



**Rep. Devin Nunes meets with representatives of some of the four service academies and retired Brig. General Ed Munger about nominations.**

## Stop those annoying calls

Every consumer should have the right to choose. So why shouldn't they have the power to say "no" to unwanted telemarketing calls?

American families should be allowed to enjoy their dinner hour without being disturbed.

American households are bombarded with average of 300 unsolicited telemarketing calls a year. Each day, telemarketers have been placing an average of 100 million calls.

Consumers are encouraged to use the new Do-Not-Call Registry to block unwanted telemarketing calls. He strongly supported the Do-Not-Call Implementation Act (H.R. 395) when it passed the House in February.

Individuals fed up with unwanted sales calls can now make their homes telemarketing-free by simply signing up with the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Do-Not-Call website and providing the phone number they want protected.

Individuals can register online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) if they have an active email address. You can also register by calling, toll-free (888) 382-1222, (TTY (866)-290-4236) from the number they wish to register. Registration is free.

The FTC expects to register as many as 60 million phone numbers during the first year.

Starting in October, telemarketers who call those telephone numbers listed on the registry can be fined up to \$11,000 per call.

**Here's how to sign up**

Visit

**[www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov)**

Or call

**888-382-1222**

## Students flock to Academy Night event

Dozens of students and their parents turned out for Rep. Devin Nunes' first Academy Night.

The event featured keynote speaker Brig. General Ed Munger and was held at the Heritage Complex of the International Agri-Center in Tulare.

Representatives from four U.S. service academies offered insights on the application process of becoming a cadet.

Gen. Munger inspired attendees with his insights on military life and told the students a life of service is a worthy goal both in and out of the military.

Also on hand was an A4 Skyhawk light attack jet from the Naval Air Station in Lemoore.

"Our service academies are producing this nation's next generation of great leaders. We have many outstanding candidates right here in Fresno and Tulare counties who are qualified to join those ranks," the congressman said.

A five-member selection committee made up of Fresno and Tulare County community members will interview candidates and make recommendations to the congressman for each academy.

## Health care made a top priority

Rep. Devin Nunes is working to ensure that health care challenges facing Central Valley residents are addressed in upcoming Medicare reform legislation.

Health care leaders from around the valley converged in Visalia in late May to develop proposals that could be included in the legislation.

"While I fully support prescription drug benefits for seniors and other improvements to Medicare, one of the bigger concerns in my district is to keep the hospitals open and enable physicians to meet the needs of their patients," Mr. Nunes said.

More than 150 community and health care leaders attended the summit, participating in one of four workshops. Two workshops focused on developing ideas to recruit and retain physicians, particularly specialists. Other workshops dealt with crowding of emergency departments and ways to increase the rate at which hospitals and physicians are reimbursed when serving patients on low-paying government insurance.

After the summit, staff members began crafting some of the Medicare recommendations into legislative language and advising lawmakers on the House Committee on Ways and Means.

One piece of legislation he introduced helped spark a change in regulations governing hospitals. A few months after the summit, federal health officials announced a rule change that gave hospitals more options in how they handle

patients who enter the emergency room with non-urgent medical needs.

The rule change made by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services allows hospitals to screen patients entering their emergency room



**Rep. Nunes with Harry Foster, CEO of Family Healthcare Network, and John Taylor of Community Medical Centers during planning of the health care summit in Visalia.**

and divert those whose medical needs are not urgent to other health care services within the hospital or outside medical services.

The rule change went into effect Nov. 10.

## Nunes gets raisins added to humanitarian aid list

Raisins are now on the menu of humanitarian food items that can be sent from the United States to hungry citizens of countries around the world.

In a letter to United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Director Andrew Natsios, Mr. Nunes was joined by more than two dozen colleagues calling for the inclusion of raisins in humanitarian aid to Iraq.

"It is important for U.S. food aid not only to carry the flag of our nation, but also to consist of commodities produced by American farmers," said Mr. Nunes, a member of the Committee on Agriculture.

USAID recently agreed to include raisins on the list of items available for humanitarian aid. The new listing will permit raisins to compete with other U.S. agriculture commodities for

use in humanitarian operations.

"While USAID's global food relief efforts are focused on serving nutritional needs, we are able to increase the local benefits of these programs by including raisins grown in the San Joaquin Valley," Mr. Nunes said.

Congress earmarked \$250 million in funding for food aid programs in the current year, including relief operations in Iraq and other countries.

The purchase of raisins from California farmers will serve the nutritional needs of hungry people anywhere, as well as provide relief to farmers suffering from the worst agriculture economy since the Great Depression.