

Glendale Emergency Operations Center enhances city's public safety



Robert Gunter, director of the Glendale Department of Emergency Management, gives a tour of the city's new Emergency Operations Center to Mayor Elaine Scruggs and Rep. Ed Pastor. The new center includes a training facility to be used by Glendale, Surprise, Peoria, Avondale and the Maricopa County Community College District.

U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor recently joined Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs in touring the city's new state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center, a critical new element to public safety for the city.

The center will dramatically improve the coordination of disaster preparedness, homeland security and emergency management for the city of Glendale and provide training facilities for Glendale, Surprise, Peoria, Avondale and the Maricopa County Community College District.

Pastor, who supported federal funding to help construct the center, said the facility was impressive and will be an asset to the West Valley.

Mayor Scruggs said the center will enhance the city's abilities to coordinate public safety, public works, traffic and communication needs when natural or man-made catastrophic incidents occur. It will also serve as the command center for the city when it hosts national events, such as the Super Bowl in 2008.

Anti-meth, gang-resistance grants help community

The **Maricopa County Sheriff's Department** was recently awarded a \$49,999 grant by the U.S. Department of Justice to fight the scourge of methamphetamine, announced Rep. Ed Pastor.

The grant was awarded by the Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Methamphetamine Initiative). The grants will help communities combat the manufacture, use and distribution of meth, and collaborate with other entities in the prevention and treatment of meth abuse.

"Meth use has become a huge law enforcement problem in Arizona and is destroying many lives," Pastor said.

In a separate announcement, the **Phoenix and Glendale Police Departments** received grants from the Justice Department to help young people avoid gangs.

Under the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program (GREAT), the city of Phoenix received \$150,000 while Glendale received \$67,515.

The funding will be used for programs to train law enforcement officers in a school-based curriculum to instruct students in life skill competencies, gang awareness and anti-violence techniques. It helps students develop values and avoid destructive behaviors.



Conservation issues discussed
Scotty Johnson and Andrea McCoy with Defenders of Wildlife recently met with Congressman Ed Pastor in Phoenix to discuss wildlife conservation legislation in Congress.

Mobile office locations

Hours are from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

To assist constituents with any issues they may have with federal agencies, a representative from Congressman Pastor's office will be at the locations below the next few months. No appointments are necessary.

South Mountain Community Center: Nov. 7 and Dec. 5
212 E. Alta Vista, Phoenix

Desert West Community Center: Nov. 13 and Jan. 8
6501 W. Virginia, Phoenix

Guadalupe Senior Center: Nov. 27 and Jan. 22
9401 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe

Golden Gate Community Center: Dec. 11
1625 N. 39th Ave., Phoenix

Glendale Community Center : Dec. 19
5401 W. Ocotillo, Glendale

How to contact Congressman Pastor

Congressman Ed Pastor's office is in your city to serve your needs. Please keep this information handy to contact his offices for assistance.

<http://www.pastor.house.gov>

Washington Office

2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0302
Phone: (202) 225-4065

Phoenix District Office

411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone: (602) 256-0551

Please send postal delivery mail to Phoenix District Office only.

Due to the threat of anthrax-contaminated mail delivered to the Capitol complex, all incoming letters to my Washington Office must be irradiated before delivery, resulting in a delay of at least three weeks. Feel free to send mail instead to my Phoenix District Office. Thanks.

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Congressman
Ed Pastor
WASHINGTON REPORT
Accomplishments of 110th
November 2007

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Accomplishments of 110th

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Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

November 2007

110th Congress' accomplishments

Dear Fellow Arizonans,

As the year's end draws near, I reflect on progress the 110th Congress has made on numerous fronts.

We have made great strides to make America more secure, created millions of new jobs, provided more Americans the tools to lift them to new levels of prosperity and restored accountability, integrity and fiscal responsibility in Washington. We continue

our efforts to build consensus around a responsible end to the war in Iraq and rebuild our military strength and readiness.

I hope you will take time to read this update about my activities in Congress.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor

Member of Congress

Rep. Pastor, congressional leaders are fighting for America's priorities

A NEW DIRECTION

Passed House
Signed into law

- ✔ ✔ 9-11 Commission recommendations to protect America from terrorism
- ✔ ✔ Largest college aid expansion since the 1944 GI Bill, saving average Arizona student \$4,730
- ✔ ✔ First minimum wage increase in a decade, creating a pay raise for 13 million Americans



Rep. Ed Pastor, at the podium, recently joined Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center Director Donald Moore, Rep. Harry Mitchell and Speaker Nancy Pelosi in a tour of the Phoenix facility to learn about services for veterans.

Domestic violence victims would get job help under bill proposed by Rep. Ed Pastor

Victims of domestic violence frequently find it difficult to leave abusive relationships because of the financial hardships they'll face on their own.

However, a pilot program proposed by U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor, D-Ariz., may bring help to such victims.

HR 3576

On Sept. 18, Pastor introduced the Employment Assistance for Victims of Domestic Abuse Act of 2007, or H.R. 3576, which

would help assist victims of domestic violence through a limited demonstration program that could later be expanded to include more participants.

Tax incentives for employers

H.R. 3576 proposes to provide small business employers with a one-year tax incentive for hiring victims of domestic violence. The tax incentive is designed to help open the door to independence for

persons with little or no previous employment history by giving them the opportunity to learn a trade and develop a proven work record, Pastor said.

It targets small businesses for the explicit purpose of assisting local companies and enterprises that frequently operate on narrow profit margins.

Benefits

small businesses

"I see this as a great benefit not only for

victims of domestic violence, but for mom-and-pop operations to lower their operating costs while also enjoying the benefit of hard-working and eager employees," said Pastor.

Pilot program works through shelters funded by Justice

As a pilot program open to persons living in Department of Justice funded transitional housing for victims of domestic vio-



lence, this program would dovetail into an existing set of employer tax incentives known as "Work Opportunity Credits." These programs already assist such groups as veterans, high-risk youth, and Social Security Income recipients.

"If approved, this program would initially be limited to the residents of roughly 50 or 60 transition housing centers nationwide," Pastor said. "But I am optimistic we would see it blossom into more areas, giving victims a new lease on life that is free of fear."

If approved, the tax incentive would help open the door to independence for persons with little or no previous employment history by giving them the opportunity to learn a trade and develop a proven work record.

- Rep. Ed Pastor



Minimum wage increases

The recent passage of the Fair Minimum Wage Act, which Rep. Ed Pastor supported, was the first minimum wage increase in 10 years. Here's how it works:

On July 24, 2007,
the minimum wage increased to \$5.85 from \$5.15.

On July 24, 2008,
the minimum wage will increase to \$6.55.

On July 24, 2009,
the minimum wage will increase to \$7.25.

Rep. Ed Pastor recently met with Rebekah Friend, executive director of the Arizona AFL-CIO, to discuss the federal Fair Minimum Wage Act and how its passage will benefit the constituents of the Fourth Congressional District.

Pastor fighting for children's health care

U.S. Census Bureau data released recently confirms what many of us already know. Americans worry that the American dream is no longer in reach. Many individuals are living paycheck to

paycheck, and going deeper into debt because of rising costs, particularly in the area of health care. Many families simply cannot buy health insurance and make ends meet, leaving millions of families uninsured.

283,000 Arizona children are uninsured

The number of Americans without health insurance nationwide rose by nearly two million in 2006 to a record high of 47 million people. In Arizona, 283,000 children were uninsured in 2006, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

That is one of the reasons Rep. Ed Pastor supported the bipartisan legislation which would have reauthorized the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The President vetoed the legislation, but Congress was working on sending a new bill to him.

Pastor will keep pushing for children's health care legislation

"As a policy maker, I represent thousands of children who are uninsured, and I personally believe it is my moral obligation to put their needs ahead of politics," Pastor said. "The country overwhelmingly supports the reauthorization of this program."

Pastor said he will continue working with his colleagues for passage of strong children's health care legislation.



Rep. Ed Pastor met with Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard in October and discussed the importance of passing federal legislation that would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Goddard is recognized as a leader in advocating for children's issues.

Supporting our troops and veterans

Services in congressional offices are available

Congressman Pastor's Phoenix Office focuses on serving constituents, including veterans, military personnel and young people interested in attending military academies.

Congressional staff can assist veterans if they are experiencing problems with applications for medical records, service records and their claims for benefits, including disability. Military personnel also may contact the office regarding duty assignments and services for their dependents, among other inquiries.

High school students who are interested in attending a military academy also are encouraged to contact their congress member to request a nomination.

"My office is here to serve, and I encourage veterans and military personnel to let me know how I can help them regarding any problem with a federal agency," Pastor said.



USCIS Adjudication Officer Kate Kuhl greets Hussain Aljobori, a linguist for the Army, at his naturalization ceremony. Sonia Moreno, right, an aide to Rep. Pastor, assisted Aljobori with his application process.

GCC professor recognized in Congressional Record

Congressman Ed Pastor recently entered a tribute into the Congressional Record recognizing Glendale Community College Professor Dr. René Díaz-Lefebvre for his selection as the 2006 Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and administered by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Dr. Díaz-Lefebvre was recognized for his influence on teaching and his outstanding commitment to teaching undergraduate students. He was the first Latino from Arizona and one of eight community college professors to win this award, one of the most prestigious and competitive in the nation.

A fifth-generation Arizonan, Dr. Díaz-Lefebvre has a bachelor's degree in humanistic psychology, a master's degree in guidance and counseling, and his Ph.D. in counseling psychology.



Congressman Ed Pastor's District Director Elisa de la Vara and Glendale Community College President Velvie Green present Professor Dr. René Díaz-Lefebvre with a copy of the remarks introduced by Pastor into the Congressional Record. Pastor recognized Díaz-Lefebvre for being named the 2006 Arizona Professor of the Year.

College aid bill will ease student loan costs

The road to success is often through higher education.

But about 200,000 students a year do not go to college in America solely because they cannot afford the cost. And those who do take advantage of college loans often are saddled with thousands of dollars of debt.

The cost of attending public college rose by almost 40 percent from 2001 to 2006.

In Arizona, the typical need-based loan for a four-year public school leaves the average student with a debt of \$14,081.

But help is on the way.

A bill providing the largest increase in college financial aid since the GI Bill of Rights in 1944 recently passed Congress and was signed into law.

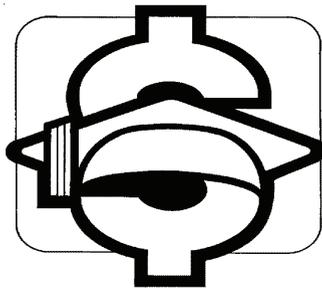
Pastor voted to pass the bill, known as the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, or H.R. 2669.

Under this bill, Arizona will see a \$1.2 billion increase in loan and Pell aid to students and families.

To reduce the cost of loans for millions of student borrowers, the legislation will cut interest rates in half on need-based student loans. Once fully phased in, this will save the typical student borrower in Arizona -- with \$14,081

in need-based student loan debt -- \$4,730 savings over the life of the loan.

"This increase is long overdue," Pastor said. "Arizona cannot afford to ignore our rising college costs if we want to make our economy more competitive."



WWW.KIDS.GOV
helps children learn,
explore, have fun

Want to help your children "ace" school this year? Check out Uncle Sam's family-friendly site, Kids.gov. With links to more than 1,200 web pages from government agencies, schools and educational organizations, Kids.gov makes it easy for your kids or grandchildren to learn, explore and have fun.