

Lynch Visits Troops in Iraq, Middle East

In August, Congressman Lynch visited our troops serving in Iraq, as part of a three Member Congressional Delegation. This was his third visit to the region since the beginning of the War in Iraq two years ago. The Congressmen visited with troops in Iraq and Kuwait as well as the Landstuhl Military Hospital in Ramstein, Germany.

In this latest visit, Congressman Lynch also reviewed anti-insurgent operations in al Qaim, along the Syrian border, and at Balad Air Force Base, northwest of Baghdad. After his meeting with command staff of U.S. Forces in Iraq, Congressman Lynch stated, "Although there has been some progress since I was first here in May 2003, Iraq remains a war zone and the situation continues to be extremely challenging for our men and women in uniform. In contrast to the difficulties that they are facing, I was extremely impressed

by the high morale of the troops. We have every reason to be very proud of them."

Representative Lynch added, "While Iraq's national elections last January were a first step in establishing a stable government in Iraq, there remain persistent problems. I do believe that our long term presence in Iraq will actually have a destabilizing effect on the region. Firstly because our presence there feeds the suspicions of militant Islamists who oppose a permanent occupation and secondly because our presence serves as a disincentive to Iraqis who must eventually take responsibility for their own security."

"The day is coming very soon when we will be able to determine whether the people of Iraq want democracy as much as other nations want it for them," Lynch said. "I believe the most



Congressman Lynch meets with lifelong Milton resident and engineer John King in Tikrit, Iraq, to discuss whether our troops are adequately prepared with sufficient equipment and body armor.

important steps will occur after the October 15th ratification of the Iraqi Constitution followed by general elections in December 2005. It's my hope that once we reach those two important milestones, we can begin to bring our troops home as the Iraqis take control of their own security."

How My Office Can Be Helpful to You and Your Family

Attend a Military Academy

One of my special responsibilities is to recommend talented young men and women from the Ninth District for admission into one of the United States Military Academies. All applications must be submitted to my office by November 1st to be considered for the following academic year. Please contact my office if you are interested.

Purchase a U.S. Flag

My offices are able to purchase U.S. flags, at cost, which can be flown over the U.S. Capitol. If you would like to have a flag flown over the Capitol or would just like to purchase a flag, my staff is more than willing to help.



Intern in my Congressional Office

Internships are a wonderful way for our young people to get involved and to see how our federal government works. Interns play a vital role in all of my offices. If you are a college student interested in interning in my Boston, Brockton or Washington, D.C. offices, please contact me.

Visit our Nation's Capital

We can help to arrange tours of the House of Representatives and the Capitol Building, as well as the White House. Please give my office at least two months advance notice for Capitol tours and four months advance notice for White House tours so that we have plenty of time to reserve tours for you and your family. Because of new security and visitor restrictions at the White House, tours fill up very quickly and many tour requests are not granted, so I encourage you to get your requests in as early as possible. I hope you will be able to stop by my office at 319 Cannon House Office Building while you're in town.



Get Help with Your Immigration and Passport Applications

Many constituents find it difficult to access information on their pending immigration and passport applications. If you have any questions about your immigration status, a pending application, how to file a petition on behalf of a family member, or need help obtaining a passport, please contact my office.

Get Help Obtaining Veterans' Benefits

Every man and woman who serves our country, whether it be at peacetime or war, is deserving of our utmost respect and gratitude. If you need assistance with health care or other Veterans' benefits; please do not hesitate to contact my office. I am here to do everything I can to help veterans in need.



Congressman Stephen F. Lynch

A Report from Washington, D.C. to the People of the Ninth District

Fall 2005

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you at a time when many of the young men and women from our District continue to serve our nation proudly in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world. Our thoughts are with them and their families, and I join all Americans in the hope that they may return home soon. These brave service men and women are doing an outstanding job and have accomplished much, but they have a difficult road ahead of them in the coming months.

A message from Congressman Lynch

At home, America is currently undertaking the largest recovery effort in our history as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Shortly after the hurricane, I took part in a Congressional Delegation to the Gulf Coast region to see first-hand the government's response to that emergency. I had a chance to view the devastation and speak with residents, local leaders, the National Guard and FEMA officials to assess the evacuation and rescue efforts and to reaffirm the federal government's commitment to provide assistance.

As you may know, I serve on two committees in the Congress, the Committee on Government Reform and the Committee on Financial Services. The Government Reform Committee, which is the investigatory arm of the House of Representatives, is currently investigating the Iraqi Oil for Food Scandal, contract irregularities involving Halliburton in the Middle East, and most recently, steroid abuse in Major League Baseball and

professional sports. This year, the Government Reform Committee was reorganized and I was named the Ranking Member, or top Democrat, on the newly created Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee.

In the coming months, I expect the Congress to take up a number of critical issues, most notably, Social Security Reform. As Chair of the Congressional Labor and Working Families Caucus,

I have also been working with my colleagues to ensure that our country does not enter into any trade agreements that put American jobs and the rights of foreign workers at risk. Namely, I have been fighting against the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) which fails to learn the lessons of NAFTA and would ship American jobs overseas and further burden our current trade deficit.

We have many challenges ahead of us, and I look forward to hearing from you if you have thoughts or concerns about the issues we face. If there is any way I can be helpful to you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. Best wishes for a happy and healthy fall season.

Sincerely,

Stephen F. Lynch



This photo was taken from a military helicopter during Congressman Lynch's recent visit to the Gulf Coast Region after Hurricane Katrina. The Congressional Delegation stopped in New Orleans and coastal Mississippi to survey the damage, observe the humanitarian efforts underway and determine the long-term environmental hazards that the region will face.



Members of the National Breast Cancer Coalition traveled to Congressman Lynch's office to recognize his perfect voting record on issues related to breast cancer and quality health care for women, including better research, preventative screening, and treatment.

New Legislation to Protect Educational Status of Guard and Reserves

Continuing his commitment to members of the National Guard and Reserves, Congressman Lynch introduced "The Military Educational Parity Act of 2005" (H.R. 333). This legislation puts our Guardsmen and women and Reservists on equal footing with other students, and ensures that they will not be penalized by their institutions of higher learning when they are called up to Active Duty.

For assistance, please feel free to contact any of the following offices:

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The Staff



Congressman Lynch's Washington Office includes (left to right) Legislative Director Caroline Powers, Legislative Assistant Bruce Fernandez, Legislative Assistant Alexandra Toma, Staff Assistant Pete Sally, Executive Assistant Greta Hebert, Chief of Staff Kevin Ryan, and Legislative Counsel Kerry Lawrence.



Brockton District Office Manager Tamika Correia stands with Congressman Lynch.



Congressman Lynch's Boston District Office includes (left to right) Senior District Representative Nick Zafrenkis, Press Secretary Matt Ferraguto, Immigration Specialist Sarah Bonaiuto, District Chief of Staff Stacey Monahan, Staff Assistant Kenya Beaman, District Representative Jim Gordon, Senior District Representative Dan Lynch, and District Representative Bob Fowlkes.

Lynch Hosts Town Hall Forum on Social Security Reform

As has been widely reported, the Congress is expected to take up the issue of Social Security reform later this year. President Bush has offered a proposal to dramatically change Social Security by creating private accounts within the system. Congressman Lynch believes that it is important for working families to stay informed on the debate and to make their opinions and their concerns about the President's proposal known.

To facilitate an open discussion with his constituents, Congressman Lynch held a Town Hall Forum on May 9th at Curry College in Milton to discuss the future of Social Security with residents from across the Ninth Congressional District. During the two hour long forum, he showed a brief video on the history of Social Security, explained who the system benefits, detailed the proposals to reform Social Security and discussed concerns about the President's plan to create private accounts. The forum concluded with a question and answer session where members of the audience were able to voice their concerns and comments.

Congressman Lynch told the crowd that: "Social Security says a lot about who we are as a nation. It says that we are all in this together, and when unforeseen events occur in our lives, we're going to watch out for one another. Namely, we're going to do what we can to ensure that senior citizens don't live out the twilight of their lives in poverty. That noble and principled notion, the idea of shared sacrifice, was one of the principles our nation was founded upon, and any changes we make to Social Security should honor that."

During the forum, Congressman Lynch stressed the need for Democrats and Republicans to work together to shore up Social Security. He disagreed with President Bush's plan to privatize portions of Social Security, because it would push the system into fiscal crisis and would force the United States to borrow upwards of \$2 trillion dollars and expand our current national debt, which currently stands at \$7.8 trillion dollars.

Impact of the President's Social Security Reform Plan on Families in the Ninth Congressional District

- All workers who are younger than 55 and earn more than \$20,000 would see a reduction in benefits.
- Of the 290,000 workers in our District, 75% would lose a portion of their benefits.
- The average benefit cut for workers in our District between the ages of 35 and 55 would be \$2,640 annually. For workers under 35, that figure increases to \$6,960.
- In total, workers in our District stand to lose nearly \$20 billion. Three quarters of those cuts would come from people earning between \$30,000 and \$90,000 per year.



Congressman Lynch joins Carrie Lemack, Founder of the Families of Sept. 11, at the 9/11 Memorial in Boston to call on the Congress to adopt the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Shortly thereafter, the Intelligence Reform Act, which is intended to improve communication between agencies and better prepare us to prevent a future terrorist attack, was approved by the Congress and signed into law.

Lynch Steps Up Fight Against Substance Abuse

Recently, Congressman Lynch introduced legislation to address the increasing OxyContin problem in our communities. This legislation was filed in response to the growing public health crisis surrounding the drug's extraordinarily high addiction rate.

As Congressman Lynch explained, "This product is one of the most addictive substances to be sold legally in the United States. It has been reported that 75% of patients suffering from substance abuse are addicted to painkillers like OxyContin, rather than illegal narcotics like heroin. The premise of my legislation is that as currently prescribed, marketed and designed, OxyContin is so inherently addictive that it is unsafe for the general population."

The FDA first approved OxyContin in 1995, and according to the DEA, since that time, the number of OxyContin prescriptions dispensed has increased 20-fold to about 6 million prescriptions in 2000. During this same time, medical examiners, drug treatment centers, law enforcement personnel, and pharmacists have reported a substantial increase in the abuse of this product. In recent years, the number of overdoses of

OxyContin has risen by a staggering 450 percent. OxyContin is unique because of its time-release formulation which can be easily manipulated to create an intense euphoria for abusers similar to heroin. Currently 56% of all OxyContin addictions have occurred in patients who were legally prescribed the drug by their doctor.

Locally, Congressman Lynch is working to bring federal dollars back to the Ninth Congressional District to help community educational outreach programs as well as treatment facilities. This year, he lobbied for and secured \$640,000 in federal funding to enhance local substance abuse education programs and expand adolescent treatment programs.



As Ranking Member of the Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee, Congressman Lynch hosted a field hearing in Boston on September 13th to examine federal regulation of narcotic painkillers like OxyContin. He was joined by Subcommittee Chairman Candice Miller (R-MI).

Congressional Committee Comes to Boston to Investigate the Big Dig

In response to continued reports of wall panel and roof leaks as well as public concerns regarding the structural safety of the Central Artery Tunnels, Congressman Lynch toured the Big Dig Project site in November 2004. Following this visit and given his commitment to ensuring that Massachusetts taxpayers are not left footing the bill for design flaws and lax oversight by Project officials, Lynch, a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, requested that the Committee conduct a field hearing in Boston on the Big Dig.

Congressman Lynch expressed his appreciation for the pride and skill of the men and women who helped to build the most complex construction project in U.S. history.

During the hearing, Congressman Lynch questioned the witnesses regarding the extent and causes of the Big Dig leaks. Additionally, Lynch closely examined the progress of current cost recovery efforts, and how Project officials planned to make certain that taxpayers would not be held responsible for the cost of future repairs. "What we're trying to do here is preserve the legacy of this monumental effort and restore accountability," said Lynch. "And that can only happen when all parties share responsibility for making the necessary repairs," he added.

Currently, Congressman Lynch is examining the final results of an extensive audit performed by Deloitte & Touche. It is expected that this audit will shed additional light on the costs of water infiltration issues in the I-93 tunnels and whether the Project's estimated \$14.625 billion bud-

get and scheduled completion date will be significantly affected by the Big Dig leaks. In addition, he will continue to work with Department of Transportation Inspector General Mead and Attorney General Reilly to ensure that the parties responsible for the leaks, and not taxpayers, bear the entire repair cost.



Congressman Lynch and Big Dig project engineers examine the damage to one of the tunnel wall panels caused by the leak on September 15, 2004.

Update on the New Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

Medicare is facing some big changes in the upcoming six months that will impact beneficiaries in the 9th Congressional District. Beginning in January 2006, Medicare will offer prescription drug coverage. This coverage will be offered as insurance from private companies. Enrollees will be able to choose a plan and pay a monthly premium.

You can join a Medicare prescription drug plan from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006. You can choose to enroll,

but you must join to get coverage. If you do not sign up with a plan by May 15, you may have to pay a penalty. Enrolling by May 15, 2006 means you pay a lower monthly premium than if you join later.

To learn more about how the new Medicare prescription drug coverage may impact you, please contact Congressman Lynch's office at 617-428-2000 or call 1-800-MEDICARE or visit www.medicare.gov.

Federal Highway Bill Brings \$13 Million in Transportation Funding to the District

Earlier this year, the federal government determined what its transportation priorities will be for the next four years. Congressman Lynch was successful in securing funding in the bill for the following highway and transit projects in the Ninth Congressional District:

Congressman Lynch stands with Brockton Mayor Jack Yunits and Brockton Area Transit Authority Administrator Ray Ledoux to announce \$2 million in new federal funding for the replacement of BAT buses.



- City of Boston**
\$2.4 million for rehabilitation of the Northern Avenue Bridge
- MBTA**
\$1 million for security improvements to South Station and MBTA
- Brockton Area Transit Authority**
\$1.254 million for new BAT buses
- Town of Holbrook**
\$1.22 million for reconstruction of Union Street and Route 138W
- Town of Milton**
\$1 million for improvements to East Milton Square

- Milton - Boston City Line**
\$1.2 million for roadway and traffic improvements
- Town of Needham**
\$1.4 million for Route 128/95 ramp to Kendrick Street
- Town of Norwood**
\$780,000 for a pedestrian walkway
- Town of Walpole**
\$1.4 million for roadway and traffic improvements on Washington Street
- Town of W. Bridgewater**
\$1.2 million for roadway and traffic improvements at Route 28 and Route 106



Congressman Lynch congratulates Clara Bohan, senior at Walpole High School and 9th District Congressional Art Competition winner of the 2004 Congressional Art Competition, and her parents, Michele and Thomas Bohan. Clara's artwork hung in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., for a full year.



Alexandre Daluz, senior at Brockton High School, won the 2005 Congressional Art Competition with this self-portrait, entitled "My Workspace".