

Ninth District News

Congressman Adam Smith

Annual Ninth District Day in D.C.

Voters, policy makers, media, and other leaders in business and politics converged on Washington, D.C. on May 5th to discuss top-of-mind issues impacting the Ninth District of Washington State. The conversation, held in the Members Room at the Library of Congress, ranged from education, trade, the federal budget, military spending, and veterans health, to new media and local transportation improvements.

Continuing a tradition of compelling guests, speakers this year included Washington Senator Maria Cantwell, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, General Peter Chiarelli, House Armed Services Chairman Buck McKeon, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, and Tara Malloy of the Campaign Legal

Center.

White House Director of Domestic Policy Council, Melody Barnes, spoke about the Race to the Top program and its impact on school reform, as well as the push to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (aka No Child Left Behind). CNN's Dana Bash and NBC's Kelly O'Donnell also joined the conversation, giving Ninth District Day guests an inside look at what it's like covering Congress, and some of the biggest stories they've broken as members of the media.

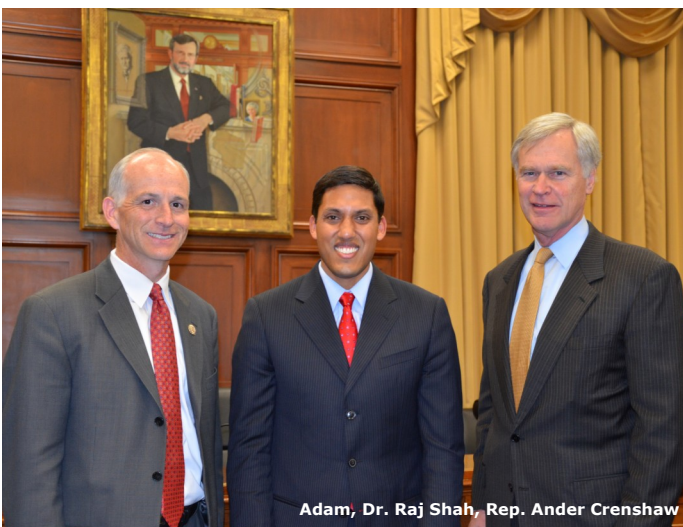
More photos, and information on how to register for next year's event, can be found on Adam's website: <http://AdamSmith.house.gov>



Kelly O'Donnell, Dana Bash, and Adam



General Peter Chiarelli, Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army



Adam, Dr. Raj Shah, Rep. Ander Crenshaw

Smith, Crenshaw launch new Effective Foreign Assistance Caucus

On Thursday, May 12th, Adam, along with Rep. Ander Crenshaw of Florida, kicked-off the new Congressional Caucus for Effective Foreign Assistance. Dr. Raj Shah, Administrator for USAID, was guest speaker at the event, followed by a roundtable discussion with top leaders from the NGO community.

Adam said the caucus will "help identify how to spend foreign assistance dollars more efficient-

ly and make the most of our crucial resources overseas." The goal is to examine the way the U.S. currently delivers foreign assistance, explore success stories, further the overall effectiveness of foreign assistance, and educate other Members on this subject.

Thursday's event is the first of a number of forums that will be held to examine U.S. delivery of foreign assistance.

2012 Defense Funding Due on Floor



Adam visits Washington State Marines in Afghanistan

On May 12th, the House Armed Services Committee passed the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act by a vote of 60-1. Ranking member Adam Smith made the following remarks:

“As the Armed Services Committee concludes its mark up of the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, I would like to thank Chairman McKeon, the members of the committee, and staff for their hard work and dedication to the

well-being of our service men and women.

“This bill provides our military with the resources and equipment necessary to accomplish their missions and safeguard national security, while also ensuring our troops and their families have support at home that reflects their incredible sacrifice for our nation.

“As we move to the floor later this month, I look forward to continuing this conversation with the rest of our colleagues in Congress, while keeping in mind our paramount responsibility to provide resources for our military personnel and their families.”

Highlights of the 2012 Defense Authorization:

- **1.6% pay raise for military personnel.**
- **Gives authority to the Secretary of Defense to create apprenticeship programs to help members of the armed forces who wish to transition to civilian careers.**
- **\$511 million authorized for Washington State Military Construction Projects.**

Smith Congratulates Art Competition Students

Earlier this month, Congressman Adam Smith recognized the talented student-artists who participated in the 2011 Ninth District Art Competition. During a reception at the Tacoma Art Museum, the top four pieces were chosen by a jury of artists and community members from a strong pool of submissions by local students. The top entry now moves on to the nation-wide Congressional Art Competition. The national competition honors excellence in visual art from high school students across the country.

This year’s Ninth District winner was Jasmine Johnson of Federal Way High School, for her piece, “My Chucks,” an evocative depiction in pencil of the Chuck Taylor sneakers that accompanied her through her four years of high school. As the Ninth District winner, Jasmine will receive two round trip tickets to attend the reception in Washington, D.C. courtesy of Southwest Airlines. Her composition will join other award-winning student artwork on display at the Cannon Tunnel in the U.S. Capitol Complex in Washington, D.C.



Adam and Ninth District Art Competition winner Jasmine Johnson



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