

February/March 2016

# CONGRESSWOMAN TERRI SEWELL

REPRESENTING ALABAMA'S 7TH DISTRICT

Friends,

It is an honor 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 an update on the progress we have made both in Washington, D.C. and in Alabama's 7th Congressional District during the first quarter of this year.

For more information on recent developments in our office, please visit our website at <http://sewell.house.gov/>.

Sincerely,



## Congressional Gold Medal Awarded to Foot Soldiers of the Voting Rights Movement



On February 24, 2016, I had the honor of welcoming hundreds of Foot Soldiers to our nation's capital to receive the Congressional Gold Medal for their participation in the 1965 Voting Rights marches.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest honor Congress can bestow upon a civilian, and I was proud to honor Rev. Frederick D. Reese, former leader of the Dallas County Voter League,

by inviting him to accept the Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of all Foot Soldiers who participated in the historic Selma to Montgomery marches.

The sacrifices that were made over 50 years ago by these brave individuals led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It is because of their sacrifice that we must remain steadfast in our pursuit to pass the Voting Rights Restoration Act. It is our duty to eliminate modern day barriers to the ballot box; and I will continue to fight and uphold the victories obtained by the Foot Soldiers.



## Birmingham Civil Rights District Should Be Designated a National Park



On March 22, 2016, I introduced H.R. 4817, a bill to designate Birmingham's Historic Civil Rights District as a National Park. If passed, the park will include 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church, A.G. Gaston Motel, Kelly Ingram Park, Bethel Baptist Church, and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Every Member of Alabama's Congressional Delegation gave their full support in cementing Birmingham's pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement. The City of Birmingham, as well as local and national stakeholders have been instrumental in assisting my office with this great venture.

## Facebook Means Business



In recognition of Women's History Month, I partnered with Facebook for the 'Boost Your Business' seminar in Birmingham, Alabama focused on helping women-owned businesses use social media to expand their reach. When women succeed, America succeeds. Investing in women-owned small businesses is critical.

## Alabama Football Team Visits President Obama in the White House



The University of Alabama football team travelled to the White House to meet President Obama after winning the national championship against the Clemson University Tigers. I am so proud of these young gentlemen and their outstanding accomplishment. ROLL TIDE!

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> District in Congress. I'll be back in touch again soon!



## Congressional Forum on Voting Rights

On the weekend of the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Selma Bridge Crossing, I received 10 Members of Congress to Birmingham for a Congressional Forum on Voting Rights. I also invited experts, elected officials and members of the local community to give personal testimonials before Members of Congress on their thoughts and experiences with the current state of voting rights.



My colleagues were able to hear first-hand the struggles that people in our district are facing while trying to vote, examples of modern day barriers to the ballot box, and the need for Congress to act immediately to protect the right to vote for all Americans. The forum was open to the public and we had an amazing turnout from our constituents.

## Bill Introduced to Name Selma Post Office after Voting Rights Activist Amelia Boynton Robinson



This month I submitted legislation to name the Selma Post Office after the matriarch of the Voting Rights Movement, Amelia Boynton Robinson. It gives me extreme pleasure to honor the first Alabama woman to run for a seat in Congress. Without her trailblazing spirit, I would not be able to walk the halls of Congress today.

## Constituent Success Story

A wife from Tuscaloosa County contacted our Tuscaloosa office in October 2015 because her husband's immigration case had been in processing since 2009. The wife was struggling because their two children were growing up with a single parent. Our office contacted *United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)* to inquire on the status of his case. Working with USCIS we identified the delays and succeeded in resolving them.

In February 2016, the wife contacted our office to express her appreciation to Congresswoman Sewell and her staff for their initiative in getting her husband's claim processed. Her husband has finally met his 2 year-old for the first time and hugged his 7 year-old son for the first time in many years.