

## Political Tidbits

Congressman Richard W. Pombo  
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[www.house.gov/pombo](http://www.house.gov/pombo)

### Pombo webpage rated at the top in the House

#### *Central Valley Beats Silicon Valley*

Congressman Richard Pombo's webpage ([www.house.gov/pombo](http://www.house.gov/pombo)) has been rated as the second best webpage in the entire House of Representatives. The study was commissioned by The Advocacy Group, a Seattle-based Internet and political consulting firm that surveyed all 540 web sites in the House and Senate during a two-week period during February 2001. Each site was evaluated according to specific information including recent content, audio or video clips, use of e-mail and search capability. Congressman Pombo's webpage received a score of 16 out of a possible 17 points.

"From all the comments I've heard, I knew the webpage is popular," Pombo stated. "But it sure is nice to have an independent group say so. The webpage is a great resource for everyone in the Central Valley - offering interactive information regarding legislation, tours in Washington, DC and helping people register to vote, among many other tools. I think our hi-tech Congressional friends in the Silicon Valley could learn a thing or two surfing this rancher's webpage."

### The Tax Bill in Perspective

On May 26, Congress passed a tax bill fulfilling President Bush's commitment to reduce taxes for all Americans. Below are some of the highlights of what the tax bill will mean for America's families:

#### Lower Tax Rates:

- New 10% tax rate applies to the first \$6,000 of income for individuals, \$10,000 for the heads of households, and \$12,000 for couples.

#### Reduced Marriage Penalty:

- Sets the standard deduction for couples at twice the level for individuals - phased in over 5 years beginning in 2005.
- Sets the 15% bracket for couples at twice the level for individuals - phased in over 4 years beginning in 2005.

#### Per Child Tax Credit

- Doubles the child credit from \$500 per year to \$1,000 per year.

#### Adoption Tax Benefits:

- Increases the adoption tax credit to \$10,000 per eligible child.
- Increases the exclusion from income for employer-provided adoption assistance to \$10,000.
- Increases the starting point for the phase-out of both provisions to \$150,000 of adjusted gross income.

#### Estate and Gift Tax:

- Phases-out the estate tax beginning in 2002 by eliminating the 5% surtax and the rates in excess of 50% and increases the exemption to \$1 million.

**Opponents of the measure have argued that the tax relief is "unaffordable." Below are some quick facts about the size of the tax bill:**

- The tax bill passed by Congress is smaller as a percentage of government revenue and the economy than the tax cuts proposed by President Kennedy in 1963 and President Reagan in 1981
- The tax bill passed by Congress will reduce revenues by less than 5% versus current law over the next ten years.
- Even after passing the tax bill, the surplus will be large enough to
  1. Protect 100% of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds.
  2. Pay off ALL available publicly held debt over the next ten years.
  3. Retain a contingency fund for either additional tax relief or spending.

### Today in History

**1431** - Joan of Arc was burned at the stake in Rouen, France, at the age of 19.

**1783** - The first daily newspaper was published in the U.S. by Benjamin Towner called "The Pennsylvania Evening Post."

**1854** - The U.S. territories of Nebraska and Kansas were established.

**1868** - Memorial Day was observed for the first time in the U.S.

**1908** - The 1st federal workers compensation law was approved.

**1912** - The U.S. Marines were sent to Nicaragua.

**1922** - The Lincoln Memorial was dedicated in Washington, DC.

**1943** - American forces secured the Aleutian island of Attu from the Japanese during World War II.

**1958** - Unidentified soldiers killed in World War II and the Korean conflict were buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

**1982** - Spain became 16th NATO member. Spain was the first country to enter the Western Alliance since West Germany in 1955.

*From The History of Today*

### Weekly Quote

"I think the Governor should peek out from behind the curtain" and tell Californians what he intends to do to solve the crisis,"

Assemblywoman Carole Migden, D- San Francisco

## Political Tidbits cont.

### Former Pombo staffer to lead State communications efforts com-

California Republican Party Chairman Shawn Steel announced today that the party has retained Rob Stutzman as a communications consultant.

"We want Californians to clearly understand how Republicans are fighting to improve our way of life," said Steel. "Rob Stutzman is a veteran communications pro who will help us bring that message to the citizens. Unfortunately, it is also necessary to counter the political rhetoric of Governor Davis who is now trying to blame his incompetent handling of the state's energy crisis on the White House. Rob will be an integral part of our effort to challenge the Davis spin machine as Republicans focus on serving the state's citizens and Governor Davis focuses on trying to save his own political skin."

### Farmers vs. Suckerfish

'At least they're not shooting at me this time.' That's about the only good thing World War II veteran Paul Christy has to say in comparing his experiences as a fighter pilot 55 years ago with what he and his fellow veterans-turned-farmers are experiencing today at the hands of their own government in Klamath Basin. Christy and 213 other war veterans came home from defending their country in the mid-1940s and were lured by the U.S. government to Klamath Basin, a high desert area that straddles the California-Oregon state line, by promises of a homestead including irrigated farmland with guaranteed water rights forever.

But today, the government that Christy and others defended has decided -- with the prompting of professional environmental activists -- that the farmers' water rights are less important than the rights of some 'endangered' sucker fish and 'threatened' coho salmon. As a result of 'citizen' lawsuits filed by the activists under a provision of the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which operates the irrigation system, turned off the taps on April 7. The Bureau decided to set aside virtually all of the water from Klamath Lake to protect habitats for the sucker fish and salmon instead. The lake is full, but the irrigation ditches are dry. Without irrigation water, the farmers' crops and pastureland - and with it their livelihoods and way of life - are in jeopardy of becoming a thing of the past.

*Reprinted from CNSNews.com*

## Comments from the District

"Oppose Congressmen Tauzin and Dingle bill designed to modify restrictions on the large phone companies sending data on long distance pathways" - **George Shouey** - 4/25/01

"I for one intend to make it a habit of looking for the 'made in \_\_\_\_\_' label from now on" - **Geraldine DeWitt-Edwards** - 4/25/01

"Tax oil companies 75% of their ill got profit" - **John Bass, Jr.** - 4/24/01

"Repeal the Lautenburg gun ban bill" - **Dr. Ernest Vance** - 4/24/01

"Defeat "Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act" - **Steven Scarboro** - 4/23/01

"All you have to do is drive Highway 99 or visit most schools and you'll see why the State has no business being the caretaker of an aging transmission system or worse yet - Diablo Canyon" - **Allen Wolter** - 4/19/01

*You can view more comments on Congressman Pombo's web site bulletin board at the link here: <http://www.house.gov/pombo/board2001/board2001.htm>*

### Wordsmith

#### spin doctor

**Function:** noun

**Date:** 1984

: a person (as a political aide) responsible for ensuring that others interpret an event from a particular point of view

*Reprinted from www.m-w.com*

### By the Numbers

#### Bush vs Davis

California Gov. Gray Davis blames President Bush for his state's electricity woes, but a new survey finds that Californians have a higher opinion of the president than of their governor.

Only 46 percent of 2,001 respondents in a poll conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California gave Mr. Davis a positive job-approval rating, down from 63 percent in January. And only 29 percent of those polled approved of the way the Democrat is handling the electricity crisis. Sixty percent disapprove.

Mr. Bush, on the other hand, had a 57 percent job-approval rating, with 36 percent disapproving. Thirty-three percent approved of his handling of the electricity problem, while 56 percent disapproved.

*Reprinted from the Washington Times*

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