corporal Velasco attended schools in the San Gabriel Valley, graduated from West Covina High School in 2016, where he played on the football and Track and Field teams, was known as a great teammate, leader, and competitor. Lance Corporal Velasco was selected to assess into the Marine Corps and could not have been more excited, discussing extensively with his family and friends his pride

in becoming a Marine to serve our United States. He completed basic training to earn his Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, matriculated into infantryman training, and upon graduation, was assigned to Battery G, Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (BLT 3/5). Lance Corporal Velasco was deployed in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and was decorated with the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He was beloved by his friends and family for his sense of humor, his never-ending smile, his kindness, and his ability to make friends with everyone.



32nd District remembers Ruben Velasco.

New Water Recycling Bill for SoCal & Western States



Weymouth Treatment Plant in La Verne, CA.

Napolitano will soon introduce the **Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act**, to assist water agencies with the expansion, planning, designing, and building of recycling plants and water infrastructure in California and other western states.

“As we work to explore new ways to expand our water portfolio and safeguard our local communities from future water shortages and drought, it is imperative that we continue to promote, expand, and explore water recycling infrastructure projects,” Napolitano said.

Through Title XVI, the Bureau of Reclamation provides funding for water recycling projects that reclaim and reuse municipal, industrial, domestic, or agricultural wastewater and naturally impaired ground or surface waters. Applicants are eligible to request cost-shared funding for the planning, design, or construction of these projects.

Details of Bill:

- Increases Title XVI funding under current water infrastructure law from \$50 MM (million) to \$500 MM
- Simplifies process by which the Secretary of the Interior notifies Congress of project funding
- Makes program permanent & eliminates the \$20 MM cap on federal cost-share & other caps
- Reauthorizes 2002 EPA water recycling grant program & increases funding by \$300 MM

For more info, visit napolitano.house.gov/issues/water.

Source: House Committee on Natural Resources

Use Your Water Wisely!

It is **everyone's** responsibility to conserve water:

- Upgrade with water-efficient toilets & showerheads
- Use drought-resistant plants
- Use a broom to clean driveways & sidewalks, save up to 150 gal each time
- Fix leaky faucets – drips waste hundreds of gal/yr
- Run washing machine or dishwasher only when full
- Turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving
- Shorten showers – 1 minute less saves up to 5 gal/day

• Check sprinklers for leaks & drips

Call your water company for other tips or offers.

For info on CA's drought & tips, visit napolitano.house.gov/issues/water.



MENTAL HEALTH UPDATES

New MH Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Katko Joins Fight Against Stigma

Rep. John Katko (R-NY-24) has agreed to serve as Co-Chair of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus with Napolitano, founder and Co-Chair.

“I am thrilled to be partnering with Congressman Katko on this issue so near and dear to our hearts,” Napolitano said. “I applaud him for being at the forefront on mental



Co-Chairs Napolitano & Katko discuss their bill, H.R. 2913, the Mental Health in Schools Act.

health issues in Congress, particularly in the area of suicide prevention, and I look forward to our continued work to reduce the stigma associated with mental health, raise the visibility for mental health reforms, and find solutions to improve mental health care and delivery of services to those in need.”

The Co-Chairs are the lead sponsors of **H.R. 2913, the**

Mental Health in Schools Act, which would fund pilot programs for critical on-site, school-based mental health services administered by clinicians. Patterned after Napolitano's successful local area pilot program of 2001—begun in 4 schools, now serving 26 schools in LA County with county Mental Health Dept. financial support and has a waiting list of schools—this proposal educates on the warning signs and symptoms of mental illness and treats students so they 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. More info: napolitano.house.gov/legislative-work/mental-health-schools-act.

May Mental Health Month 2018—Advocates across the country help raise critical awareness and reduce stigma of mental health. You can show support and help reduce stigma by wearing lime green during the month of May. Learn warning signs and ways to fight stigma, visit napolitano.house.gov/issues/may-mental-health-awareness-month.

Since 2003, the Congressional Mental Health Caucus has held briefings with military personnel, mental health providers, and Members of Congress and their staff on various mental health issues, including veterans, depression, children, and training sessions to recognize warning signs.



For more info, mentalhealthcaucus-napolitano.house.gov.

32nd District Mental Health Initiatives

• **Consortium** – Since 2006, 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 Barbara Dickerson at 626-350-0150.

• **Task Force** - A group of prominent figures who volunteer their work to reduce the stigma against mental health and raise awareness for Napolitano's Mental Health in Schools Act (H.R. 2913). Current members include: Metta World Peace, former NBA Player and current high school basketball coach; actor Arjay Smith; NFL (New York Giants) Wide Receiver Brandon Marshall and his wife Michi Marshall; World Boxing Cares Chair Jill Diamond; and First Lady of New York City, Chirlane McCray.

Creating Jobs Through Investment in Infrastructure

Napolitano and House Democrats announced a bold new plan for a \$1 trillion investment to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, create millions of jobs, and spur economic growth in the San Gabriel Valley. A Better Deal to Rebuild America will create more than 16 million new good-paying jobs*, while unlocking the economic potential of local communities.

“We need to invest in improving the everyday commute by expanding our highways, increasing transit options, and repairing dilapidated bridges and roads. We must make it easier and safer to move goods to market and increase business productivity,” Napolitano said.



Napolitano discusses infrastructure policy with West Covina resident & Foothill Transit Executive Director, Doran Barnes.

A Better Deal to Rebuild America:

- Modernizes/Upgrades roads, bridges, schools, airports, sea ports, drinking & wastewater infrastructure, and energy infrastructure
- Expands Broadband/High-Speed Internet
- Boosts local economies & generates billions of dollars in new economic activity without adding to the deficit.
- Invests in American manufacturing, promoting good-paying jobs
- Ensures projects advance quickly, while maintaining environmental protections and labor standards.

*Source/More info: <https://abetterdeal.democraticleader.gov/creating-jobs-lowering-costs-boosting-local-economies/>.

Constituent Services Guide

- **Military Academy Appointments:** High School students, Freshman yr on, receive information U.S. military academies. Contact our office for info on Academy Day: **Saturday, October 27, 2018.**
- **Flags:** Purchase an American Flag (with option to have it flown over the U.S. Capitol) for a special day or event. Please request flags **at least one month before** the event to ensure it is flown on the requested day.
- **Immigration/ Naturalization:** Check on the status of visas, work permits, legal residency and naturalization with USCIS.
- **Passports:** Inquire on status of passport applications and provide helpful information.
- **IRS:** For assistance with complicated tax problems, check status of return, and referral of tax-related questions to the IRS or IRS advocates.
- **Small Business:** Assistance and information on SBA loans, upcoming seminars, government contract opportunities and overseas exports.
- **Military:** Help with unresolved issues by standard military procedure, medals requests, and compassionate reassignment due to family problems.
- **Veterans:** Questions regarding care at VA hospitals, claims for VA pensions, disability benefits, Post 9/11 G.I. Bill/education and training, home loan guarantees, military records, and information to assist homeless veterans.
- **Seniors:** Assistance with questions on Medicare coverage and Social Security programs, including retirement and survivor benefits, disability and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- **Washington Tours:** Information on U.S. Capitol tours and other DC sites. Please submit requests at least six weeks prior to your trip.
- **Internships:** Provide unpaid/volunteer opportunities for high school and college students (Ages 16+) with flexible hours. Learn about services to 32nd District, developing a better understanding of community organizations and Federal, State, and local governments.

More info on constituent services: napolitano.house.gov/serving-you.

STAFF DIRECTORY

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Joe Sheehy, Legislative Director
Jerry O'Donnell, Communications Director/Senior Advisor
Jonah Cunningham, Senior Policy Advisor
Joseph Ciccone, Senior Advisor (scheduler)
Morgan Leonard, Legislative Assistant



Rep. Napolitano and her staff, pictured above on the steps of the U.S. Capitol Building, are ready and willing to assist constituents of the 32nd District.

For more info, visit napolitano.house.gov/about/staff-directory

Updates from Congress

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Grace F. Napolitano
M.C.
PRSRT STD

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

PROUDLY SERVING OUR VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano Hosts



Saturday, June 30—Inviting any and ALL local veterans to the Azusa California National Guard Armory, 1351 W. Sierra Madre Ave, Azusa to our **FREE** Veterans Assistance Forum. VA representatives (Westwood & Long Beach) will be available to meet one-on-one to assist veterans, plus receive physical/mental health exams, participate in workshops. Registration at 8am, Program begins at 8:30am. For questions about the forum, call Hector Elizalde at 626-350-0150.

Services for Vets: Call or Visit

- **“Feds Hire Vets.”** Gives vets priority for government jobs. www.fedshirevets.gov
- **“Forever GI Bill”** for college tuition. www.gibill.va.gov
- **VA Home Loans** buy or refinance a home. www.homeloans.va.gov
- **Medical treatment and benefits** at www.vba.va.gov or El Monte Office at 626-350-0150.
- **“Coaching into Care”** for 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** or visit www.ptsd.va.gov for assistance.

More info on VA claims/benefits: napolitano.house.gov/resources/veterans.

ART CONTEST

Student artists – Ask your art teacher about our Congressional Art Contest! Members of Congress pay tribute to talented High



School students at our yearly **Congressional Art Competition**. 1st winner will be flown to Washington, D.C. with adult; attend reception in their honor with other states' winners. 32nd District's 1st place piece to be displayed in the tunnel to the Capitol; 2nd place in our Washington, D.C. Office, 3rd place in our El Monte Office.



Napolitano congratulates Millyna Liu, of Baldwin Park High School and her family at the 2017 Art Competition Awards Ceremony in San Dimas.

Requirements:

- **Students must reside in 32nd Congressional District**
 - Artwork may be up to **28" by 28"** (including frame) and may be up to 4" in depth
 - Artwork must be **2-dimensional**, of **any medium** (paint, charcoal, photography, drawing, etc.)
 - **Judging will take place in April**
 - **Awards Ceremony: 5/5/18 at Walker House in San Dimas**
- To view 2017 art submissions & for more info, visit napolitano.house.gov/services/art-competition.