

Rep. Nunes helps form Hispanic Conference

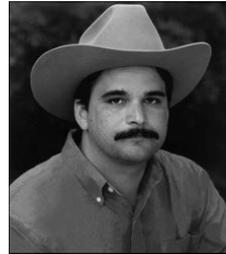
As a member of Congress, it's my job to be the voice of the people in my district. A large portion of that district includes the hard-working people of the Hispanic and Portuguese communities.

Like many members, I sought to join caucuses of other congressmen where our collective influence could make a difference for our shared values. I looked long and hard at the Hispanic Caucus as an avenue to champion issues of importance to one of my key constituencies. However, I found that group's beliefs bore no resemblance to the values of the vast majority of Hispanic and Portuguese citizens.

Thus, the choice I made was obvious and easy. I helped form the Congressional Hispanic Conference with six other

legislators from around the country, including San Joaquin Valley Congressman Richard Pombo.

I am proud of my Portuguese heritage and of my roots in the Azores Islands.



Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Tracy

The conference is an inclusive group that welcomes members of various backgrounds, from Hispanic and Portuguese, to Cuban and Brazilian and others. Though we are separate, distinct communities in some respects, it is important that we all work together to promote the ideals that we do in fact share: Liberty, freedom, and the pursuit of the

American Dream.

The key goal of the conference is to help with the betterment of the Hispanic and Portuguese communities largely by promoting the interests and preferred policy outcomes of Americans of Hispanic and Portuguese descent.

I have a strong belief and commitment to the American Dream, which holds that there is no limit to the possibility of success. When my family and others came to this country they believed in this ideal as well. My being part of the Hispanic Conference helps to promote this belief by using my role as a legislator, to try to foresee and to promote legislation that will help the district, and in turn, the nation. Some of the ideas that I and the other members wish to promote

are: the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, faith-based initiatives, financial and tax relief to small businesses, the end of the marriage penalty, and the repeal of the death tax.

As most people know, there is a large Hispanic population in the 21st Congressional District (about 43%), there are also significant Portuguese, Armenian, and Hmong communities. My role here is to represent all people in the district, not just those of one particular heritage.

The Hispanic Conference finds its strength in the heritage of its members, pressing on to achieve shared goals that have benefits that reach beyond ethnicity to the betterment of all of our constituents.

Key Issues

Free Trade—The flow of goods and services will act as a positive force in helping equalize income disparities throughout the globe. Thus, the Hispanic Conference supports the creation of the Free Trade Act of the Americas, as well as the common market of this hemisphere's emerging democracies.

National Defense—The conference is committed to supporting all efforts by the Administration, our military, and our federal agencies to prevent future attacks against America.

Supporting Qualified Judicial Nominees—The conference is committed to ensuring that only the most qualified and ideologically fit Hispanic judicial nominees are appointed to our federal courts.

Fiscal Discipline—Committed to policies that provide common sense tax relief while strongly adhering to the principle of fiscal discipline. Support the elimination of the Death Tax, the Marriage Tax, and the Double Taxation of Dividends.

Strong supporters of tax relief for small businesses which will aid the over 2 million Hispanic- and Portuguese-owned small businesses.

Faith-Based Initiatives—We hope to increase the scope of participation of faith-based organizations through the removal of barriers, which restrict their ability to help communities.

Schools of Choice—Publicly funded schools of choice programs help low-income families from racially diverse backgrounds. Provides accountability to school districts as well as incentive to innovate.

Cuba—The economic embargo and travel restrictions cannot be lifted until the three following conditions are satisfied. First, all political prisoners are liberated. Second, all political parties, independent labor unions, and independent press are legalized. Third, free and fair internationally supervised elections are held.