

The NUNES Report

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More than 10,000 served

Nunes fulfills promise to make constituent service a top priority

Being a congressman means serving the residents of your area in big and small ways.

The big ways often involve legislation, which must successfully make its way through Congress to the President's desk. Making law usually helps many people at a time, and more often that not, it's tougher to get done.

But the role of a congressman is more than just helping vast numbers of people in a single stroke, it's about caring for the individual and lending a hand on a personal basis.

"I made constituent service a top priority for myself and my staff," Rep. Devin Nunes said. "I'm proud to say we are making a positive affect on people's lives every day. It's very rewarding and very humbling to be able to serve residents in this way."

Since January, Rep. Nunes has organized tours of the U.S. Capitol, the White House, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Kennedy Center, National Archives, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and Mt. Vernon for 1,249 constituents, re-



George and Sharon Schmorleitz from Clovis visit with Congressman Devin Nunes at his Washington, D.C. office. Mr. Nunes has helped arrange various tours of Capitol Hill and other D.C. attractions for more than 1,249 Central Valley residents since January.

sponded to over 8,500 constituent letters, and opened casework files for over 500 constituents.

"As your congressman, one of my most important duties is helping 21st District residents when they have problems with a federal government agency. Getting in touch with the right person at an agency can be frustrating and time-consuming. If you need help determining if your problem involves, a local, state or federal agency; or if you need help

to get your Social Security check, have questions about your military records, Medicare coverage, VA claims, a problem with the IRS, or any other federal agency, please do not hesitate to contact my district office. While I cannot order a federal agency to decide a matter in your favor, I can ensure that you are treated fairly."

For help on federal matters, contact Rep. Nunes in Visalia at (559) 733-3861, or Clovis at (559) 323-5235. Or, find us online at www.nunes.house.gov

Quick Facts

Myth vs. Fact on the USA Patriot Act

Get a copy at www.nunes.house.gov

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, Rep. Devin Nunes announced.

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.

"I believe that 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. This dual benefit represents the best possible investment of tax dollars and would extend the benefits of humanitarian relief operations to farmers in the United States.

Quick Facts

During the August recess, in which Congress is out of session, Rep. Devin Nunes spent time talking with residents in Fresno and Tulare counties, as well as traveling to South America with the House Committee on Agriculture on an ag trade mission. He also traveled to Missouri to participate in a tour of Midwest agriculture and to Israel to see what the billions of dollars in U.S. taxpayer dollars pay for in support of that country.



Rep. Nunes visits with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on a visit to Israel.

Nunes announces grant awards for firefighters

Lindsay and Porterville fire departments are getting tens of thousands of dollars in federal funds to help train and equip firefighters serving both of those communities, Rep. Devin Nunes announced.

The City of Porterville will receive \$136,170, which officials plan to use on rescue techniques training and replacing out-dated breathing apparatus air tanks, among other things.

The City of Lindsay will receive \$26,113 in funds, which will be used to buy breathing apparatus and portable radios for the cities three full-time and 14 volunteer fire fighters.

"I'm happy to do my part in helping ensure the safety of residents in my district by making sure our hardworking fire fighters have the equipment and training they need to do their jobs," said Mr. Nunes. "Both Lindsay and Porterville do an excellent job serving the commu-

nity and these funds should go a long way to continue that tradition."

Porterville Fire Chief Frank Guyton said he was excited about the grant award and will be putting in orders for equipment later this month.

"The added training and equipment are greatly needed and will be a tremendous benefit for the community," he said.

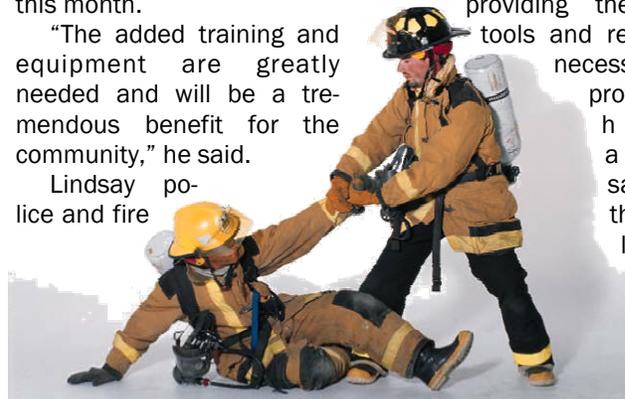
Lindsay police and fire

chief Bert Garzelli agreed.

"This grant funding will allow the Lindsay Fire Services to provide the latest breathing apparatus and personal safety devices to our fire fighters. We will also greatly enhance our communications ability with other fire departments through the

purchase of 14 portable hand held radios," Mr. Garzelli said.

Both cities are receiving funds through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The program seeks to support departments by providing them the tools and resources necessary to protect the health and safety of the public and their fire-



fighting personnel.

These grant awards will be used to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, fund fire fighter health and safety programs, acquire new fire apparatus, enhance EMS programs, and conduct fire prevention and safety programs.

August recess still a busy time for Nunes

Education

As a strong supporter of school choice, Congressman Nunes has become a co-sponsor of H.R. 2732, the Home School Non-Discrimination Act (HoNDA).

This legislation would ensure that home-school graduates and the post secondary institutions that enroll them are eligible for federal financial aid and the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program. Furthermore, H.R. 2732 would allow parents of home-schooled students in all states to save \$2,000 per year towards educational expenses in a tax-free Coverdell Educational Savings Account.



Rep. Devin Nunes talks about rural health care with Dr. Phillip Hinton, CEO of Community Medical Centers, and Med-Watch host Cindy Suryan. Rep. Nunes is fighting for additional funding for health care in the Central Valley.

Grant Support

Education

Congressman Nunes wrote a letter supporting a grant request submitted by the Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District. The grant seeks funding to provide literacy training and counseling to a broader audience.

Healthcare

Congressman Nunes wrote a letter expressing support for a grant request submitted by Community Medical Centers/Sequoia Community Health Foundation to the Health Resources and Services Administration for the Community Health Center (CHC) Program grant. The program, funded under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, provides for primary and preventive health care services in medically-underserved areas throughout the U.S. and its territories.

Family Health Care Network was awarded a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services for \$270,833 for the year 2003 and \$650,000 in 2004 and 2005 each. The grant will help establish a new health center in Dinuba that will provide comprehensive primary health care services.

Jobs

Congressman Nunes wrote a letter expressing support for a grant request submitted by CSET (Community Services and Education Training) to the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Community Services for the Job Opportunities for Low Income Individuals (JOLI) grant. The purpose of the JOLI program is to create new employment and business opportunities for Temporary Assistance for Needy

Families (TANF) recipients and other low-income individuals through projects that include self-employment, micro enterprise, expansion of existing businesses, new business ventures, among other programs.

Veterans

The Fairness to All Vietnam Veterans Act, Sponsored by Rep. Millender-McDonald (D-CA), will require the Department of Defense to identify veterans who died in Southeast Asia following October 31, 1955-immediately following the Vietnam War and to determine an appropriate manner to memorialize their service.

Congressman Nunes co-sponsored this bill, H.R. 2540, and will support recognition of the heroism displayed by these men and women who bravely served our country.

Life of a Congressional Intern

To today's collegiate, it seems obvious that employers will look just as much at what we did in school, as how we did in school. Where we once thought of grades as the key to success in the workplace, employers now rate our worth on our education above and beyond the classroom. Most everyone applying for today's jobs will have to answer the question, "What kind of experience do you have?" Hearing this for the first time can lead one to believe that they wasted thousands of dollars on an education that doesn't count as much as real-life experience. The solution to this is "The Internship," which is a way for students to increase their capital in a workforce asking for more of its workers than academic marks.

I am an alumnus of Tulare Western High School and currently a student at the University of California, Irvine. I was afraid, regardless of where I interned, my duties would be nothing more than filing papers and answering phones. I asked myself how duties such as these could prepare me for a career in which my duties are much greater. I would be unused, unimpressed, and unpaid. I wanted more. I wanted responsibility and experience. I wanted an education unreachable by the standard collegiate lecture hall. I was lucky enough to find all of these in the office of Congressman Devin Nunes.

Prior to arriving in Washington, I was told that this would be an internship beyond the mundane. I listened to peer after peer return from interviews disappointed by the role they would play in their new internships. I returned from my interview optimistic. The idea that I would be given more of a job than an internship hinged on the policy of the office. I was told "It is a waste of our time, and yours, if we don't use you to your full potential." This statement rang true, and within a couple of weeks I had been given several legislative projects, as well as office duties.

As time progressed so did my duties, as well as the depth of my experience. I was able to work on issues dealing with veterans affairs, agriculture, and the environment. Moreover, I was able to observe and meet several influential people ranging from various members of the House of

Representatives and Senate to Secretary of State Colin Powell. I was able to discuss issues with foreign heads of state and dignitaries ranging from the Ambassadors of Taiwan and Panama to the President of the Portuguese Parliament. Congressman Nunes went out of his way to make sure his interns were included in these types of meetings.

Recently, while leading a group of constituents through the U.S. Capitol, I was able to meet former President Gerald Ford. We met while he was on his way to address Congress on his birthday in July. My group and I all wished him happy birthday as he walked toward us. He shook my hand, smiled, and boasted, "We made it fellas," having made it to his 92nd birthday.

The willingness of the congressman to include us in this type of situation is indicative of the quality of work environment as a whole. The congressman has surrounded himself with intelligent, highly motivated, and friendly individuals. He has also built the office around the ideas of teamwork and trust. Most offices give the supervision of the intern to one individual, leaving it up to them to find the interns "something to do." In contrast, I worked closely with everyone in the office, including the congressman, and was never without a workload. At the same time, many of my fellow interns found their work mind numbing.

When I boarded a plane for Washington, D.C., I carried with me certain expectations, all of which were exceeded by my experience in this office. Congressman Nunes has been able to put together an office, as well as an internship program, that goes well beyond educational. For a student, who wanted more than just what his college degree promised him, Congressman Nunes has given me solid work experience, and more importantly, a tremendous life experience. At a time when so many people are skeptical of politics, I take comfort in my first-hand knowledge that the 21st district of California has nothing to fear. I would like to thank Congressman Nunes, and his staff for giving me the experience of a lifetime.

—Matt Machado

Matt Machado, a Tulare native, is a senior at University of California at Irvine, where he is majoring in Criminology, Law and Society.

He served as an intern in Rep. Devin Nunes' Washington, D.C. office from June-August.