



The 7th Express

Proudly Moving Alabama's 7th Congressional District Forward

Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell

June 3, 2011

The 7th District Is On The Move!

Greetings!

The 7th Express is on the move! This newsletter is a way to track our progress. You can subscribe to this newsletter by visiting our website. Please forward to others so that they can stay informed. [Click here](#) to visit our website!

Rebuilding Our Communities



We in the 7th congressional district of Alabama suffered massive devastation during the April tornadoes. 9 out of the 12 counties in the district experienced tremendous damage. Homes were damaged and destroyed. Schools, churches, businesses and communities were destroyed. And many constituents lost the lives of their friends and loved ones.

I want to extend my deepest condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. I want to thank all of the first responders who were on the scene to help so many of the victims.

I also want to thank the volunteers who continue to work tirelessly to restore the lives of families who lost everything. The destruction and loss of life has been absolutely heartbreaking. But out of this tragedy we will triumph!

Over the last 4 weeks, our office has held four disaster assistance town hall meetings in the district and one telephone town hall meeting to help connect the victims of the April tornadoes with disaster assistance and information. At the meetings, representatives from FEMA, HUD, SBA, and other organizations were on hand to answer questions from the audience. The events were a huge success, and we plan to hold more in the future.

We will recover, rebuild and restore our communities. We will be better and stronger than before. I am inspired by the resilience this district and the state of Alabama has shown. Neighbor helping neighbor. Keep the faith!

Platoon Sergeant Matthew Leonard Memorial Unveiling



On May 30, we honored the life and bravery of Platoon Sergeant Matthew Leonard from the 7th Congressional District by unveiling a monument dedicated to him in his hometown of Eutaw. Platoon Sergeant Leonard directed his platoon during an ambush and received fatal wounds while charging a machine gun nest near Suoi Da, Vietnam on Feb. 27, 1967. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968.

Town Hall Meeting in Grove Hill

On May 17, our office held a joint Congressional Town Hall Meeting in Grove Hill, with Congressman Jo Bonner, who represents the First Congressional District. We both have the privilege of representing Clarke County together. This bi-partisan town hall meeting gave our offices the opportunity to meet with constituents in Clarke County and provide a Congressional update.



Fairfield Democratic Women – Get Out the Vote!



On May 19, I had the honor of speaking at the Fairfield Democratic Women – Get Out the Vote! Dinner where we talked about the importance of voting and of participation in the political process.

We also honored Dr. Ethel Hall, a distinguished educator, who was the first African American Vice President on the Alabama State Board of Education and recently retired from the Board after 23 years.

Honoring America's Commitments

It is important for our nation to meet its current budgetary obligations and pay our outstanding debts. America's economy is a stabilizing force in the global economic market. This stability is essential for our continued economic recovery and our ability to borrow necessary funds at low interest rates. The longer Congress fails to act; investors here and around the world will begin to lose confidence in our ability to meet our commitments and our obligations.

If Congress continues to delay an extension of the debt limit, a broad range of government payments will have to be stopped, limited or delayed. Those payments include retirement benefits, Social Security and Medicare payments, military salaries, unemployment benefits and tax refunds. For our senior citizens who depend on Medicare for their primary healthcare provider, these types of political games being played with the debt ceiling are reprehensible and cannot continue. This delay would impose additional hardship on hard-working American families during these already challenging economic times and will raise questions about our ability to defend our national security interests. The risk of allowing such a catastrophic default to occur is one that I am not willing to take.

As we continue to work to reduce our nation's deficit, balance our budget, and address our debt ceiling, everything should and must be on the table. I remain committed to responsibly reducing the deficit, but not at the cost of inflicting further harm on our fragile economy by defaulting on our financial commitments. Additionally, we cannot balance our budget on the backs of our children, seniors, military, and families.

We are capable of addressing all of those financial matters before us and I look forward to doing so in a way that works for all Americans.

It is an honor to serve the 7th District in Congress.
I'll be back in touch again soon!

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress