



CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN

Representing the 9th District, Getting Things Done

It is an honor to represent Memphis in Congress as I work to create jobs and ensure that the 9th District receives deserved federal funding and resources needed to grow and prosper. The following are some steps I have taken on behalf of you and our District.

President Signs My Veterans Bill Into Law

In December, President Obama signed into law bipartisan legislation I authored for members of the National Guard and Reserve to obtain bankruptcy relief. Considering the sacrifices our Guardsmen and Reservists make on our country's behalf, it is only fair that we help them if they need to file for bankruptcy. The National Guard and Reservist Debt Relief Extension Act enables Guardsmen and Reservists to bypass the 'means test' in bankruptcy.



Congressman Cohen watches as President Obama signs one of his bills into law.



Congressman Cohen announces the upcoming MBDA Business Center opening with Luke Yancy and Reid Dulberger.

MBDA Business Center

I worked closely with Luke Yancy of the Mid-South Minority Business Council Continuum and the Department of Commerce for nearly three years to secure a \$1 million grant to establish a Minority Business Development Agency Business Center for Memphis. MBDA Business Centers help minority-owned businesses find and access contract opportunities with the federal government and help connect small businesses with federal agencies and other companies for partnership opportunities. This will be the first MBDA Center ever located in Tennessee.

Workforce Development/Jobs

My Jobs for Urban Sustainability and Training in America Act would create jobs and provide training to Americans struggling to find work through public works and jobs training programs.

Congressman Cohen, Mayor Wharton and Mayor Luttrell discuss the importance of education at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Soulsville Charter School.



President Obama (pictured left) signed the Affordable Care Act into law on March 23, 2010 and this year we celebrated the 2nd Anniversary of the historic measure. It was a great day for

Memphis when the President addressed the students at Booker T. Washington High School last May and allowed me the opportunity to once again impress on him the importance of transportation jobs in Memphis. We also talked about the Strong Cities Strong Communities Initiative, a federal pilot program to strengthen local capacity and spark economic growth in local communities while ensuring taxpayer dollars are used wisely and efficiently. Last July, the President announced that Memphis was one of only six cities chosen for the program.



Memphians at the White House

In February, the White House Business Council requested my help to bring together a diverse group of civic and business leaders from Memphis for a Conversation on Jobs and the Economy to discuss ways the Administration and the Memphis Business Community can work together. I appreciate the work of the White House Business Council and Business Forward, as well as all the Memphians who participated, to keep the lines of communication open.



A large group of Memphians traveled to the White House to discuss how the City and the Administration can work together to create jobs.

Judge John Fowlkes

In December, President Obama nominated Judge John Fowlkes to serve as District Court Judge. I recommended him to the President after receiving advice from a broad cross section of respected members of the Memphis legal community. All had the highest praise for his legal acumen, unquestionable integrity and work ethic. The Senate Judiciary Committee approved his nomination in April and I am working with Chairman Leahy and Majority Leader Reid to see that Judge Fowlkes is confirmed.

Memphis Tuskegee Airman Laid to Rest

In January, WWII Red Tails Pilot Lt. Col. Luke Weathers was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Memphian Lt. Col. Weathers, a Tuskegee Airman in the 332nd Fighter Group, named his plane "The Spirit of Beale Street" and led a heroic life, integrating the FAA in Memphis and his church, St. Teresa. When the Weathers family was advised that they could not bury Lt. Col. Weathers in Arlington National Cemetery, I reached out to the Secretary of the Army to help and then spoke at the interment at the request of the family. Later this month, a plaque I requested from the FAA will be unveiled at the Memphis Airport honoring Lt. Col. Weathers – the first plaque honoring an African American at the airport.

Velma Lois Jones Honored at the White House

Velma Lois Jones was given the Drum Majors for Service Award by the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships in February. A retired educator, Velma Lois graduated from LeMoyné College and earned a master's degree at Columbia. She served as president of the TEA, the first black classroom teacher ever elected. She also served as a board member of the NEA, is a past president of the local NAACP, and is a three-time president of AKA's Beta Epsilon Omega Chapter.

Helping Seniors

I am committed to protecting and strengthening Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare for Memphis seniors and recently received a perfect score on the Alliance for Retired Americans Congressional Scorecard. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, which I supported, seniors now receive free preventative care, including mammograms and other cancer screenings.

Congressman Cohen speaking at the Together for Tomorrow Town Hall at the Westside Middle School, which he hosted along with the White House. More than one hundred 9th District constituents participated in the discussion focused on community involvement in education.



Congressman Cohen talks to constituents about numerous legislative issues at the District Office Issues Meeting he hosted in January.

VISIT MY WEBSITE: COHEN.HOUSE.GOV



In April, hundreds of constituents attended Congressman Cohen's Forum on Infant Mortality with accomplished filmmaker Tonya Lewis Lee – wife of Spike Lee – at Hollywood Community Center. Lewis Lee (pictured at left with Congressman Cohen) also participated in the Capitol Hill hearing that Congressman Cohen hosted in September 2011.

Check Engine Light

I have met with both Governor Bill Haslam and Cass Sunstein, Administrator for the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, to express concerns with the "check engine" light issue. I have heard numerous complaints from constituents which indicate that the program is deeply flawed. Because Memphis voluntarily decided to implement this program, I have written City officials asking that they change the program.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood/Jobs

It was my privilege to host Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood in Memphis in April. While in town, the Secretary joined me in viewing the Memphis Aerotropolis from our new air tower. We also toured the FedEx hub and BNSF Intermodal Facility. We talked about the Harahan Bridge project, Lamar Avenue, Elvis Presley Boulevard and transportation jobs in general. When the American Queen deal was on the brink of collapse, I worked with Secretary LaHood to bring the project to fruition, which Mayor Wharton estimates created more than 550 new jobs. I expect Secretary LaHood's personal exposure to Memphis' transportation issues during his visit to Memphis to pay dividends in the near future.

Awards

In March, I received a Certificate of Special Recognition from the National Urban League for cosponsoring the Urban Jobs Act; an award for leadership on animal protection legislation from the Humane Society; and the 2012 Public Official of the Year Award from the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. It is an honor to be recognized by such prestigious groups.



Congressman Cohen receives a Certificate of Special Recognition from the National Urban League for cosponsoring the Urban Jobs Act. Presenting the award are Andre Gibson, Lorie Spicer, Tomeka Hart and Cynthia Daniels.

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Steve Cohen

M.C.

Presorted Standard

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CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN



Spring 2012

Congressman Cohen has received perfect scores or A's on the following Congressional Scorecards in 2012:

- ✓ Alliance for Retired Americans
- ✓ Planned Parenthood
- ✓ United Food and Commercial Workers
- ✓ League of Conservation Voters
- ✓ Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- ✓ Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- ✓ Humane Society

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