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# CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

**Congressman Gary G. Miller**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> District, California**



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March 23, 2007

## **House Passes Bill to Micromanage the War on Terror**

On Friday, the House voted to approve a supplemental spending bill that severely restricts the ability of our troops to fight the War on Terror. The purpose of a supplemental spending bill is to fund day-to-day combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, rather than focusing on needed emergency funding for our men and women in harm's way, this bill sets an arbitrary timeline for withdrawal from Iraq and includes more than \$20 billion in unnecessary spending on projects that have nothing to do with the War on Terror. Congressman Miller strongly opposed this bill because he believes that it is fiscally irresponsible and unnecessarily ties the hands of our Commander-in-Chief. Despite his objections, the bill passed 218-212. As Congress continues to debate the war over the coming months, Congressman Miller will continue to support our troops above all else.

He recently joined 170 of his colleagues in signing a Discharge Petition for H.R. 511, a bill to guarantee funding for our troops already serving in harm's way. This parliamentary petition, once it reaches 218 cosigners, will force an up-or-down vote on the bill to ensure that our troops have the funds necessary to complete their mission safely.

## **Congressman Miller Urges Local Police To Help Fight Illegal Immigration**

This week, Congressman Miller joined members of the Orange County congressional delegation in reaching out to local police chiefs to encourage them to help enforce our nation's immigration laws. Currently, there is substantial confusion about local law enforcement's role in illegal immigration enforcement. Unbeknownst to many, several laws exist that provide local and state law enforcement officials with the legal authority to help uphold federal immigration laws. If these laws are enforced and utilized, they will do much to improve the safety and well-being of our communities, as well as the nation as a whole. While immigration law is primarily a federal duty, Congressman Miller looks forward to partnering with local law enforcement to prevent individuals from entering and remaining in our country illegally.

## **Delays Anticipated for Passport Applications**

In recent days, there have been media reports about delays in the processing of U.S. passports. The delay stems from the fact that passports are now required for air travel from the United States to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. The Los Angeles Regional Passport Agency is reporting that the Routine Service is now taking 10 weeks and the Expedited Service is taking 3-4 weeks. If you are experiencing a substantial delay beyond these processing times, please contact Congressman Miller's Brea office at (714) 257-1142 for assistance.

## **Tax Deadline Approaching**

Please remember that this year's tax deadline is Tuesday, April 17. If you have any outstanding questions about tax credits and deductions or you need help with your tax return, Congressman Miller would like to bring a pair of helpful IRS services to your attention. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program offers free tax help for low-to-moderate income people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Similarly, the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program is designed to provide free tax advice to individuals age sixty and older. Trained community volunteers are waiting to help. For more information on these and other programs, please visit the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).