

## This Week in Washington

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

### Websites of Reps. Pombo and Honda ranked best in Congress

WASHINGTON, March 3, 2003 — The websites of U.S. Reps. Richard Pombo [www.house.gov/pombo](http://www.house.gov/pombo) and Mike Honda [www.house.gov/honda](http://www.house.gov/honda) were ranked as some of the best websites in Congress in a non-partisan, independent study. The Congress Online Project, a joint research project of the Congressional Management Foundation and the George Washington University, funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts awarded Rep. Pombo's website with the "Golden Mouse Award" (A+ grade). Rep. Honda's website was honored with the "Silver Mouse Award" (A grade).

"Rep. Richard Pombo does an outstanding job of building relationships with his audiences online," the Congress Online study stated. "Rich content and interactive features bring visitors back again and again." The study further reported that: "Rep. Mike Honda's Web site stood out in our evaluations for the way it presents its issue information."

"I'm proud my website won the Golden Mouse Award again," said Pombo. "My Congressional webpage can be of tremendous service to those seeking assistance with the federal government and those interested in learning more about the issues facing Congress. I hope more people log on every day." *(cont. on page 2)*

### Pombo announces further Appropriations funding

Congressman Richard Pombo today announced the following projects were included in the Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act. All of the projects listed below were formally requested by Congressman Pombo.

FY 2003 Omnibus Projects for CA-11:

- Lower Mokelumne River Restoration Program (San Joaquin) \$300,000
- Llagas Creek Flood Protection Plan (Santa Clara) \$325,000
- San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Project (Alameda and Contra Costa) \$300,000
- Ripon Youth Center (San Joaquin) \$202,500
- Stockton Fox Theatre (San Joaquin) \$202,500
- Ripon Water Standards (San Joaquin) \$450,000
- Children's Museum of Stockton (San Joaquin) \$100,000
- Port of Stockton Dredging (San Joaquin) \$2.5 million
- University of the Pacific, Eberhardt School of Business (San Joaquin) \$400,000

### 2003 Healthy Forest Initiative launched in Flagstaff, AZ

#### Renzi's home district of Catastrophic 2002 Rodeo-Chedisky Wildfire

Washington, D.C. - The House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health will hold a Field Hearing on "Crisis on the National Forests:

**Containing the Threat of Wildland Fire to the Environment and Communities" on Friday, March 7, 2003 at 10:00 a.m., in Flagstaff, AZ.** The hearing will take place at the **Council Chambers, City Hall 211, West Aspen Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001.**

With last year's wildfire season scorching over 7 million acres of national forest, the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health is swiftly moving into action on President Bush's Healthy Forests Initiative with a field hearing in the district of one of the most catastrophic 2002 fires. Congressman Rick Renzi (R-AZ), sits on the Forest Subcommittee and invited Resources Chairman Richard Pombo (R-CA), Forest Subcommittee Chairman Scott McInnis (R-CO) and other Committee Members to take a firsthand look at the devastating *(cont. on page 2)*

### Today in History

**1789** - The first Congress of the United States met in New York and declared that the U.S. Constitution was in effect.

**1791** - Vermont was admitted as the 14th U.S. state. It was the first addition to the original 13 American colonies.

**1826** - The first railroad in the U.S. was chartered. It was the Granite Railway in MA.

**1837** - The state of Illinois granted a city charter to Chicago.

**1861** - The Confederate States of America adopted the "Stars and Bars" flag.

**1917** - Jeanette Rankin of Montana took her seat as the first woman elected to the House of Representatives.

**1925** - Calvin Coolidge took the oath of office in Washington, DC. The presidential inauguration was broadcast on radio for the first time.

**1933** - U.S. President Roosevelt gave his inauguration speech in which he said "We have nothing to fear, but fear itself."

**1933** - Labor Secretary Frances Perkins became the first woman to serve in a Presidential cabinet.

**1954** - In Boston, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital reported the first successful kidney transplant.

**1991** - Sheik Saad al-Jaber al-Sabah, the prime minister of Kuwait, returned to his country for the first time since Iraq's invasion.

*From [www.on-this-day.com](http://www.on-this-day.com)*

## This Week in Washington cont.

### Websites of Reps. Pombo and Honda (cont.)

Rep. Honda commented, "I am pleased that my website has won this award. My website provides a lot of content to my constituents, the media, and others interested in my legislative record. In 2002 my site averaged 150,000 hits per month. My website is an integral tool in my efforts to communicate with my constituents."

The study evaluated 610 websites in Congress -- all Member office, committee and leadership sites -- to determine which sites were the best and to assess how well Congress was using the Internet to communicate with the public. 16 websites won the Golden Mouse (A+), 26 won the Silver Mouse (A), and 33 won the Bronze Mouse (A-). This research is the second annual report to combine a comprehensive analysis and grading of all congressional websites.

The report is designed to both critique current website practices and provide a blueprint for congressional offices that wish to improve their Web sites. The websites were graded from August through November of 2002 using five criteria essential to good congressional websites: audience, content, interactivity, usability, and innovations. The research included multiple reviews of the sites by the project team and an independent panel, interviews with congressional staff, and available studies on best practices in Web sites. The complete list of the Congress Online Gold, Silver, and Bronze Mouse Award winners is available at: [www.congressonlineproject.org/webstudy2003.html](http://www.congressonlineproject.org/webstudy2003.html).

### 2003 Healthy Forest Initiative (cont.)

effects of last year's wildfire season in his district. Renzi's district, containing the largest stand of ponderosa pines in the world, last summer suffered the biggest fire in Southwest history. The Rodeo-Chediski fire burned for nearly three weeks and destroyed more than 468,000 acres of forest and tribal land.

The Flagstaff hearing will explore the catastrophic impact of last year's wildfire season on communities and environmental resources, while focusing on legislative and administrative proposals to empower land managers to better deal with these crisis conditions. Flagstaff typifies urban and rural interface, with untreated forests infested with bark beetles and remains a community threatened by catastrophic fire in desperate need of immediate wildfire relief.

As the 2003 wildfire season quickly approaches, the Resources Committee is expeditiously moving on bipartisan wildfire legislation that will allow fuel reduction projects on federal lands under accelerated procedures. With approximately 75 million acres of federal forest land at unnaturally high risk to catastrophic wildfire, land managers are expected to treat only 2 million acres this year. Dead underbrush and vegetation, dried by drought conditions, remains tinder on the vulnerable forest floors. These conditions continue to endanger habitats for our threatened and endangered species and rangelands near communities and municipal water supplies.

#### Statement from Congressman Rick Renzi:

"The President's Healthy Forests Initiative reflects years of research by numerous scientists, including Wally Covington at Northern Arizona University," Congressman Renzi said. "It's appropriate that we hold this hearing to debate the substance of the Healthy Forests Initiative in Flagstaff, the home of Dr. Covington and Northern Arizona University."

#### Statement from Chairman Richard Pombo:

"Wildland fire devastates everything in its path, destroying forests and wildlife. Nowhere is that better known than in Rick Renzi's Congressional District, home to the largest stand of ponderosa pines in the world. I appreciate Rick's request that a hearing be held in his district - as we begin work on the Healthy Forests Initiative, it is critical that we come to Arizona to see firsthand the effects these fires could have on the fragile environment and local communities."

*Reprinted from [resourcescommittee.house.gov](http://resourcescommittee.house.gov)*

### Wordsmith

#### com·mu·ni·cate

**Pronunciation:** k&-'myü-n&-"kAt

**Function:** verb

**Date:** 1526

1 *archaic* : **SHARE**

2 a : to convey knowledge of or information about : make known

b : to reveal by clear signs

3 : to cause to pass from one to another

*From [www.m-w.com](http://www.m-w.com)*

### Congress Online Awards Gold Mouse to pombo.house.gov

Rep. Richard Pombo does an outstanding job of building relationships with his audiences online. Rich content and interactive features bring visitors back again and again. These include:

- Up-to-date information on the home page to keep it fresh and continually changing for repeat visitors;
- A bulletin board of posted constituent comments that allows visitors to read what their neighbors are saying;
- Information on a range of topics, including high-tech and agricultural issues-issues of particular concern to two key constituencies in his district;
- An extensive gallery of constituent photos; and
- The "Pombo Report," a weekly e-mail newsletter that includes information ranging from a discussion of current events to recent legislative activity.

*From [www.congressonlineproject.org/goldhouse2003.html](http://www.congressonlineproject.org/goldhouse2003.html)*

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