

This month, I would like to inform Southern California residents of ongoing fire prevention activities and the Military Service Academy Night that I will be hosting.

National Fire Prevention Month:

As the month of October is National Fire Prevention Month, we are reminded of the unfortunate reality that wildfires are a fact of life in Southern California. Nearly a year ago, wildfires swept across Southern California which resulted in more than half a million acres burned, seven lives lost, and total damage estimated at more than a billion dollars.

Immediately following the fires last year, Congress acted swiftly by approving \$500 million in emergency funds for wildfire preparedness and suppression. Specifically, a pair of grants worth a total of \$282,575 for the Inter-Canyon League Fire Safe Council have been drawn from this emergency funding to help our communities prepare for and prevent disastrous wildfires in the future.

These grants will better prepare Southern California for future wildfires by removing hazardous vegetation and fuels from private property. In addition, they will also educate residents in canyons how to reduce hazards to their property and personal safety both before and after a fire has occurred.

Thousands of firefighters, first responders, volunteers, and military and emergency personnel give their time and risk their lives to protect the lives and property of Southern California. I encourage you to visit the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection on the web at <http://www.fire.ca.gov> and FEMA at <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/fire/index.shtm> for more information on how to better protect yourself and your property from wildfire threats.

Military Service Academy Night:

Also this month, I will be hosting a Service Academy Night for those interested in attending a military academy. On Wednesday, October 22 at 6:30pm at the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace in Yorba Linda, representatives from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and U.S. Coast Guard Academy will be present to provide information and answer questions about the application and admissions process.

Each year, I have the opportunity to nominate a select group of high school students to attend the U.S. military service academies. Although securing a recommendation is very competitive, those selected have the opportunity to attend a top rated college free of charge in exchange for military service following graduation. All graduating military students are commissioned as officers in their respective branch of service.

To request more information about attending a U.S. Service Academy or R.S.V.P., please call my Brea office at (714) 257-1142.

GARY G. MILLER
Member of Congress