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## THE McCaul Minute



May 22, 2009

### FAA Reauthorization

The House overwhelmingly passed my amendment to the FAA Reauthorization Act which would prevent wasteful spending of taxpayer money by banning federal funding of future aviation projects named after sitting members of Congress. This amendment, similar to the "No Monument to Me" bill I re-introduced in January, and previous efforts that have succeeded to end this self-serving practice, was passed in the House by a vote of 417-2. You can see video of my floor speech [HERE](#).

### Conditional Aid to Pakistan

The House Foreign Affairs Committee adopted language from my amendment to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act that would require Pakistan, as a stipulation for receiving billions of dollars in foreign aid from the United States over the next five years, to grant U.S. officials direct access to Pakistani Nationals involved in nuclear proliferation, including Dr. A.Q. Khan. Dr. Khan, widely regarded as the founder of Pakistan's nuclear program, has confessed to helping arm Pakistan, Libya, Iran and North Korea with nuclear weapons.

### Credit Cards and Guns

This week, the House passed H.R. 627, Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act. This bill prohibits a creditor from adjusting any annual percentage rate on preexisting balances, requires 45 days notice before interest rates are increased, and outlaws providing a credit card to anyone under 21 without a cosigner. The bill also protects second amendment rights on federal land by prohibiting a ban on the possession of a firearm in compliance with State law in a National Park.

### Housing Bill

I voted for and the House passed the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009 which makes it easier for Americans facing foreclosure to refinance their loans before they go into default. Unlike a previous bill I voted against, S.896 excludes the practice known as "cramdown", which would have allowed judges to lower the total amount of a loan, the payments and the interest that a borrower must pay a creditor. I believe this legislation strikes the right balance of keeping families in their homes, while ensuring homeowners can fulfill their entire financial obligation.

The bill also permanently increases to \$250,000 the amount of money in individual savings accounts insured by the FDIC. It also requires an audit of the Federal Reserve, which I have supported in previous legislation.

### Pelosi Resolution

Republicans introduced a privileged resolution that would establish a Select

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Subcommittee of the Intelligence Committee to investigate Speaker Pelosi's public statements regarding CIA briefings on enhanced interrogation techniques. The Speaker alleged that the CIA "misled" Congress in these briefings, which CIA Director Leon Panetta has publicly repudiated. The bipartisan select committee would review and verify the Speaker's statements and would have subpoena powers. It would have to report its findings and recommendations to the House within 60 days. The House voted to table further consideration.



Rep. McCaul with students from the Regents School of Austin.



Rep. McCaul with Westlake (Houston) volunteer firefighter Brian Vickers of Katy, who donated to families of fallen firefighters and won a custom Harley-Davidson. Brian was recognized in Washington.



McCaul with representatives from Overwatch, TEXTRON Systems and HDL Research Laboratories.

### **Joint Service Academy Days**

Congressman McCaul will be co-hosting a Service Academy Day. Representatives from the U.S. Naval Academy, Military Academy, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy and Merchant Marine Academy will be on hand to meet with prospective students and their families. In addition, Academy Liaison Officers will be available. The program will feature information about the nomination process involved in securing academy appointments. Please contact our Austin district office at (512) 473-2357 for more information.

### **Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> – University of Houston Clear Lake, 10:00am–Noon**

Bayou Theatre  
2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX

### **Employers Wanted for Job Fair**

Congressman McCaul will be hosting a Job Fair in the coming months and is looking for employers interested in participating. Putting people back to work is one of Congressman McCaul's top priorities. The Job Fair will feature employers from across the district, state, and nation. If you are an employer looking for workers, please contact our Austin district office at (512) 473-2357.

### **IN THE NEWS**

**[The Hill – House rejects blocking funds to Murtha airport](#)**

**[Brenham Banner – McCaul puts stipulation on Pakistan aid bill](#)**

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend, and I hope to see many of you at Memorial Day events Monday as we pay tribute to those men and women who gave their lives for our freedom.

With best regards,

Michael T. McCaul

Member of Congress

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