



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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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California

Bob Lagomarsino

Report From Congress

ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO
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Congress of the United States
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NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS
VICE CHAIRMAN—PARKS

Dear Friends,

Our national parks and monuments are part of our natural heritage, set aside in trust for the inspiration and enjoyment of our own and future generations. But preservation costs money, and parks often lose out in the competition for budget funds.

That's why I've cosponsored a bill with House Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall of Arizona to create an American Heritage Trust Fund. Under present law, a percentage of revenues from offshore oil production is set aside for parks and conservation. The bill approved by our committee will invest those revenues in government securities and allocate the interest earned — up to \$1 billion a year — for parks and historic preservation across the nation. A story inside this Report from Congress provides details.

Also inside are the results of the survey I sent out earlier this summer. We received an excellent return and I want to thank all of you who took the time to fill out the questionnaire.

On page four is the design for a new medal, the POW-MIA medal, and inside, a wrap-up of projects throughout the district.

As always, I appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Lagomarsino

ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO

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Survey Results

1. What is the most important issue facing our nation today?

a) The Economy 34%	d) Environment 9%	g) Other 11%
b) Drug Abuse 24%	e) Education 8%	
c) Arms Control 7%	f) AIDS 7%	
2. Which of the following do you think hurts the U.S. economy the most?

a) Excessive federal spending 54%	d) Unemployment 6%
b) Trade deficit 21%	e) Other 11%
c) Inflation 8%	
3. Would you favor a Constitutional amendment requiring Congress to balance the federal budget?

a) Yes 72%	b) No 14%	c) Uncertain 13%
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4. Do you support giving the President line-item veto authority on the budget?

a) Yes 63%	b) No 22%	c) Unsure 13%
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5. Should military resources (radar, aircraft, ships, etc.) be used to stop the flow of illegal drugs into the U.S.?

a) Yes 72%	b) No 18%	c) Unsure 9%
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6. Do you favor continued development of the U.S. manned space program?

a) Yes 76%	b) No 12%	c) Uncertain 11%
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7. Do you feel current spending for defense is:

a) About right 35%	b) Too high 45%	c) Too low 10%	d) Uncertain 9%
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8. Which level of government, in your opinion, should have primary control over public schools?

a) Local 50%	b) State 38%	c) Federal 8%	d) Unsure 4%
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A Trust for America's Parks

Our national parks are a part of our natural heritage, but in the competition for federal funds, they often lose out. That's one reason why Congress established the Land and Water Conservation Fund, earmarking revenues from offshore oil drilling to help protect our natural resources.

Several years ago, I was privileged to help write and pass legislation tripling the size of this fund, from \$300 million to \$900 million. Unfortunately, in recent years Congress has failed to allocate these funds, and our parks, under ever-increasing visitor loads, have suffered from neglect and deterioration.

This summer, the House Interior Committee approved and sent to the House floor a bill to resolve this problem. The American Heritage Trust Act (H.R. 4127) would make up to \$1 billion a year available for parks, recreation and historic preservation. The plan would be financed by investing unappropriated funds

from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Historic Preservation Fund in government securities, and using the interest earned to pay for new parks, recreation and historic preservation projects at the federal, state and local level.

I'm an original cosponsor of the bill, which was introduced by Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall. It provides for a perpetual park and preservation fund — with the principal remaining intact for future generations. States could use their share of the interest for establishing their own permanent park trusts.

As a great conservationist, President Teddy Roosevelt, once said: "The prosperity of our people depends directly on the intelligence with which our natural resources are used." I hope the full House and Senate will agree and approve this bill to protect our national heritage.

Taxpayers Award

Congressman Bob Lagomarsino ranked better than 84% of U.S. Representatives in voting to control federal spending, according to a study by the National Taxpayers Union, a non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C.

The NTU analyzed 218 votes taken on the House floor during 1987. Weights were assigned to each vote reflecting the degree of impact on federal spending. The results were used to rank members on a percentile scale.

NTU ratings are considered among the most accurate because they include every vote having fiscal impact, unlike many ratings which focus on only a dozen or so votes.



Congressman Lagomarsino receives "Watchdog of the Reasury" award from Washington representative Stephen MacArthur for his votes to control spending.

Around the District

The new Mexican consulate office at the Oxnard Transportation Center has proven to be very popular. The office was opened last summer after I asked U.S. and Mexico diplomatic officials to locate an office in the district. The consulate serves Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties and serves up to 1,000 people a day, who previously had to travel to Los Angeles to conduct business. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

★ ★ ★

The U.S. Postal Service has provided \$34 million to build a new mail processing plant in Oxnard. Two buildings, totaling 227,000 square feet, will be built on a 20-acre site on Colonia Road near Rice Avenue.

The facility will help handle the 815 million pieces of mail expected to pass through Oxnard annually by 2001. The C Street post office, meanwhile, will be renovated and devoted solely to customer service.

★ ★ ★

The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation has received a national award for its work in the preservation, reconstruction and restoration of the Presidio in Santa Barbara.

President Reagan presented the "Take Pride in America" award in a ceremony at the White House. The Trust was one of only nine civic or citizen organizations selected to receive the national award. Over 540 organizations were nominated in the competition, which is sponsored by the National Park Service.

★ ★ ★

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has received a grant of \$105,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to help support its Sea Center on Stearn's Wharf.

The money will be used to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, which surrounds the Channel Islands National Park.

The popular Sea Center, which was destroyed by fire two years ago, was re-built in part with funds from NOAA. It features a replica of a California Gray Whale.

★ ★ ★

The U.S. Navy has removed the hulk of a landing barge, the Tortuga, from San Miguel Island, where it ran aground after breaking loose from a tow line.

The Navy agreed to use fleet salvage personnel in a training exercise to remove the hulk after I wrote to Rear Admiral R.C. Gentz.

★ ★ ★

Three airports in Santa Barbara County received grants from the Federal Aviation Administration. Santa Maria Public Airport District was awarded \$338,890 to re-surface taxiways, install guidance signs and improve drainage at the Santa Maria Airport.

A grant of \$1,158,750 was made to the City of Santa Barbara for improvements at the municipal airport in Goleta.

The FAA also awarded \$224,874 to the County of Santa Barbara for construction of a light aircraft parking area at the Santa Inez Airport.

The grants come from taxes collected on airline tickets and aviation fuel.

Deceptive Letters

My office has received a number of complaints about letters offering goods or services for sale which are actually available either free or at a lower price from the federal government.

Many of these letters bear an official-looking seal or notice on the envelope, implying government endorsement of their services.

For example, there are companies which offer to obtain a social security number or earnings statement for a fee of \$10 — when this information is actually available at no cost by writing to the Social Security Administration.

These and other deceptive mailing practices are the subject of a bill passed by the House this summer. The legislation would require a disclaimer in large type on the envelope reading "THIS IS NOT A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT" as well as a statement inside advising that the goods or services are available free or at a lower cost from the federal government. The penalty for violating the law would be a \$25,000 fine and up to one year imprisonment.

The legislation also aims at false billings — solicitations for donations, often from political organizations, which take the form of a bill, invoice or statement of account. The material would have to bear a notice stating: "This is a solicitation of donations, and not a bill, invoice or statement of account. You are under no obligation to make any payment in response to this mailing."

Persons receiving mail that they feel violates these requirements should contact one of my offices (listed on page 4) before sending any money.

Poison Produce

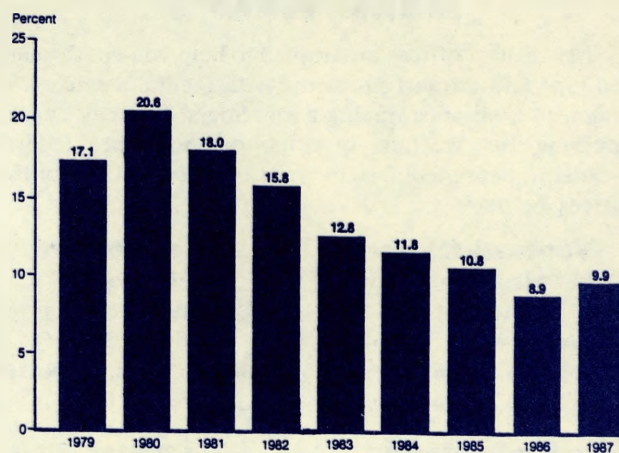
U.S. growers have to observe stringent pesticide standards, but U.S. customers may not be receiving the benefit if they don't know the origin of produce they buy at the market.

I have cosponsored a bill requiring fresh fruit and produce to be labeled by country of origin. Produce producers in California, including our area, are finding they have to compete with producers in other countries which may or may not impose the same standards for pesticide use.

Requiring markets to label their produce by country of origin will give shoppers important information in making their shopping decisions.

Misery Index

(Inflation rate plus unemployment rate)



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Since peaking at over 20 percent in 1980, the so-called misery index (the inflation rate plus the unemployment rate) has been slashed by more than half.



Special Feeling

In a prelude to the XXIVth Olympic Games, the spirit of sportsmanship was clearly evident at this awards ceremony for the Northern Santa Barbara County Special Olympics. Congress re-authorized special education programs for our schools this summer.

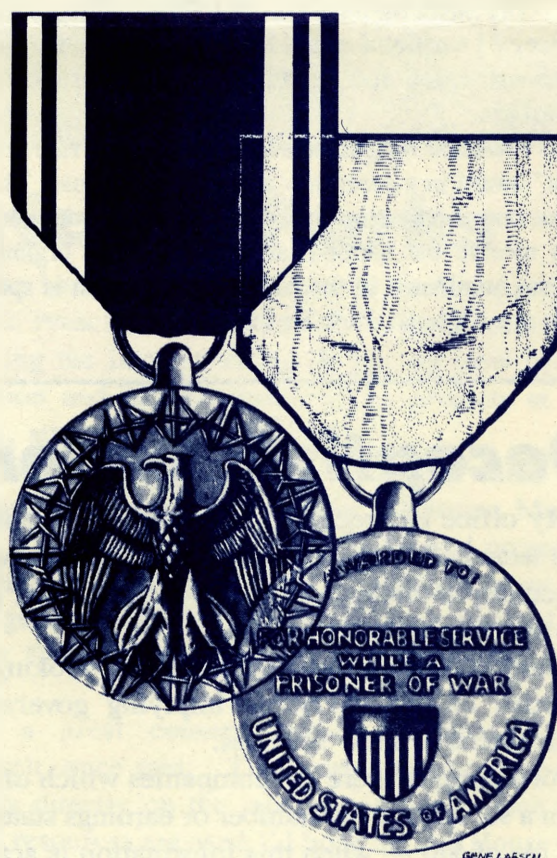
POW-MIA Medal

Applications are now being accepted for the newly-created POW-MIA Medal. The award honors those U.S. service men and women who were held prisoners of war or who remain missing in action.

As chairman of the POW-MIA Task Force, I was proud to offer the amendment creating the POW-MIA Medal on the House floor. Defense records indicate approximately 140,000 American service men and women were held prisoner during World War I, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Thousands more are listed as missing in action; the medal may be presented to the family or next of kin.

The medal features a golden eagle on the front with wings outspread, ringed by barbed wire and bayonet points. Although symbolically imprisoned, the American eagle is alert to regain freedom, the hope upholding the prisoner's spirit.

Applications may be made through my offices, listed below, or by calling toll-free, 1-800-873-3768.



"A GRATEFUL NATION REMEMBERS"

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NEED HELP?

My district offices are trained to help you cut through red tape and unsnarl problems with federal agencies. If you need assistance tracing a lost Social Security check, applying for Veterans benefits, or any other federal problem, please feel free to write, visit or call one of the offices below.

Ventura-Oxnard
5740 Ralston (off Victoria)
Suite 101
Ventura, CA 93003
642-2200 (from Ventura)
656-4344 (from Oxnard)

Santa Maria
104 E. Boone Street
Suite E
Santa Maria, CA 93454
922-2131

Santa Barbara
El Paseo
Studio 121
814 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
963-1708

Lompoc
(2nd & 4th Wed., 1-4 p.m.)
Lompoc City Hall
Civic Center Plaza
736-1261

For More Information. . .

If you would like to receive periodic reports on the topics listed below, and are not already doing so, please complete the following:

Name _____
(please print or type)
Address _____
Zip _____

Please send me information on the following topics:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> h. Foreign Affairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Small Business | <input type="checkbox"/> i. Trade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c. Civil Service | <input type="checkbox"/> j. Federal Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Senior Citizens | <input type="checkbox"/> k. Consumer Affairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> e. Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> l. Veterans Legislation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> f. Defense | <input type="checkbox"/> m. Education |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> n. Health |

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