

This Week in Washington

Congressman Richard Pombo
11th District, California

Tours Available through Congressman Pombo's Office

Looking forward to summer vacation and can't think of a place to visit? Well, consider our Nation's Capitol. My Congressional office can help you plan various tours all of which are listed below. If you can't make up your mind or need some assistance please call at (202)225-1947 or check out my website at www.pombo.house.gov.

US Capitol

This tour will take you through the history of our nation's Capitol, beginning with the Hall of Columns. As you walk through the crypt, you will get to see the directional star, where our Nation's capital was laid out in form. You will also get to see the Old Supreme Court chamber where landmark cases were decided. As you continue toward the Rotunda, you get to take a brief stop at the Old Senate Gallery. After you get to see the awe-inspiring Rotunda, you will move on to the Old House Gallery, home of many beautifully crafted statues and the astonishing whisper spot. At the end of the tour you will get to sit in on the House Gallery, where you can see American Democracy in action. Tours are available Monday through Friday between 10am and 2 pm.

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress has the largest collection of books in the entire world, as Congress retains at least one copy of every book ever published. This building is located across the street from the Capitol and is a great tour to take afterwards. It's a beautiful building that you must see. Scheduled tours are available Monday through Friday at 8:30am and 2:00 pm. Plus various public tours are also available.

The Supreme Court

Come and see the highest court in the land, where our Constitution is upheld and its applications updated with the cases that pass through its doors. This tour is in high demand so please call well in advance for scheduling.

(cont. on page 2)

Social Security Protection Passes

Rep. Richard Pombo Votes YES

Rooting-Out Fraud and Protecting People with Disabilities

WASHINGTON - Today, the Social Security Protection Act of 2003 passed the House with a vote of 402-19.

"We're on a tight budget and protecting Social Security beneficiaries now will save taxpayers in the future," said Rep. Pombo. "Cracking-down on those abusing the system is overdue."

The Social Security Protection Act strengthens the system by: *(cont. on page 2)*

Rep. Richard Pombo awarded Hero of the Taxpayer

Rep. Richard Pombo accepts award for a strong record of protecting taxpayers in 2003

WASHINGTON - Today, during an award ceremony held at the U.S. Capitol, Rep. Richard Pombo was presented with the Hero of the Taxpayer award by Americans for Tax Reform (ATR).

"Tax relief and restrained government spending is the formula for economic growth," said Rep. Pombo. "I believe the economy will continue to improve if folks get some of their dollars back in their pockets."

Rep. Richard Pombo was recognized for showing a strong record of siding with taxpayers on important tax and economic issues in the first session of the 108th Congress.

"President Bush and Congress have cut taxes three times in three years," said Grover Norquist, president of ATR in Washington. "Taxpayers need the help of leaders like Rep. Pombo to control spending before the temptation to hike taxes comes back."

Richard Pombo represents California's Eleventh Congressional District. Rep. Pombo is Chairman of the Resources Committee and serves on the Agriculture Committee. For more information, please visit the web site at: www.pombo.house.gov. Link to list of all award recipients: <http://www.atr.org/ratings/108thcongress1st/awards.htm>

This Week in Washington cont.

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(Tours Available through Congressman Pombo's Office cont.)

The National Archives

Open every day but Christmas

The Gallery has been recently remodeled and new exhibits have been added. Come and see the original Declaration of Independence; the Constitution's predecessor, the Articles of Confederation; and the Constitution itself. As of right now, no reservations are necessary. The Archives are located right at the National Archives-Navy Memorial metro stop on the green and yellow lines.

The White House

Tours are available Tues-Sat.

This tour walks you through the beautiful East Wing of the building. Here you will get to see various rooms, including the State Room where the President hosts dinners and the historic blue and red rooms. This is a more difficult tour to arrange, so please call at least four months in advance.

The Bureau of Printing and Engraving

This tour focuses on the step-by-step process by which our currency is made and distributed. Public tours are available, as well as scheduled tours Monday through Friday at 8:15am and 8:45 am.

State Department

This is a fine art tour of the Diplomatic Reception Rooms. While it is a wonderful tour, it is not suited for young children. Please call ahead to schedule your trip. Pre-arranged tours are available Monday through Friday at 9:30am, 10:30am, and 2:45pm.

The National Cathedral

The National Cathedral offers several different tours of its grounds, including the main gothic cathedral, the outside gargoyles, and the gardens. Tours are available on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9 am.

Mt. Vernon

Come and see the house within which our first President resided. The gorgeous grounds are the location of many activities throughout the year. Tours are available daily at 8:45 am.

Kennedy Center

Come and see grand halls and exquisite theaters, as well as magnificent works of art in Washington's cultural art center. Tours are available Monday through Saturday at 9:30am and 4:30 pm.

(Social Security Protection Passes cont.)

Giving the Social Security Administration (SSA) the tools to protect individuals from benefit misuse, holding representative payees responsible for their actions;

Denying Social Security benefits to fugitive felons and parole violators;

Expanding the SSA's ability to punish and deter perpetrators of fraud through new civil monetary penalties;

Helping individuals with disabilities gain access to representation; and,

Clarifying and improving the Ticket-to-Work program and other provisions that enable individuals with disabilities to seek work opportunities.

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