
CAPITOL CONNECTION

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

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



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Troop Funding Bill Clears House

The House this week approved a \$96.7 billion Supplemental Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2009 to cover costs relating to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the larger war on terrorism, foreign aid, and various domestic programs.

In terms of Defense spending, the bill provides \$84.5 billion in desperately needed resources for military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition to funding our personnel and operations, it provides our troops with the equipment and other tools they need to do their jobs more effectively as well as funding for psychological health and traumatic brain injury research and family advocacy programs. As for funds to combat drug smuggling and border violence, the bill provides \$470 million to help Mexican authorities counter the growing influence and violence of drug cartels. While Congressman Miller had some policy and funding concerns within the bill, he supported the measure because he is strongly committed to supporting our military, intelligence, and civilian personnel acting in defense of our country.

House Unanimously Passes Resolution Recognizing Armed Forces Day

This week, the House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution recognizing Armed Forces Day and expressing the gratitude of the American people to the members of the Armed Forces for their service on behalf of our great nation. This resolution follows a tradition created in 1949 in connection with the consolidation of the military services in the Department of Defense and is celebrated annually on the third Saturday in May. As our nation prepares to celebrate Armed Forces Day this Saturday, Congressman Miller would like to recognize and commend the service and sacrifice that members of the Armed Forces and their families gave, and continue to give, to the United States. He remains committed to supporting our nation's military and encourages Americans to show their support and appreciation for the brave men and women in uniform who daily and selflessly defend our freedoms.

California Leads the Nation in Poor Roads

In a recent report, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials found that California's major urban roads are the roughest in the nation, costing the average state driver at least \$590 annually in extra vehicle operation costs. In fact, in some areas, such as Los Angeles, poor roads cost drivers over \$700 annually. The report found that 35 percent of major urban roads in California are in poor condition, with Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Mission Viejo ranking amongst the highest in the nation with bad roads. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman Miller is committed to ensuring California receives its fair share of federal transportation dollars to improve safety and quality of California's roads as well as to alleviate congestion on area freeways.

Diamond Bar High School Student Wins Congressional Art Competition

Congressman Miller would like to recognize Diamond Bar High School junior Ana Mei as the winner of the 2009 Congressional Art Competition for the 42nd District. Ana's winning artwork titled "Eagle's Eye" focuses on the sharp and determined eye of a majestic eagle set against a sky blue background. As the winner of the competition, Ana will receive three complimentary roundtrip tickets from Southwest Airlines to attend the unveiling of her artwork, which will hang in the U.S. Capitol for one year. Diamond Bar High School student May Kim came in second with her drawing titled "American Bliss" and Katherine Lin of Rowland High School placed third with her oil painting entitled "Cat and Butterfly – Long Live America". Congressman Miller is proud of the creative talents of the 42nd District and would like to encourage aspiring student artists to participate in next year's competition.