
CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



January 19, 2007

Congressman Miller Urges Pardon for Border Patrol Agents

Border Patrol Agents Ramos and Compean, who were convicted of shooting and wounding an illegal alien that was attempting to smuggle 700 pounds of marijuana across the border, reported to prison on Wednesday. As Agents Ramos and Compean surrendered to authorities to begin their sentence of 11 and 12 years, respectively, Congressman Miller joined several of his colleagues in a press conference urging the President to pardon them. Because the President has not responded to numerous requests to grant these agents a Presidential pardon, on Thursday Congressman Miller co-authored a bill to grant them a Congressional pardon, which if signed into law, would release them from custody and vacate their sentences. Congressman Miller will continue to fight for their release.

Energy Bill Threatens to Harm U.S. Energy Independence

On Thursday, Congressman Miller voted to block energy legislation that would increase the tax burden on American energy producers, discouraging badly needed investment in domestic energy exploration and encouraging these companies to go overseas. If passed into law, the result would be higher gasoline and home energy prices for American consumers. Additionally, because the bill only targets domestic oil producers it would make our nation more dependent on foreign oil imported from the Middle East and Venezuela. Instead, Congressman Miller believes America must expand domestic energy production while working to develop comprehensive long-term alternative solutions to solidify our energy security now and in the future. After passing the House by a margin of 264 to 163, the legislation now heads to the Senate.

Legislation Introduced to Ensure Deployed Troops Receive Needed Resources

This week, Congressman Sam Johnson, a former prisoner of war with Senator John McCain, introduced legislation to provide our troops with the necessary resources to accomplish their mission in the Global War on Terror. Specifically, this legislation would prevent Congress from cutting off funding for members of the Armed Forces who have already been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Congressman Miller is a cosponsor of the legislation. As Congress continues to debate the merits of the President's new strategy in Iraq, the Congressman remains committed to ensuring that our troops in the field have the resources they need to return home safely.

Congressman Miller Requests Assistance for California Farmers

Congressman Miller joined his California colleagues this week in sending a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns in support of federal assistance to California farmers for crops damaged by the recent cold weather. California agriculture producers, especially the \$1 billion citrus industry that provides 95 percent of the nation's fresh citrus, were hard hit by freezing temperatures during the last week. An estimated 92 million cartons of citrus fruit were still on the trees when the freeze hit. In the coming weeks, Mr. Miller will work in Congress to help California's farmers and ranchers quickly recover from this natural disaster.

Entries Encouraged for Artistic Discovery Competition

High school students who live within the 42nd Congressional District are encouraged to participate in Congressman Miller's annual art competition, "An Artistic Discovery". The Best of Show winner will have their artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year along with other works from across the nation. The winner will also receive three roundtrip tickets to attend the unveiling ceremony in Washington D.C. The second and third place winners will respectively have their artwork displayed in Congressman Miller's Capitol and district offices. The deadline for submissions will be in March. If you have any questions regarding the competition or would like to participate, please contact Brian Johsz in Congressman Miller's Brea office at (714) 257-1142.

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