

40th Congressional District



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business

Ed Royce

M.C.
PRSRT STD

U.S. Representative ED ROYCE *Listening to You*

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This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Dear Neighbor:

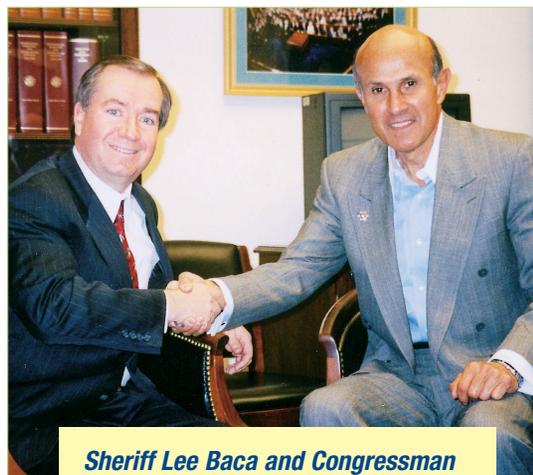
As we approach the last year of this 108th session of Congress, my top priorities remain cutting wasteful government spending, protecting our communities, and getting our economy rolling again. I recently signed a letter asking the President to veto any bill that contains unnecessary spending. I am also a cosponsor of the Budget Protection Act that will create a simple and legally binding budget, limit government spending to no more than the rate of inflation, and create a "rainy" day fund.

On the homeland security front, two-thirds of the Al Qaeda leadership has been eliminated and we are more secure than we were two years ago. I recently participated in an International Relations Committee field hearing held at Los Angeles International Airport which focused on ways to prevent terrorists from entering our country. We are fortunate here in Southern California because the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base is central to our nation's military readiness and is a strategic center for disaster support. To read more about the recent, much-needed upgrades at the base, please see the article on page three.

As tax season rolls around, we are again reminded of our complicated and burdensome tax code. Thankfully, the tax relief that Congress passed last year is playing an important role in growing our economy. It is a simple formula—if families can keep more of their paycheck each month, they will have more money to invest and spend.



Rep. Ed Royce, flanked by his father, a WWII veteran, at a veteran's POW event at Cal State University Fullerton. Among those pictured are Al Ortiz, CSUF President Dr. Milton Gordon, Dr. Sy Abrego and his uncle, Cecil Abrego. They discussed the upcoming WWII monument dedication to be held at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in May. Please see the back page of this newsletter for more information about the WWII monument event.



Sheriff Lee Baca and Congressman Royce discuss homeland security concerns. Baca was recently recognized among the top tier of U.S. law enforcement officers in the area of homeland security.

Community Forum *All Are Invited to Attend*

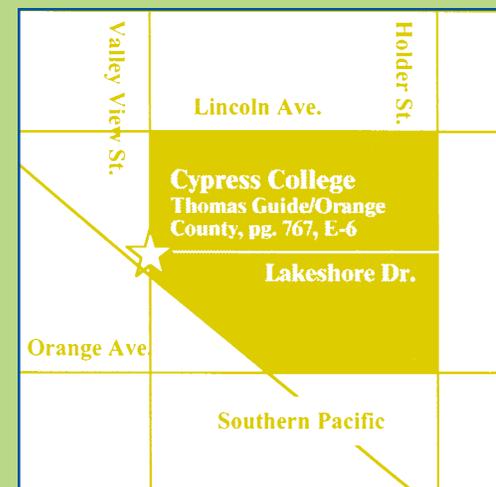
Saturday, April 17th

Cypress College

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Humanities Room #131

9200 Valley View Street



Coupled with getting the economy moving is the task of stimulating job growth. While tax relief is helping our small businesses hire more workers and expand productivity, our community colleges are hard at work training and transforming today's student body into tomorrow's work force. In the coming months I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to consider ways to better support our community colleges.

Finally, you are invited to attend my spring community forum on Saturday, April 17, 2004, at Cypress Community College, which is located at 9200 Valley View Street in Cypress. The forum will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., in Humanities Room #131. As always, please contact me anytime at (714) 992-8081, (562) 220-2411 or www.royce.house.gov with your thoughts or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ed

Stopping Social Security Fraud and Abuse

Rep. Royce is committed to preserving and protecting Social Security. He cosponsored and voted in favor of the Social Security Protection Act of 2003 when it passed the House. "In these tight budget times, this bill to protect Social Security beneficiaries from fraud and abuse will save American taxpayers nearly \$800 million over the next ten years," Royce said.

The Social Security Protection Act works to strengthen the Social Security system by:

- ▲ Denying Social Security benefits to fugitive felons and parole violators;
- ▲ Giving the Social Security Administration (SSA) enhanced tools to protect indi-

viduals from benefit misuse by representative payees and to hold representative payees responsible for their actions;

- ▲ Expanding the SSA's ability to punish and deter perpetrators of fraud through new civil monetary penalties;
- ▲ Preventing persons from misrepresenting themselves as they provide Social Security-related services;
- ▲ Protecting Social Security employees from harm while conducting their duties;
- ▲ Helping individuals with disabilities gain access to representation; and,
- ▲ Clarifying and improving the Ticket-to-Work program and other provisions that enable individuals with disabilities to seek

work opportunities.

The Social Security Administration collects \$500 billion in taxes each year from every American's paycheck. These funds support more than 50 million Social Security and Supplemental Income beneficiaries each year, accounting for nearly one-quarter of our federal budget. Protecting these precious funds from fraud and abuse is a top priority.

"Millions of Americans rely on Social Security to supplement their retirement income. When these funds are threatened by fraud, waste and abuse it is imperative that Congress intervene and protect workers' hard earned investment in Social Security," said Royce.



Rep. Royce discusses the Social Security Protection Act with KFWB reporter Jennifer Bauman at the new senior housing development in Anaheim.

Rep. Ed Royce joins Orange County Water District President Dennis Bilodeau, Anaheim City Council Member Shirley McCracken, Orange County Water District Board Member Philip Anthony and Anaheim Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Chavez behind a cutaway section of a 13-mile pipeline, which will bring additional fresh water to our ground water reserve, and push back encroaching ocean water.



Medicare and Prescription Drugs

As you may know, Congress worked to pass a new law to provide people with Medicare more choices and better benefits.

This new law preserves and strengthens the current Medicare program, adds important new prescription drug and preventive benefits, and provides extra help to people with low incomes.

If you are happy with the Medicare coverage you have, you do not have to make any changes; it will remain just as it is today. No matter what you decide, you are still in the Medicare program. All of these new options are voluntary.

The new law does these specific things for seniors and the disabled:

▲ It establishes a Medicare prescription drug benefit starting in 2006.

▲ It contains extra help for those who need it most, including 10 million low-income beneficiaries and those with the highest drug costs.

▲ It contains some measures to help keep prescription drugs affordable. This includes a measure to coordinate care for those who suffer from chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes, hypertension, and congestive heart failure.

▲ It contains substantial incentives to maintain current employer-provided coverage.

▲ It strengthens Medicare by adding a prescription drug benefit and preserving

the basic structure of the program.

▲ A Medicare drug discount card will be available starting on June 8, 2004. You may begin enrolling in May 2004.

In addition, individuals will be able to set aside money each year, tax free, in Health Savings Accounts. The money can be used to pay for medical expenses or can accumulate tax free, just like an IRA. Health insurance deductibles for Health Savings Accounts must be at least \$1,000 for a single person and \$2,000 for family coverage.

If you have any questions or for more information, please call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**, or go online to **www.medicare.gov**.

Small Business Health Fairness Act

Giving Uninsured Working Families New Hope

Orange County small businesses are finding it increasingly difficult to provide quality employee health care coverage. Employers should be able to obtain good health care for their workers at an affordable price. Representative Ed Royce believes the Small Business Health Fairness Act is a win-win for workers and employers.

This bill creates association health plans (AHPs), which allow small businesses to join together through trade associations to buy health insurance for their workers at lower cost. It increases small businesses' bargaining power with health care providers while it frees them from state-mandated benefit packages. AHPs must comply with any federal and state laws that require coverage for specific diseases, maternal or newborn hospitalization, and mental health issues.

The increased bargaining power with health care coverage providers can lower a small business' overhead costs by as much as 30-percent.

"AHPs give Congress the opportunity to bring Fortune 500 health benefits to the nation's Main Street small businesses and their employees," said Royce. "The 24 million small businesses in this county are the back bone of our economy. They are the centers for growth, innovation and job creation. In fact, most big businesses started out

as small businesses. We should be encouraging the growth of our small businesses by providing them with better health care options for their employees."

There are built-in protections for workers, too. The measure makes clear that AHPs must comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which prohibits group health plans from excluding high-risk individuals with high claims experience. It will not be possible for AHPs to "cherry pick" because sick or

high risk groups or individuals cannot be denied coverage. The bill prohibits AHPs from charging higher rates for sicker individuals or groups within the plan, except to the extent already allowed under the relevant state rating law.

"The Small Business Health Fairness Act addresses both the access and cost issues at the heart of the health care reform debate, giving uninsured working families new hope for a solution that can give them access to quality health care," Royce concluded.



Rep. Royce meets with Rudy Hanley of Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union. They discussed support for Rep. Royce's bill, which will modernize regulation of credit unions.

Securing Support for Repairs to Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base

Recognizing its importance to both national security and disaster support in Southern California, Rep. Royce was able to secure funding for much-needed maintenance upgrades at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base. The \$21 million for repairs was included in the 2004 Military Construction Appropriations Act, which provides construction funds to support the operations of the U.S. Armed Forces.

As the prime backer of the upgrade provisions, he said, "These funds will provide for the replacement of undependable, unsafe and dilapidated electrical, gas, sewer, and water lines on one of the most essential military bases in California. Our troops deserve nothing less."

The training base provides for military readiness and disaster support in the heart of Southern California. The base sustains operations for many federal, state and local agencies. More than 5,000 military reservists train at Los Alamitos. The airfield at the base is the

sole remaining military airfield in the Los Angeles and Orange County area.

"With its airfield, military tenants and federal and state operations, the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base is critically



important to federal and state contingency operations. For that reason it is also critical that the base is appropriately maintained," he added.

The base is designated as the State Disaster Support Area for Southern California, one of

only two in the entire state. During the recent devastating fires it served as the staging command center for aerial firefighting operations.

The facilities were built in 1941 for the United States Navy. Since then the utilities have not been upgraded and are now antiquated.

"The Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base is central to federal and military operations in Southern California, and is essential to the public safety of California. With these funds, the base will be able to better serve this purpose," said Royce, who also noted that the upgrades will help to protect the base from possible military base closures slated for 2005.

Rep. Ed Royce addresses the crowd at a recent community forum held at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base. He discussed the much-needed upgrades that he was able to secure in the 2004 Military Construction bill, which will help insulate the base during the upcoming round of base closures

Services for Constituents

Rep. Royce has the pleasure of assisting his constituents through a variety of services. He is here to help, whether it is acting as a liaison to a federal agency, answering your questions, or planning an upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. Following is a summary of the various services that are available:

Answering Questions

If you have a question or concern relating to public policy or federal legislation, let him help you get an answer. In the bottom right corner of this page is contact information; be sure to cut it out to save. For 24-hour service, visit the website at www.royce.house.gov for complete legislative and district information, and answers to many of your questions.

Help with a Federal Agency

Help is available for problems you may be having with a federal agency, such as the Social Security Administration or the Veterans' Affairs Department. If you are having difficulty with a federal agency, please submit a written request including details about your case to the Fullerton office, or visit the website to print an online form to expedite your request.

Visiting Washington, D.C.

Visit the White House, see money being printed at the Mint, watch Congress debate at the Capitol, and more. To

obtain tour reservations to various attractions in our nation's capital, contact the Fullerton office or go to the tour form on the website as soon as you have the dates set for your trip to Washington, D.C., as many places book quickly.

U.S. Flags

You can have a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol Building to mark a special event, or to honor someone. For more information contact the Fullerton office or fill out the online form to make a flag request on the website.

U.S. Military Academy Appointments

The United States military service academies (U.S. Military/West Point; U.S. Naval Academy/Annapolis, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Merchant Marine) require a Congressional nomination. If you are interested, please contact Patty Shay in the Fullerton office as soon as possible, as the nomination and application processes are highly competitive and very detailed.

Email Updates

For the latest news and information from Congress, updates on legislation, and notices about activities in, and around Southern California, sign up for the weekly email update on the website.



The House International Relations Committee recently held a field hearing at Los Angeles International Airport entitled "Preventing the Entry of Terrorists into the United States." Rep. Ed Royce reacts to testimony indicating the U.S. intelligence community has thwarted numerous attacks since 9-11. Also pictured are Congress Members Dana Rohrabacher (CA-46), Elton Gallegly (CA-24), and Brad Sherman (CA-27).

WWII Memorial Dedication



In 1993 Congress authorized the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. It will be the first national memorial dedi-

cated to all who served during World War II. It will acknowledge the commitment and achievement of the entire nation. Nearly 59 years after the end of World War II, the National World War II Memorial will be dedicated in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 29, 2004.

Rep. Royce is proud to assist those veterans who served our country during WWII with accessing various events during the dedication. Those who intend on visiting our nation's capital for the historic event are encouraged to contact his Fullerton office at (714) 992-8081 or (562) 220-2411 for further details.

Carrie Hummel, who is joined by her family, helped to found the House of Hope, a home for victims of domestic violence, and assisted Olive Crest, a home for foster children in Orange. Rep. Ed Royce discussed victim's rights legislation prior to presenting her with the Orange "Citizen of the Year" award.



Rep. Ed Royce and his wife, Marie, a California State University teacher, meet with Terri Dismuke, and students Mahal Gutierrez, and Lydia Tu about his annual "Paying For College" workshop. At the workshop, students and their parents learned about the availability of Pell Grants, scholarships and student loans.

Clip & Save

If you have any government-related problems or concerns, assistance is available for you and your family. Cut out this box and save it or put it on your refrigerator for future reference.

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