

U.S. Representative Devin Nunes

Listening to you



High school student gets appointment to Washington

A Visalia student nominated by Rep. Devin Nunes for the House of Representatives Page Program was selected to serve during the summer session. Redwood High School junior Peter Vlazakis, 16, will be in the program June and July, some of the busiest months in the House of Representatives. He is only one of six serving in the office of the Clerk of the House.

"Peter is a great student and will do an excellent job," Rep. Nunes said. "It is a tremendous honor to have a Central Valley student representing us in such a prestigious program."

Ag tour educates community leaders



Rep. Devin Nunes kicked off his first annual Central Valley Ag Tour May 27-28, touring agricultural and processing sites in Fresno and Tulare counties.

More than 40 community leaders participated in the day-and-a-half tour, snapping photos and sampling treats along the way. The event was aimed at giving people without an agricultural

See Ag Tour—page 4

Rep. Devin Nunes poses with some of the 40 community leaders who joined him on the first Central Valley Ag Tour through Fresno and Tulare counties.

Constituent services remain a top priority

As a 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.

Hundreds of residents throughout Fresno and Tulare counties have turned to my offices in Visalia and Clovis for help in resolving issues regarding various federal agencies.

To reach the local Visalia office, call (559) 733-3861, or in Clovis call (559) 323-5235.



21st Congressional District



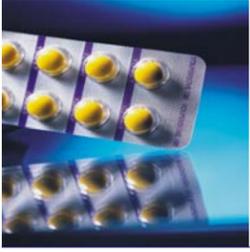
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business

Devin Nunes

M.C.
PRSRT STD

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More than three million seniors have already enrolled in one of the Prescription Drug Discount programs

Seniors can use the card to save 15 to 30 percent off the usual retail price of most brand name drugs and more on generics at neighborhood pharmacies. Low-income seniors struggling with high drug costs will be able to get these savings as well as an additional \$600 a year credit - or \$1,200 over the next 18 months - to help pay for prescriptions. For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

House passes Nunes water storage measure

In a major step toward meeting the Central Valley’s urban and agricultural water needs, the House of Representatives passed a bill co-sponsored by Rep. Devin Nunes that will make it easier to construct new water projects in California.

“I’m happy we made some progress on getting more water storage for the Valley, but there’s still a lot of work that needs to be done before we actually see the benefit,” Rep. Nunes said. “Water is more than just an issue for agriculture. Virtually every city in Fresno and Tulare counties is facing a shortage of water. As our population continues to grow, water will be in shorter and shorter supply. We need a mechanism to capture as much as we can from melting winter runoff

and high Sierra storms.”

Language was inserted in the bill by the congressman would allow for automatic authorization of the construction of a new dam above Millerton Lake along the San Joaquin River if a federal study already underway shows that the project is feasible. The dam would be able to capture as much as 1.2 million acre feet in wet years and protect cities downstream from periodic, devastating floods.

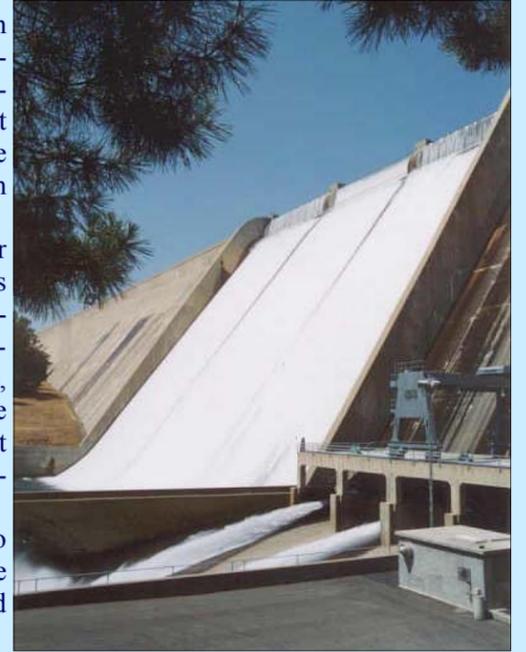
Water would be released from the dam to Millerton Lake and diverted to the Friant-Kern Canal, the Madera Canal, and/or released to the San Joaquin River.

“This project would help meet a variety of needs,” Rep. Nunes said. “It would boost our groundwater

table for communities, irrigation for agriculture, provide additional hydro-electric possibilities and provide a consistent flow of water to reestablish the natural habitat along the San Joaquin River.”

The language for the water measure inserted by Rep. Nunes into the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act (H.R. 2828), which funds CalFed—the state and federal partnership that manages water projects in California.

The U.S. Senate must also pass the bill before it can be considered by the President and possibly signed into law.



Friant Dam at Millerton Lake

Tax cuts benefit local families, military

Rep. Devin Nunes hailed the passage earlier this year of legislation that will lower taxes for married couples and the families of military personnel.

“Families are the backbone of our society, so it is only fitting that a man and wife get every financial advantage possible to make ends meet,” Rep. Nunes said. “The average family of four will see their

taxes rise by over \$300 if Congress doesn’t act this year to make this tax relief permanent.”

Before 2001, a married couple earning similar incomes paid more in taxes than two single taxpayers filing individually. Tax relief passed by Congress in 2001 phased out these penalties by providing couples a standard deduction that is twice that of single taxpayers.

Another bill provided financial relief for families of National Guardsmen and Military Reservists who have been called to serve in the war on terror.

“These brave men and women are serving to help protect all American families,” Rep. Nunes said. “This legislation will help their families pay the bills while Guardsmen and Reservists put their

careers on hold to sacrifice for our country.”

By leaving their jobs in the private sector to fill vitally needed positions for our national defense, many National Guardsmen and Military Reservists have taken a drastic cut in pay, placing their families in financial hardship.

Clovis winner displays artwork on Capitol Hill

Rep. Devin Nunes invited high school students throughout Fresno and Tulare counties to submit their best pieces of artwork to compete in the 21st District contest “An Artistic Discovery.”

Dozens of students submitted a wide variety of top quality artwork, and a panel of judges reviewed the pieces to select a winner and several finalists.

The winner from each Congressional District has their artwork displayed for a year in one of the pedestrian thoroughfares at the nation’s capitol. The winning students also get free, roundtrip plane tickets to Washington, D.C. from Southwest Airlines.

In the end, Clovis East High

School walked away with a number of top honors, including first and second places. Alicia Salas took first and Kyle Lynes placed second. Both are juniors.

Clovis East also received several honorable mentions, including sophomore A.J. Collazo, junior Madison O’Neil, senior Arete Alfson, and freshman Khrystynna Hunsinger, all of Clovis East High school.

Honorable mentions were also given to Daniel Erickson, a senior at Buchanan High School; Belen Vargas, a senior at Dinuba High



School; and Mathew Somawang, a junior at Orosi High School.



Left: Rep. Devin Nunes poses with a number of art competition finalists from Clovis East High School, as well as principal Jeff Eben and art instructor Jeff Nichols.

Above: Alicia Salas’ winning entry—a pencil and charcoal sketch of her family members.

Nunes seeks help for homeowners at Housing Expo

Housing is booming here in the Central Valley. New tracts of homes are springing up in virtually every community. Homeowners are taking advantage of historically low interest rates to refinance their houses and property. And even as housing prices rise, this area remains one of the most affordable and desirable housing markets in the state.

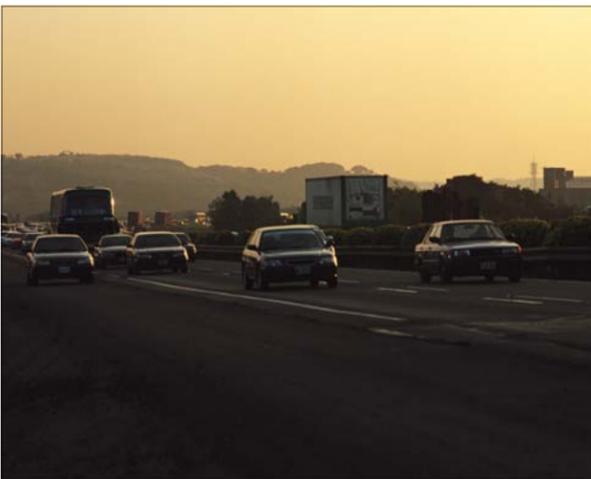
Nevertheless, there are challenges on the horizon for the housing industry. Communities are

grappling with land use issues, building costs and fees and keeping homes affordable for middle-income residents and first-time homebuyers, as well as maintaining an adequate supply of multi-family housing.

To address these and other issues, Congressman Nunes participated with local officials in a housing exposition held April 23 at the Visalia Convention Center for industry professionals.



Highway 99 gets priority designation from House of Representatives



A bill was introduced by Rep. Devin Nunes to designate Highway 99 from Bakersfield to Sacramento as a Congressional Corridor, which would make it a high priority thoroughfare eligible for special funding, was passed by the House of Representatives.

The bill seeks to make Highway 99 part of the National Corridor Planning and Development Program (NCPD program), which awards about \$3.3 billion over 6 years in discretionary grants each year in this program and potentially millions more from other sources. The grants pay for planning, project development, construction and operation of projects that serve high priority corri-

dors throughout the United States.

For the purposes of the federal program, Highway 99 would become known as the California Farm-to-Market Corridor. It would be one of only 54 nationwide, and one of only few within California.

Widening Highway 99 from four to six lanes, as well as making other needed improvements to the roadway, has been a priority for Rep. Nunes since he took office. The widening project would ease congestion, reduce smog-forming and dust emissions and enhance the flow of farm products and other goods to important sea ports in Oakland and Long Beach.

Federal contract will help open Tulare County jail

The U.S. Marshals Service has agreed to house federal prisoners in the Tulare County Pre-trial Facility in a deal worth as much as \$1.5 million a year to the county, Rep. Devin Nunes announced.

The congressman worked with Sheriff Bill Wittman for about a year to find a federal contract for the jail facility. The Marshals Service recently agreed to use the facility, paying \$52.04 per prisoner per night with an expected minimum population of about 60 prisoners but up to 100. The role of the Marshals Service is to transport federal prisoners, among other duties. The Federal Bureau of Prisons may also house prisoners under this agreement.

The state-of-the-art jail, which features a courtroom and nearby airstrip, has been dormant for some time because the county lacked the funds to keep it open. The federal contract will help the facility to reopen.

"I am pleased our hard work over the past year has paid off in a way that will help Tulare County use this great facility," Rep. Nunes said.

Sheriff Bill Wittman said he was pleased they found a creative solution to the vacant jail facility.

"I applaud Congressman Nunes for his hard work in obtaining an agreement to house federal prisoners in Tulare County," Sheriff Wittman said. "I look forward to the day when we will

reopen the Pre-Trial Facility, thereby providing better law enforcement for our citizens."

"We greatly appreciate the efforts of Congressman Nunes to reach agreement on a rate to house federal prisoners," Tulare County Board Chairman Bill Sanders said. "With his help, we have taken an important first step toward reopening the Pre-Trial facility."



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U.S. Supreme Court throws out case on 'under God' pledge ban

"As one of the first lawmakers to call for a Supreme Court review of this issue last year, I am pleased to see that the pledge will remain unchanged for now," Rep. Devin Nunes said. "Unfortunately, the Supreme Court did not rule on the merits of the case. This issue will likely return in some form in the future. While in Congress, I will continue to uphold the sanctity of the pledge with the phrase 'under God' intact."





U.S. needs more refineries and reliable, domestic supply of petroleum

“As California braced for widespread electricity outages, we were told that part of the problem was no new electric generation plants had been built in decades. Well, the same is true of oil refineries. In fact, between 1985 and 1995, 10 oil refineries ceased production even as the number of cars on the road increased. At a time when we need greater fuel refining capacity, we actually have 20 percent less than 20 years ago,” Rep. Devin Nunes said. “We need better control of our oil supplies by developing our own domestic production and relying less on other countries.”

Valley students making their way to U.S. Service Academies

More than half the number of students nominated by Rep. Devin Nunes for appointment to a U.S. Service Academy have been accepted so far.

The congressman nominated 15 young men and women from Fresno and Tulare counties. More could be accepted in the coming weeks.

“I am very pleased to nominate students of such high caliber to the academies,” Rep. Nunes said. “These students should be commended for their hard work and dedication to academic and physical excellence. I find it very encouraging to find young people in my own

district who are eager to take on the rigors of our prestigious service academies.”

Rep. Nunes formed a five-member selection committee made up of Fresno and Tulare county community members to interview candidates and make recommendations to the congressman for each academy. That group included: Brig. General Ed Munger (ret.), Clovis City Councilman Jose Flores, Tulare County School Superintendent Jim Vidak, Buckman-Mitchell Insurance President Cliff Dunbar, and Tulare County Board of Education President Chris Reed.

The nominees for enrollment in the four U.S. Service Academies :

- Robert Fabionar Fresno
- Cody James Griffin Visalia
- Matthew Jarrod Arreola Visalia
- Alan Rogers Porterville
- Alex Paul James Visalia
- Samantha Joan Brodie Clovis
- Patrick High Clovis
- Andrew Young Porterville
- Ryan White Porterville
- Cameron Ross Linder Clovis
- Alex Prevendar Clovis
- Samantha Miller Visalia
- Michael Florence Porterville
- John Trenton Skypeck Clovis
- Kyle Yamamoto Clovis



Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Cadets who are chosen for a military academy receive an education valued at about \$300,000 that is no cost to them.

Ag Tour—continued from page 1

background a behind-the-scenes look at the industry challenges and successes.

“I think it’s important that business leaders, government and city officials get an up-close-and-personal look at the agriculture industry, which drives our local economy,” Rep. Nunes said. “Our farmers and processors are innovative, hard working and concerned about the quality of life here in the Central Valley.”

The ag tour group traveled with the congressman by charter bus throughout the 21st Congressional District. The congressional district has the highest agricultural output



Rep. Devin Nunes discusses agricultural issues with Community Hospital CEO Dr. Philip Hinton at the Heritage Complex in Tulare.

of any in the United States.

Among the distinguished guests were Rep. Rob Bishop from Utah, Chuck Ahlem, Under Secretary for the California Department of Food and Agriculture and local leaders and elected officials from both counties.

Fresno and Tulare counties are consistently the most productive agriculture counties in the state and combined are the most productive region in the nation. As a result, this industry has become the backbone of our local economy and an integral part of our culture.

Speak out...

Thousands of constituents write me each year on issues important to them. I want to offer you yet another avenue to speak out. Below are a few ongoing issues I deal with in Congress that affects the 21st District. Please let us know which are high priorities to you by rating them 0-10 in terms of importance. One or more can share the same rating.

- Transportation _____ Jobs _____ Education _____
- Water _____ Healthcare _____ Agriculture _____
- Air quality _____ Immigration _____ Social Security _____
- Taxes _____ War on Terror _____

Please mail your response to my office at 113 N. Church St., Ste. 208, Visalia, CA 93291, or fax to 559-733-3865

Other than the issues noted here, please describe what federal issues are important to you.

The Nunes Report is a monthly online newsletter at www.nunes.house.gov detailing work done on your behalf in Washington, D.C. If you would like to be notified when each new edition is available, please take the time to sign up here:

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