
CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



October 12, 2007

Federal Budget Deficit Falls to Five-Year Low

The Office of Management and Budget reported on Thursday that the federal budget deficit fell \$87 billion over the past fiscal year to \$162.8 billion, a full 34 percent lower than the previous year. The budget deficit is the gap between the amount the government spends each year and the amount it collects in taxes. This year's figure represents the lowest budget deficit in five years and it is projected to continue shrinking over the year to come. To encourage continued economic growth and help ease the burden on American families, Congressman Miller will continue fighting to keep taxes low and rein in excessive government spending.

ICE Apprehends Violent Gang Members

This week, the Department of Homeland Security announced the results of their recent push to arrest violent gang members and illegal aliens across the nation. In 2005, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) launched Operation Community Shield to partner with federal, state, local, and international law enforcement officials to share intelligence and resources, and combine legal authority to arrest, prosecute, imprison, and deport transnational gang members. Over the summer months, Operation Community Shield arrested 1,313 violent street gang members and illegal aliens in 23 cities across 19 states. Many of those arrested under Operation Community Shield are prosecuted criminally and eventually removed from the United States. Congressman Miller applauds the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security to partner with local law enforcement to apprehend and deport illegal aliens in our communities.

Congressman Miller Works to Increase Breast Cancer Awareness

Congressman Miller joined sixty of his colleagues this week in introducing legislation supporting the observance of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Every three minutes, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer. However, if detected in its early stages, breast cancer has a survival rate of 98.1 percent. The resolution also salutes the more than 2.4 million breast cancer survivors in the United States and the efforts of victims, volunteers, and professionals who combat breast cancer each day. Congressman Miller believes it is essential that Congress continue to promote breast cancer awareness and strongly supports efforts to overcome this devastating disease.

Six Local Elementary Schools Honored with National Award

Congressman Miller is proud to report that six elementary schools in the 42nd District have been honored as 2007 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools. This educational award is one of the nation's most prestigious, honoring public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. Out of 413 schools nominated nationwide, only 287 were ultimately selected. The six schools in the 42nd District receiving the honor include:

Blandford Elementary School – Rowland Heights
Country Springs Elementary School – Chino Hills
Fairmont Elementary School – Yorba Linda

Killian Elementary School – Rowland Heights
Olinda Elementary School – Brea
Quail Summit Elementary School – Diamond Bar

A ceremony will be held with Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings in Washington, DC, on November 12-13. Two people from each school, the principal and a teacher, will be invited to the ceremony, where the schools will receive a plaque and a flag signifying their NCLB-Blue Ribbon School status. Congressman Miller commends these fine institutions for their distinguished efforts to educate our children.