



The 7th Express

Proudly Moving Alabama's 7th Congressional District Forward
Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell

April 2014

Friend,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you in Congress! One of the most important responsibilities I have as your representative is to update you on the work we are doing on your behalf. This newsletter serves as a monthly update on the progress we have made both in Washington and in Alabama's 7th Congressional District. For more information, please visit our website at <http://sewell.house.gov/>.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Sewell Tours Tornado Damage in Bessemer



On April 28, 2014 parts of the 7th Congressional District were badly damaged by tornadoes and severe weather. We joined with the Alabama delegation in sending a letter to President Obama urging him to support Governor Robert Bentley's request for an emergency declaration and immediate federal assistance. We toured the storm damage in Bessemer with state and local officials on May 3, 2014 and later that day, the President issued a major disaster declaration triggering immediate federal assistance. Read Congresswoman Sewell's Statement on the President's declaration [here](#).

Financial Literacy Day

On April 17, 2014 we hosted a Financial Literacy Forum at Stillman College. Panelists included representatives from Regions Bank, BBVA, Jump\$tart Coalition and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The panelists discussed the importance of paying off student loan debt, maintaining a good credit score and making wise investments.



Later that day, we visited students at Eastwood Middle School who participated in the Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association's (SIFMA) Capitol Hill Challenge which is a stock market game. The students learned about the importance of saving and investing.

2014 District Tour Continues

In April, we made our last stops on our 2014 “Congress in Your Community” town hall tour with visits to Choctaw, Sumter, Marengo, Clarke and Wilcox counties. Among our many stops, we visited and met with ministerial groups in Tuscaloosa, Dixons Mill, Birmingham and Selma. We also toured the Sumter County Hospital and the Alabama Federation of Southern Cooperatives. To see more pictures from our tour, visit our Flickr Account, [here](#).



Visiting with Commissioner Tyrone Moye and Jackson Mayor Richard Long in Clarke County



Meeting with Lisman City Councilors



Touring the Alabama Federation of Southern Cooperatives



Meeting with Ministers in Birmingham



Visiting with the Southwest Alabama Shepherd Ministerial Alliance in Dixons Mill



Presenting Mr. Charles Elliott Newton, a Montford Point Marine, with a Congressional Gold Medal



Touring the Tuscaloosa Career and Technology Academy



Touring the welding and horticulture departments at Wilcox Central High School



Congresswoman Sewell Urges DOJ to Investigate Greene County Bingo Raids

On April 4th, 2014 we sent [a letter](#) to Attorney General Eric Holder requesting that the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigate potential voting rights infringements in Greene County in light of the March 31 raid of four bingo halls. The closing of these bingo halls serves as a tremendous threat to current and future employment resulting in the loss of more than 1,000 jobs county-wide. We will continue to work with our constituents to urge the Justice Department to investigate potential voting rights infringements and to get the more than 1,000 people affected by these raids back to work.

2014 Congressional Art Competition



Amani Moore of Shades Valley High School is the 2014 Congressional Art Competition winner from the 7th District! Her piece is titled "Melancholy Candor". We are so proud of the outstanding talent of all of our students in the 7th District!!

Amani's artwork will be displayed in the United States Capitol.

Equal Pay Day 2014



Congresswoman Sewell with Lilly Ledbetter, and roommates and colleagues, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Carolyn Maloney and Frederica Wilson at the White House event on Women and the Economy

On April 8, 2014 Congresswoman Sewell attended the White House event on woman and the economy where President Obama signed an executive order empowering women to learn more about pay disparities and to ensure that federal contractors abide by equal pay laws. It has been 51 years since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law, yet Alabama women still only make 71 cents for every \$1.00 Alabama men make and American women make, on average, .77 for every \$1.00 men make.

Congresswoman Sewell will continue to work with President Obama and her congressional colleagues to ensure that all American women are paid the same as their male counterparts for the same work.



President Obama signing the executive memorandum ensuring that federal contractors abide by equal pay laws

GRANTS REPORT

During the month of April 2014 our office obtained **\$148,261.34** in retroactive benefits for our constituents.

CONSTITUENT SUCCESS STORY

At the end of 2013, a Veteran contacted our Tuscaloosa office for help with his children's Veterans Administration (VA) Educational benefits. Our staff worked to complete his children's benefit claims with both the VA Regional Office in Montgomery and the RPO/Educational Office in Muskogee, OK. At the beginning of May 2014 both children received their VA Educational benefits for a total of over \$14,753.

CONNECT WITH US



Please be sure to "like" us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#) to receive Congressional updates and keep abreast of office events!

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terri".

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress