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HOME | MEET ALLEN | ISSUES | MEDIACENTER | CALENDAR | HOW CAN I HELP YOU? | CONTACT ME

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Dear Patriot,

Greetings constituents, fellow Floridians, and all Americans. I am pleased to report that Congress has finally gotten back to business and returned to Capitol Hill. The five-week "constituent work period" flew by and allowed me to meet with many of you, as well as visit Israel. However, with the many pressing fiscal and national security issues facing our nation, it was time to get back.

Of course, the biggest focus this week- no, not the Saints-Packers game- was the long-awaited speech from the President on the economic and jobs situation in America. We had been poised for this address since the President's departure for vacation in Martha's Vineyard.

However, as I sat there listening to the approximately 32-minute-long speech, I was wholeheartedly disappointed. The greatest disappointment came while sitting there in the House chamber and not receiving the speech until 7:00 p.m. The President began speaking at 7:10 p.m. and within six minutes, was demanding we pass the "American Jobs Act." This is a piece of legislation in name only and at the time we were told to pass it, was just a speech, a concept. I look forward to seeing something concrete in writing this afternoon.

I agree with the President that we need tax credits for small businesses -- which is why I introduced the [Small Business Encouragement Act, HR 1663](#), earlier this year, giving up to a \$12,000 tax credit per hire off of the unemployment role. I also agree with the President that we need to create a job opportunity for our returning Veterans -- which is why I have cosponsored several pieces of legislation in the House of Representatives including the Military Spouses Employment Act, the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act, and the Hire a Hero Act.

I concur with the President that we need to reform MEDICARE and wish he had done so earlier instead of trying to demonize my colleague Representative Paul Ryan and politicize the issue.

I agree with reducing the corporate/business tax rate down to 21% and eliminating all loopholes and subsidies -- something I have championed since before being sworn in.

Still, when you cut to the chase, this was just another speech, just words, nothing concrete. The American people will only believe in an economic turnaround if they experience it and see results.

As a matter of fact, the President stated this American Jobs Act was paid for and would not add to the deficit. Then he later stated in his speech

## Clip of the Week



"Remembering 9/11"

## Article of the Week

### Fla. Congressman Stands Against Ground Zero Mosque in Themed Conference

By Suzanne Schulz | Christian Post Reporter

WASHINGTON — While religious leaders are urging Christians to love their Muslim neighbors as the 10-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks draw near, Florida Congressman Allen West (R) and the Christian Action Network reminded the public that there is still continued opposition to the New York City Islamic center being built near ground zero.



A poster was put the building at 9/11 Plaza in Manhattan, N.Y., where Muslims plan to build a mosque and cultural center.



9/11 Survey: Many Americans Uncomfortable with Muslims

Surrounded by the families of seven 9/11 victims, West spoke against the mosque and Islamic center being erected near the site of the fallen twin towers in a Wednesday press conference.

Comparing the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon to the Pearl Harbor bombing, West said no one who attacked the United States should be allowed to put a victory monument to their people at an attack site.

"10 years or nine years after Pearl Harbor, if the country of Japan had come to the United States of America and said, 'we wanted (sic) to erect a memorial to Japanese Naval seamanship at Pearl Harbor,' what would have we said?" he asked. "I think that being that same question, that's what we see here."

The \$100 million mosque and Islamic center called the Park51 project will be located two blocks away from the site where the twin towers formerly stood, now called ground zero.

**Rep. West Stands Against Ground Zero Mosque (ChristianPost.com)**

that the “super committee” of Congress needed to find the spending cuts over ten years, which would pay for the bill. However, he then stated that in another week he would have a plan on how the bill would be paid for.

This American Jobs Act seems to truly boil down to a “mini-me” stimulus of more “shovel ready” gimmicks such as fixing school windows and roofs. This rebirth of the President and a new found sense of urgency is quite late -- 34 months late, to be precise.

Perhaps this should have been a consideration before \$4 trillion in new debt and three years of \$1 trillion - plus deficits.

We do not need to extend unemployment benefits. What we need to do, is set the conditions through effective fiscal, tax, monetary, and regulatory policies that will spawn private sector and small business certainty, confidence, and long-term sustainable growth.

I'm tired of class-warfare mantra talk about people paying their “fair share.” It was rather telling to see Jeffrey Immelt, CEO of General Electric, and Richard Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO, sitting in the gallery. My mother always said, “Folks will know you by the company you keep.”

Upon arriving back to the Ft. Lauderdale airport Friday evening, a gentleman said to me, “You guys need to pass the President’s jobs plan.” My response was that “I do not have the authority to pass a speech, nor can the Congressional Budget Office score a speech for its legislative provisions.”

As a Member of Congress, my responsibility is to reduce the size and scope of the bureaucratic nanny-state. If only we had a President who understands his responsibility is not just making speeches and campaigning.

In conclusion, 10 years after 9-11, we are still fighting against an enemy who came to our shores because America is an ideal, which represents freedom, liberty, and democracy to the world. This weekend as we remembered 9-11, we saw a terrorist truck bomb attack a United States military compound in Afghanistan, wounding 77 of our warriors.

Ten years have passed, and yes, we have killed Osama Bin Laden, but the struggle between that which embodies the principles and values of freedom is still being contested by Islamic totalitarianism manifested in militant Islam. We must remain forever vigilant and resolute for those who lost their lives ten years ago, and those who have since perished while defending our way of life.

America is not only a geographic location, it is an ideal which lives in all of us. May we honor our heroes who are now home with the Lord awaiting us. “Be strong and of good courage.”

Steadfast and Loyal,

Allen



## Service and Sacrifice



**Sgt. Marc J. DeLaurier & family**

**Branch:** United States Marines

**MOS:** Chief Radio Operator

**How long in?** 14 years

**Stationed:** Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**Hometown:** Plainfield, NJ

**Parents:** MaryAnn and James Joseph DeLaurier, Boynton Beach

**How many times deployed and where?**

Deployed four times. Two in Iraq, one MEU, one in Afghanistan

**Why did you join?**

Patriotism. Wanting to make a difference.

**Fun facts, hobbies:**

Marc saved a life when he was 8 years old. He saved a boy who was drowning and was written up in the newspaper for his heroic act. He has also saved the life of a dog (Hope) from warfare in Afghanistan and initiated a fundraising campaign to bring Hope home and she now resides with Marc and his wife in Oceanside, Ca. Marc is an artist and has won money and prizes for his work. Marc is an avid surfer and likes to skydive and drive hot rod cars.

## Legislative Lowdown

**School Choice:** The House is considering the Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools Act, H.R. 2218. The bill would do the following: provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools; expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the nation; evaluate the impact of such schools on student achievement, families, and communities, and share best practices between charter schools and other public schools. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), implementing H.R. 2218 would cost about \$1 billion over the 2012-2016 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

**FY 2012 Intelligence Authorization Act:** This past Friday, September 9, the House approved the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, H.R. 1892, by a vote of 384-14, I VOTED YES. The bill would authorize the intelligence activities of the United States government for Fiscal Year 2012. This bill would fund the requirements of the men and women of the Intelligence Community (military and civilian), many of whom directly support the war zones or are engaged in other dangerous operations to keep Americans safe. These activities are intended to enhance national security, support and assist the Armed Forces, and facilitate U.S. foreign policy. The CBO cannot provide estimates for certain provisions in the unclassified portion of the bill because they concern classified intelligence programs. On that limited basis, and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1892 would cost \$585 million over the 2012-2016 period.

**NLRB's Boeing Ruling:** The House is expected to consider the Protecting Jobs From Government Interference Act, H.R. 2587, as part of House Republicans' regulatory relief and job creation agenda. The bill would amend the National Labor Relations Act to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), in future and pending cases, from ordering any employer to close, relocate, or transfer employment under any circumstances. The legislation would effectively prevent the NLRB from restricting where an employer can create jobs in the United States. On April 20, the NLRB issued a complaint against the Boeing Company for the alleged transfer of an assembly line from Washington to South Carolina. Yet, not one union employee at Boeing's Puget Sound facility has lost his or her job as a result of the proposed South Carolina plant. Still, the NLRB is pursuing a "restoration order" against Boeing that would cost South Carolina thousands of jobs and deter future investment in the United States.

**FAA Extension:** The House is expected to consider a short-term extension of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) operations and programs. The bill would extend the authority to expend funds from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and extend taxes on aviation fuel, domestic and international ticket taxes, and taxes on cargo shipped by air. Currently, FAA's authorization and authority to levy taxes are set to expire September 17, 2011. FAA's authority to collect aviation trust fund revenues and expend money in the trust fund expired on July 22, 2011, and was not reauthorized until the U.S. Senate approved H.R. 2553 on

## Small Business Spotlight



### American Yoga, Inc.

**Owner:** Monica Schmidt

**In business:** 2 years

**# of employees:** 7 full time  
Yoga instructors, 15  
additional "guest" instructors

**Service:** VINYASA YOGA, an athletic style of Yoga where students vigorously flow through a series of poses. Also offers a YOGA TEACHERS TRAINING PROGRAM at the 200 hour level, certified by Yoga Alliance. The studio also has a collection of retail products such as yoga clothing, jewelry, and accessories. Massage therapy is also available by appointment.

**Advertising:** Monica says:  
*"Our advertising is mostly word-of-mouth. I have tried print ads, but without much success. In this business, customers truly rely on the opinions and recommendations of friends & family. Grass roots tactics such as posting fliers and pamphlets in local coffee shops and health clubs, for example, is also a way to gain name recognition"*

August 5, 2011.

**Resolution of Disapproval on the Debt-Limit Increase:** The House is expected to consider a resolution to disapprove, of which I am an original cosponsor, a scheduled \$500 billion increase in the statutory debt limit, as authorized under the Budget Control Act. The Budget Control Act authorizes Congress to consider a resolution of disapproval of the debt limit increase and provides expedited procedures for consideration of the joint resolution of disapproval. If the resolution of disapproval is not approved in both chambers, or is vetoed by the president and the veto is not overridden, the debt limit would increase by \$500 billion, for a total initial debt limit increase of \$900 billion, which coincides with \$917 billion in initial spending reductions contained in the bill.



### District/DC Highlights

**Tuesday, 6 September**, presided in the House in pro forma in order to preclude any Presidential recess appointments. Met with Ft. Lauderdale Mayor Jack Siler and Fort Lauderdale Council of Navy League Past President Chuck Black prior to our meeting with Secretary of the Navy Mabus. The purpose of our meeting was to advocate for a Navy Littoral Combat Ship to be named the USS Fort Lauderdale.

- **Wednesday, 7 September**, attended the Change of Responsibility ceremony from 37th Chief of Staff of the Army, General Martin Dempsey, to 38th Chief of Staff of the Army, General Raymond Odierno, my former Division Commander in Iraq. Congratulations to General Dempsey as he heads off to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) -- and also to General Odierno. Hosted a film documentary as well as family members and survivors of 9-11 on Capitol Hill. Met with the new heads of the Army and Coast Guard Congressional Liaison offices. For the first time, presided in the House chair during a vote series.

- **Thursday, 8 September**, House Armed Services full committee (HASC) hearing on National Defense, ten years post 9-11. Spoke to the Foreign Policy Initiative's "Defending Defense" event, joined by Senators Kyl and Graham. Participated in a Small Business Committee hearing on workforce innovative training approaches. Attended a classified national security round table discussion with former Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

- **Friday, 9 September**, participated in a HASC Military Personnel subcommittee hearing on Suicide Prevention. Introduced a bill entitled the Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act of 2011 today, H.R. 2881. This bill will provide compensation for families of fallen Foreign Service employees comparable to what the government provides families of fallen military personnel. Read more about the bill [here](#).

*without a big investment. We also did the website 'Living Social' with amazing results!"*

**Tips for surviving the recession:** Monica says: *"I believe the only reason we have been able to grow in this environment is by following the old adage, "the customer is always right!" It works! Allowing regular customers a little leeway is effective at building lasting relationships. Every customer who walks through the door receives the same warm welcome! We attempt to connect with everyone equally, which is tough in the bigger classes but I feel it's crucial to retaining business. We keep prices competitive and stay positive!"*

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### Upcoming Events



**9/ 21: Tele- Town Hall**  
\*Stay tuned for information on how to call in

- **Saturday, 10 September**, ran in the first annual Tower to Tunnel 5K run in Fort Lauderdale. We had close to 3,000 runners for this inaugural race, and I was pleased to finish in 25:08. Participated in a 9-11 tree dedication ceremony at John Lloyd Park in Dania Beach. Joined about 20 other divers on a "lionfish" hunt off the coast of Palm Beach. As you may know, Lionfish are invasive predators to these waters. A total of five lionfish were nabbed and later grilled. See story below.

- **Sunday, 11 September**, participated in a host of 10th Anniversary of 9-11 events throughout the district, including at the Broward Sheriff's Office, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Boca Raton, Moose Lodge event in North Lauderdale, and the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County... "Always Remember, Never Forget." You can see our video message and statement [here](#).

### **Rep. West Dives to Bring Attention to Lionfish Problem on South Florida's Reefs**



**( WEST PALM BEACH)** ----- Representative Allen West joined 20 divers on board the *Loggerhead III* this past Saturday, September 10th to help bring attention to the invasive lionfish problem on South Florida's reefs, and see first-hand how local divers are attempting to control the population.

Lionfish began appearing in the eastern Atlantic several years ago, perhaps released from private fish collectors because they had grown too big for their aquariums. These natives of the Indo-Pacific are voracious eaters and have no natural predators in the eastern Atlantic, so their population has skyrocketed. Divers have taken it upon themselves to try to control the population – encouraging spearing (and eating). They are very flamboyant fish with numerous venomous fins, so they have to be handled carefully.

“Our local reefs are an incredible natural resource and their health is vitally important not only for the creatures who live on them, but for our tourism industry,” West said. “As a diver, I have a profound appreciation for our underwater ecosystem, and I’m glad my fellow divers have taken it upon themselves to be guardians of the reef.”

Divers using small spears successfully bagged five lionfish on the trip.

**9/27: Town Hall**  
Recreation Complex  
Fitness Center North  
4455 Sol Press Blvd.  
Coconut Creek, FL 33073

\*TBA: Palm Beach County  
Town Hall

**Visit my website at:**  
[west.house.gov](http://west.house.gov)

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Some divers preferred to snip the venomous spines off underwater, while others put the fish into thick plastic bags and cleaned them once back on dry land. The divers enjoyed a taste of fresh, grilled lionfish around the pool at the Scuba Club after the dive.

See more pictures from the trip, [here](#).

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