



The National Organization of Portuguese-Americans Legislative Alert December 2, 2009

Dear Friends of NOPA,

To better inform and serve you, we are trying out a new format for the Legislative Alert. To maximize its purpose and value, please send us your comments and what information you would like to see included. All comments and suggestions can be sent to info@nopa-us.org, or you can call NOPA's Executive Director, Francisco Semião, at 703-389-3512.

Thank you.

Important Legislation

November 20th

By Mr. Frank of Massachusetts:
H.R. 4137. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide preservation and interpretation assistance for resources associated with the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Week of November 23rd

Congress was not in session in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

November 30th

Congress is back in session. Senate has begun work on their version of healthcare reform legislation.

Ambassadorial Nomination

Allan J. Katz, Nominee for Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic

Allan J. Katz is currently of counsel to Akerman Senterfitt and the Chair of the firm-wide Policy practice group. Katz was previously City Commissioner for the City of Tallahassee. In 2007, he organized and created the Village Square, a bi-partisan community based organization. Prior to that, he was the managing partner of Katz, Kutter, Alderman & Bryant, P.A. Mr. Katz was also appointed by Florida's CFO to serve on the board of the



Citizens Property Insurance Corporation. He also served as the head of the Joint Planning Board which coordinates the distribution of funds to social service agencies on behalf of the City, the County and the United Way.

Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Katz was Assistant Insurance Commissioner and General Counsel for the State of Florida Insurance Department. He also held positions as General Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives Commission on Administrative Review; Legislative Director for Congressman David Obey, and Legislative Assistant to Congressman Bill Gunter. Katz has a B.A. from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and holds a J.D. from the American University, Washington College of Law.

Congressional Floor Statements of Note

HONORING FERNANDO C. MACHADO -- - November 17, 2009

SPEECH OF HON. JIM COSTA OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2009

- Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man whose life and pursuits exemplify the spirit of fortitude, entrepreneurship, virtues of family and citizenship demonstrated by so many of those who strive to provide food and fiber to the citizens of this great nation. Many things have contributed to California's bountiful agriculture industry and economic well-being, but one significant underlying factor in California's agricultural success has been the presence of agricultural leaders such as Fernando C. Machado. A veteran farmer and former dairyman, Mr. Fred Machado is being honored on November 18, 2009 in Fresno, California as the 2009 Agriculturist of the Year by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.

Fred Machado, born an American citizen on the Azores Island of Portugal in 1932, moved back to the United States with his family in 1949. After a four-year tour in the United States Navy during the Korean War, Mr. Machado returned to California in 1955 where he began to farm twenty-six acres of rented land near Easton. To make ends meet, he also worked on dairies, at cotton gins and at various other odd jobs. Today, Fred continues to farm, but on his own 800 acres of almonds, grapes, orchards and feed crops.

- Fred and his family have always been involved in the San Joaquin Valley agricultural industry in a variety of capacities over the years. He was quoted recently as saying, ``I will always be in farming as long as I can, I cannot get away from the dirt." Machado continued, ``It's been great for us. We've made a good living, we've raised our family there We're just real happy to be involved in agriculture."
- A past president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, Mr. Machado has also served on the board of directors of the National Milk Producers Federation, Challenge Dairy and Danish Creamery and several other agriculture committees in the Valley. He has extensive community service in organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #84, Knights of Columbus #153 of Easton, Fraternal Order of Eagles Fresno Aerie #39, and the



Portuguese Fraternal Organizations--I.D.E.S.S., S.E.S, and U.P.E.C.

- Fred Machado has also been the recipient of a number of other awards, among which are Fresno County Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service Award, the California Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service Award, and California State University Fresno, Ag One Community Salute Award. The award Mr. Machado is receiving this November 18th is indeed a high honor in Fresno County. Fred is truly deserving of this award. It is especially fitting to congratulate and salute Mr. Fred Machado for his outstanding service to agriculture, the people of California and our nation.

The NOPA Legislative Alert

As a part of NOPA's mission to empower Portuguese-Americans, this Legislative Alert is sent out every two weeks as pertinent developments occur in order to keep the community informed of legislative action at the national level. This objective, non-partisan report aims to educate those interested about action on Capitol Hill that may affect the Portuguese-American community at large.

The source for all Congressional legislation information on this report was the THOMAS system from The Library of Congress (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>). Links for each of the bills listed above direct readers to the THOMAS web page specific to the bill.

You can find a PDF file of this and other alerts at NOPA's [website](#). If you have any questions about this or other legislation, please contact Paulo Araujo, Director of Government Relations, at paraujo@nopa-us.org.