



SENATOR RICARDO LARA

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2014



BUILDING COMMUNITY IN VERNON

I was thrilled to join California State Senator Kevin de León, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, Vernon Mayor W. Michael McCormick and Vernon council members for the official launch of the Vernon CommUNITY Fund.

The Vernon CommUNITY Fund has been authorized by the Vernon City Council to provide grants to charitable and governmental entities for worthy projects in and around the City of Vernon that benefit residents of Vernon and residents of the city's surrounding communities while also improving their quality of life.

The Vernon CommUNITY Fund is the fulfillment of a pledge made in 2011 by Vernon city officials to establish a 'good neighbor' relationship with Vernon's surrounding communities.

Under Vernon's initial 'Good Neighbor Program' – which preceded the formal establishment of the Vernon CommUNITY Fund – city leaders authorized a grant of \$624,000 to the City of Huntington Park

for the installation of a state-of-the-art artificial turf system on a dirt soccer field at Salt Lake Park.

Under the Vernon CommUNITY Fund's structure, a seven-member Grant Committee appointed by Vernon City Council members will review grant applications from local nonprofit organizations serving a designated 'Vernon Area' and choose worthy projects to support with city grant funds.

It was a pleasure to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony marking the start of construction and installation of the new artificial turf soccer field at the 'Salt Lake Park Soccer Circle.'

Building strong neighborhoods depends on investing in our communities and providing spaces for all to access, utilize and thrive. The CommUNITY Fund is a much needed project for Vernon and surrounding communities. I commend Vernon officials for their work to bring this project to fruition.

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"RAINY DAY FUND" PROPOSAL

Keeping California strong depends on sound, responsible fiscal prudence, as well as investing in our families. This month, legislators voted to move us closer to realizing this balance. The new Assembly Constitutional Amendment, ACAx2-1 (Pérez), which required a two-thirds vote of the Legislature, passed the Assembly by a vote of 75 - 0 and the Senate by a vote of 36. The measure was signed by the Governor.

The formula, if approved, will direct Revenue into a state reserve, as well as towards repayment of debt and unfunded liabilities. If passed, the constitutional amendment would apply to future state budgets beginning in 2015-16 and replaces ACA 4 (2010).

- It requires that 1.5 percent of annual General Fund revenues go into the state's reserve.

- In addition, any increase in capital gains revenue above 8 percent of the General Fund will be required to be deposited into the fund.

- For the next 15 years, half of the reserve funds deposited must be used to pay down state debt.

- The maximum size of the Rainy Day Fund would be raised to 10 percent of General Fund revenues.

- Suspension of deposits or withdrawals from the fund will only be allowed during a disaster as declared by the Governor or during significant reductions in state revenue within prescribed parameters.

- Any withdrawals will be limited to no more than 50 percent of what is in reserve in the first year of withdrawal.

HONORING MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES

Established as a day to pay tribute to service members from all branches of the military, Armed Forces Day is celebrated every year on the third Saturday in May. We celebrated this day on May 17.

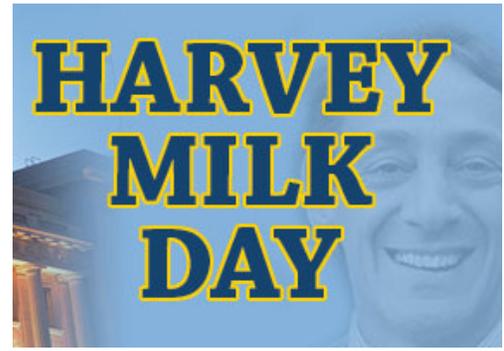
In 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day in order to replace the tradition of the military celebrating branches independently. In addition, the single-day celebration was created in connection with the unification of the military branches under the U.S. Department of Defense. President Harry S. Truman signed a Presidential Proclamation for Armed Forces Day on February 27, 1950. The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated by thousands of people in various cities with parades, receptions and air

shows. Today, Armed Forces Day is a multifaceted effort that not only recognizes the commitment assumed by members of the military and their families, but also reaffirms public support for the troops. On May 15th, the California State Assembly will present Assembly Concurrent Resolution 131 authored by Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, which recognizes May 17th as Armed Forces Day.

According to the Department of Defense, as of March 2014 there are almost 1.5 million active duty military personnel and thousands more in the Reserves.

- 519,786 in the United States Army

- 323,529 in the United States Navy



LGBT PIONEER

On what would have been his 84th birthday, Thursday, May 22, Californians of all walks of life celebrated the work and legacy of Harvey Bernard Milk. Considered a civil rights pioneer of the 20th century, Milk was the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California. Though he was tragically gunned down while in office, his work to empower disenfranchised communities has, and continues to, serve as an inspiration for countless individuals and communities throughout the state.

I was happy to join my colleagues in the California Legislative LGBT Caucus in recognizing the amazing life and contributions of this LGBT pionner.

LGBT Pride Month encourages people throughout the state to join in celebrating the culture, accomplishments and contributions of the LGBT community.

- 192,787 in the United States Marine Corps

- 330,092 in the United States Air Force

- 42,190 in the United States Coast Guard



RECOGNIZING LATINO PIONEERS IN CALIFORNIA



The Latino Spirit Awards were established in 2002 at the State Capitol in Sacramento to coincide with our state's acknowledgement of Cinco de Mayo and to highlight positive role models in our community. As Chairman of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, I was proud to acknowledge pioneers in the Latino community with 2014 Latino Spirit Awards.



Latino Caucus members with former Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante



*Mario Gutierrez
Achievement in Athletics*



*John Quiñones
Achievement in Journalism*



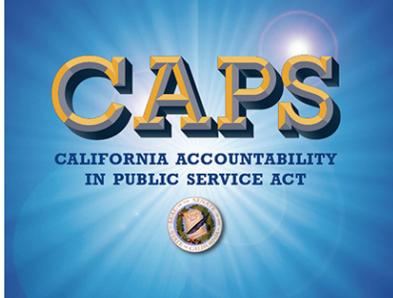
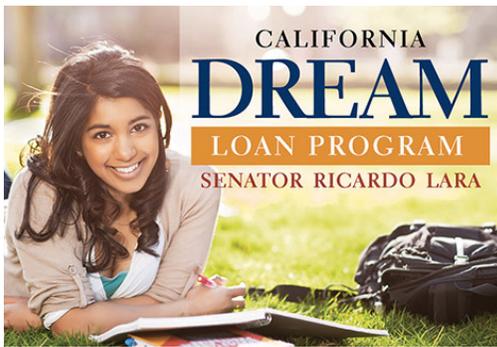
*Sheila E
Achievement in Arts & Entertainment*



*Danny Trejo
Achievement in Arts & Entertainment*



*Sebastien De La Cruz
Dynamic Youth Award*



A LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE TO STRENGTHEN CALIFORNIA

I believe that California's best days are ahead of us and my 2014 legislative package aims to build on California's strengths so that all working families prosper.

I have introduced bills that will expand access to education and health care, improve environmental sustainability and hold elected officials accountable.

The California Ed.G.E. Initiative, SB 1174, is my bill to expand access to multilingual education for all Californians ensuring that we continue to be a leader in the glob-

al economy. Additionally, my California Dream Loan Program aims to expand access to educational loans at the University of California and California State University for low-income students, regardless of documentation status.

Ensuring that we have a clean environment for our children is critical and that's why I've joined with Senator Fran Pavley in authoring a bill that would create a California Clean Bus and Truck Program at the Air Resources Board. This is particularly of interest in districts like the 33rd.

The California Accountability in Public Service or CAPS Act is comprised of three bills aimed at increasing transparency and accountability in political practices, including banning gifts from lobbyists.

Finally, my Health for All Act looks to cover undocumented Californians who currently contribute billions in tax revenue to the state but don't have access to coverage because of their status.

To learn more about my 2014 legislation please visit www.senate.ca.gov/lara.

YOUNG SENATORS EXPLORE ENTERTAINMENT & LAW



The 33rd Senate District Young Senators Program continues to teach youth about the impact multiple industries have in the state of California. Last month, students completed Sessions 3 and 4 and will be completing Session 5 next week! Information Session 3 took place at Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank where Young Senators were able to interact with film Producer Scott Budnick and learn about the Entertainment Industry's impact in our society, culture, and economy. They got to tour the sets

of various motion pictures and television shows while learning about one of California's most renowned industries.

Two weeks later, our Young Senators completed Session 4: Law and Society and were taken on a tour of the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in Downtown Los Angeles. They learned about the role of correctional facilities in our society and were able to see how a county jail is operated. After the jail tour, the Young Senators participated in a

seminar at a re-entry home for previously incarcerated women.

The Young Senators enjoyed their experience and will continue to explore California.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions, would you like assistance from my office or would simply like more information on legislation I am working on, please feel free to email my office directly. We will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible.

Visit <http://sd33.senate.ca.gov-send-e-mail>