



# The 7<sup>th</sup> Express

Proudly Moving Alabama's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Forward

Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell

January 31, 2012

## The 7<sup>th</sup> District Is On The Move!

### Greetings!

The 7<sup>th</sup> Express is on the move! During our first year, this office helped to secure \$1.3 million in direct benefits to constituents of the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and received over \$20 million in grants for our community. This second year we hope to keep up this proud tradition. This newsletter is a way to track our progress. You can subscribe to this newsletter by visiting our website. Please forward to others so that they can stay informed. [Click here](#) to visit our website or visit <http://sewell.house.gov/>.

## Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell Honors Fairfield High School Math Club

Recently, we joined the student body of Fairfield High School at a student assembly to celebrate the mathematics team's upcoming trip to Cambridge, Massachusetts to compete in the 14th Annual Harvard-MIT Math Tournament. We presented the team with a congressional proclamation congratulating them on their great achievement. The Fairfield Math Team and its coach Ms. Vonda Davis should be commended for their pursuit of academic excellence. We expect great things from them and wish them luck on their trip to Harvard in February!



## Alabama Wins BCS Championship and Congresswoman Sewell Wins Friendly Bi-Partisan Wager



This office made a friendly bi-partisan wager on the BCS National Championship game between Alabama and LSU with my colleague, Rep. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), who represents LSU.

Alabama won the game in a decisive 21-0 victory! In the spirit of true sportsmanship, Rep. Cassidy donned a houndstooth hat, Alabama tie and gave congratulatory remarks which included "Roll Tide" on the floor of the House of Representatives. [Click here](#) to watch it!

I also gave congratulatory floor remarks to the players, Coach Nick Saban, the staff and the entire Alabama family for such an impressive victory. [Click here](#) to watch it!

This victory shows the resilient spirit of Alabamians and reflects our hope for a better future. Congratulations Crimson Tide!

**Roll Tide!!**



## Tuscaloosa Realizing the Dream Legacy Awards Banquet

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, on January 13, I had the privilege of serving as the keynote speaker at the University of Alabama's Realizing the Dream Legacy Awards Banquet where we presented several outstanding Alabamians with awards, including Dr. Nimrod Reynolds for his service in the Civil Rights Movement.



## Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with Public Service

On January 16, we celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a man who inspired our nation to unite around the common goals of love, dignity, peace and justice. This holiday, we dedicated the day to public service by participating in several commemorative and community service events. [Click here](#) to read my statement on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



We joined community leaders in a wreath laying honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King in Kelly Ingram Park in Birmingham.



We joined community volunteers at the A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club in Birmingham. For the service project, we performed a variety of activities including painting planting flowers and landscaping the building's exterior.

## The President's State of the Union Address

In his State of the Union Address, President Obama presented his vision and plan to grow the American economy. He set forth a four pillar plan for an economy that is "built to last," based on American manufacturing, American energy, training for American workers and a renewal of American values. I share the President's concern that working families and middle class Americans are being left behind. I believe that government plays an essential role in building a fair society that works for everyone not just the wealthy few. I applaud President Obama on his commitment to reigniting the American dream and for providing ladders of opportunity for all Americans to succeed. His plan addresses the issues critical to the constituents of my district—overcoming barriers to job creation, ending the housing foreclosure crisis, work force development, tax reform and investing in infrastructure. These are the issues that affect Alabamians and all Americans. Now is the time for Congress to set aside partisan politics and take action. I look forward to working with the President and my colleagues in Congress to implement this strategic plan to restore fairness and promote opportunity for all Americans. [Click here](#) to read my entire statement.

## \$55 Million Disaster Recovery Grant from HUD for the State of Alabama

We announced that the State of Alabama will receive \$55 million in community development block grant disaster recovery funding from The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Approximately \$16.6 million will be awarded to the City of Tuscaloosa, \$6.4 million to the City of Birmingham, and \$7.8 million to Jefferson County, all of which are located in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Alabama. This funding will enable each community to make vital repairs and improvements in infrastructure, housing, economic development projects, and emergency preparedness. [Click here](#) to read our press release.

## Payday Lending Hearing



On January 19, we hosted the first field hearing in Birmingham sponsored by the newly formed Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). The subject of the hearing was payday lending. I had the pleasure of introducing Director Richard Cordray who was recently appointed by President Obama to lead the bureau. The hearing included testimony from consumer groups, civil rights groups, industry representatives and members of the community. [Click here](#) to read our press release.

## Thomasville Senior Earns Congressional Gold Medal of Service for Youth Award

On January 11, we presented the Congressional Gold Medal of Service for Youth to Thomasville High School Senior, Sally White. The Congressional Award provides a unique opportunity for young people to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character and foster community service, personal development and citizenship. Sally has dedicated herself to service and personal development, and we were delighted to present this prestigious award to her.

On January 24, I spoke on the Floor of the House of Representatives about this remarkable young woman. [Click here](#) to watch it!



## Congress in 2012

On January 17, I appeared on *CNN* to talk about the 2012 forecast for Congress. As we begin the New Year, I look forward to continuing the important work representing the people of Alabama's 7th Congressional District. I will work closely with my colleagues across both sides of the aisle to ensure that we pursue a comprehensive bi-partisan balanced approach that will help us reduce the deficit, control spending, eliminate waste, and begin getting our fiscal house in order without sacrificing the needs of the American people. [Click here](#) to watch it!



## Social Media

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<http://www.twitter/RepTerriSewell>



It is an honor to serve the 7<sup>th</sup> District in Congress.  
I'll be back in touch again soon!

Handwritten signature of Terri A. Sewell.

Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress