



# The Davis Dispatch

June 2018

Volume 18, Issue 6



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Representing California's 53rd District

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## Mother's Day with our Troops in Afghanistan



Discussing defense issues on a helicopter in Afghanistan.

Susan made her 12th annual bipartisan Mother's Day trip to Afghanistan to meet with our troops, including the many moms serving far from their families. Traveling with Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL), she also met with women serving in the Afghan military and police force as well as Rula Ghani, the First Lady of Afghanistan.

On Mother's Day, Susan joined our nation's troops for breakfast and delivered handmade cards from students for servicemembers. The group included members of the California National Guard. "It's always inspiring to spend time with these incredible women and men who are sacrificing so much for our country," she said.

In addition to meeting with our troops, Susan's annual trip focuses on empowering the women of Afghanistan. She met with female leaders and members of the Afghanistan National Security Forces, who talked about the challenges they face serving their country. Susan sees the participation of women as key to Afghanistan's future success.

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## MAY LEGISLATIVE RECAP

### National Defense Authorization Passes House

In a bipartisan vote of 351-66, the House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (NDAA). The NDAA is the annual budget and spending bill for the Department of Defense, so timely passage is important to our national security.

As a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, Susan moved to include a number of policy items in the NDAA that make needed improvements in a wide range of areas. These include aircraft maintenance funding, childcare for servicemembers, healthcare for disabled veterans, mental health services, sexual assault prevention, and retention of women in the military. These provisions are critical to our region and national security, as well as our servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Susan also added language in the defense bill to get a report from the Navy assessing national security concerns surrounding border sewage spills in the Tijuana River Valley. For more information about the amendments she had included in the NDAA, please visit Susan's website at [susandavis.house.gov](http://susandavis.house.gov).

### Demanding Action on Dreamers and Net Neutrality

There is currently movement in the House to force leadership to consider a number of immigration bills, including the DREAM Act, despite opposition from House Speaker Paul Ryan. Moderate Republicans are joining Democrats in signing a discharge petition to force a vote on immigration. Susan joined this bipartisan effort and signed the petition because of the urgent need to protect Dreamers.

Another stalled item that is seeing action is net neutrality. After Senate Democrats passed legislation to restore net neutrality protections, Susan joined her colleagues in signing a discharge petition to force a vote on this issue in the House. Susan supports restoring net neutrality rules because she believes a free and open Internet provides limitless opportunities for education, commerce, and information sharing.

### Cosponsored Legislation

**H.R. 898, Credit Scoring Competition Act**, a bipartisan bill that would allow Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to consider alternative credit-scoring models beyond the FICO credit score they currently use. The bill would help more people who pay their bills on time to qualify for a mortgage.

**H.R. 5045, STOP Homelessness Act**, a bill that amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate overpayments of tax as contributions and to make additional contributions to a Housing and Urban Development fund, to be known as the Stop Homelessness Fund.

### GOING FORWARD: Pride Month & the June Legislative Agenda

Every June, we recognize Pride Month to honor the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall riots and celebrate the hard-fought strides toward equality made by our LGBT community. While more still needs to be done, it is important to recognize the historic efforts made in the name of justice.

On the legislative agenda for June, the House is expected to take up a controversial immigration bill and a second attempt at passing a Farm Bill. After the first attempt failed in the House, members of the conservative Freedom Caucus pushed Speaker Ryan to consider a divisive immigration bill in exchange for their support for the Farm Bill.

Last, the House is expected to consider a water bill that could bring needed investment to the San Diego River for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### The 2018 Congressional Art Competition

Susan was excited to host the 2018 Congressional Art Competition at the Mingei International Museum in Balboa Park. This year, Susan's office received over 50 entries from five different high schools throughout the district.

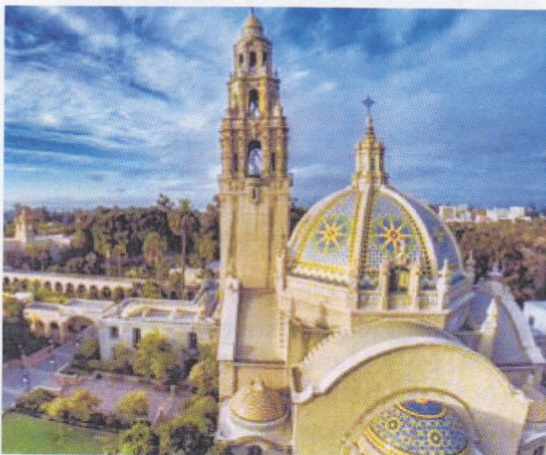
After much deliberation among the art competition judges, this year's winner was Jenny Nguyen from the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts for her piece "Timeless Distortion." The artwork will represent the 53rd congressional district in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol Building.

As the senior member of the House Committee on Education and Workforce and a former director of a youth leadership program in San Diego, Susan knows that young people are often the most thoughtful and creative members of our community, and this contest offers them a national platform for displaying that creativity. As the winner, Jenny received various prizes including two plane tickets to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony in Washington, DC.



*Jenny Nguyen (above) and other art competition participants.*

### 150 Years of Balboa Park



*View of Balboa Park from above.*

This year marks Balboa Park's 150 Anniversary! Susan submitted a Congressional Record statement in recognition of this milestone and provided a proclamation to the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, an organization that serves as a voice for 28 of Balboa Park's arts, science, and cultural institutions.

Since the beginning, Balboa Park has hosted a variety of community events that highlight the diversity of San Diego's rich history. This amazing landmark truly serves as a symbol of the cultural significance of the parks in our county. Susan is honored to have this magnificent park in her district in America's Finest City.



## Visiting the South County Economic Development Council



Susan addressed the Board of Directors at the South County Economic Development Council where she spoke on issues affecting the South Bay region. Susan highlighted her work in Washington on higher education and her efforts to address how construction of the future Navy Seal training site could be affected by cross-border sewage spills in the Tijuana River.

## Speaking with Students at Helix High School



Susan visited the students of Helix High School's Advanced Placement American Government class. They had an open conversation about some of the challenges she has faced as a Congresswoman and the different ways the federal government functions.

## Meeting with East County Chamber of Commerce



The East County Chamber of Commerce invited Susan to address their members as a part of their Dine and Dialogue speaker series. Members of the Chamber asked Susan about a number of topics concerning her work with education, veterans, businesses, and the military.

## Celebrating National Small Business Week



As a part of National Small Business Week, Susan toured two local small businesses, Le Caramel and Mail Management Group, Inc. During her visit, she heard from the owners about different ways Congress can support small business leaders in San Diego County.