

# The Pelosi Report

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U.S. House of Representatives



Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

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Dear Friends:

This edition of the The Pelosi Report includes highlights of September activities and an overview of legislative proposals and initiatives taking place in Congress.

With joblessness raging in America, our troops in the field in Iraq, and Congress meeting only a few hours a week, Democrats stand committed to finding our common ground where we can, and standing our ground where we cannot. We will continue our fight for opportunity, jobs, security, education, healthcare and prosperity for all Americans.

I encourage you to review this bulletin and share the information with your constituency and other leaders in your community.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives

## WE WILL NEVER FORGET

### Remembering 9/11



House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi spoke at the Congressional 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on the West Front Terrace of the U.S. Capitol. In her remarks, Leader Pelosi said:

*"We remember the 'exalted character' of men and women whose lives were shattered in an instant, but whose memory is etched forever in the hearts of loved ones and the history of a nation. And we pray for their families — the unbearable loss, the pain that endures, the grief that knows no end. . . But we must do more than simply remember them. We must honor them by building a future, a world, and a nation worthy of their sacrifice. And so in their name, we pledge again: United as a country, we will seek out and hold responsible those who attacked us two years ago. And united as country, we will keep alive the spirit of September 11th as displayed in the final courageous moments of the lives we remember today. . ."*



## Faith Community Outreach



Leader Pelosi with PNBC's  
Rev. Justus Reeves and  
Reverend Dr. M.L. Jemison

Leader Pelosi met with the leadership of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (PNBC) on September 30, 2003 to address matters of critical importance to the PNBC and the House Democratic Caucus.

Reverend Dr. Major L. Jemison, President of the 2.5 million member organization and Rev. Justus Reeves, Director of the Mission of Ministries of PNBC met with the Leader to discuss the PNBC's opposition to the war in Iraq and its challenge of the

Administration's post-war policies and expenditures. They also spoke about HIV/AIDS prevention and treatments citing the need for more support to help curb the spread of the disease.

Rev. Jemison is the senior Pastor of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and leads a congregation of about 2,500 members. Following the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, Rev. Jemison chaired the Oklahoma City Christian Relief Fund, which provided financial assistance to those affected by the tragedy.

"Dialogues like this are so important to the work we do here on the Hill," Leader Pelosi said. "Face-to-face meetings with our churches and community-based groups help Members better understand and act on the needs of our communities. And the PNBC, since its earliest days under the guidance of Martin Luther King, is one of those organizations that is making a real difference," she added.



## Post War Iraq

On September 16th, Leader Pelosi and Congressman John Murtha, the Ranking Democrat on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee held a news conference to discuss post-war Iraq. During the news conference, Congressman Murtha made a compelling case about what has gone wrong in Iraq.

### Examples of the Bush Administration's Failure to Plan Adequately for Iraq Operations:

1. Equipment shortages threaten mission success and personnel security.
2. Iraqi response to the occupation was underestimated.
3. Condition of the Iraqi infrastructure was underestimated.
4. Costs of the war and reconstruction were underestimated.
5. Impact of the occupation on U.S. ability to address military requirements worldwide was underestimated.

Leader Pelosi reiterated that Democrats in Congress will be sure that our troops have what they need to accomplish their mission and return home safely, but "we will not hand the President a blank check." In her remarks she said, "We are facing a nearly half trillion-dollar deficit, and American taxpayers deserve to know how this spending will affect our ability to address the unmet needs in our own country. The stakes in Iraq are too high to continue on the Administration's current course. We must succeed in Iraq for our sake as well as that of the people of Iraq and their neighbors. Success is going to require a much more sensible approach than has been taken thus far, and we are quickly running out of time to implement it."



**Leader Pelosi and CBC Chairman Cummings at ALC Awards Banquet.**

The central thrust of this year's conference was to harness the talent and potential of a new generation of leaders and provide a framework for shaping public policy. During the week, Leader Pelosi participated in several events with CBC Members. She also hosted a special reception for African American journalists.

### Democrats Address Minority Healthcare Equity

In September, the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives committed to make the elimination of health care disparities a priority in their overall health agenda. Presented by Congresswoman Donna Christensen, Chair of the Health Braintrust of the Congressional Black Caucus and Congresswoman Hilda Solis, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus's Health Task Force, the Democratic Caucus adopted nine principles that underscore the push for health care access, health care quality, positive health outcomes and support for a qualified, diverse health care task force.

The Nine Principles emphasize the elements that legislation to address racial and ethnic health disparities should contain. They are:

- Set the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Disparities as a Goal
- Expand the Health Care Safety Net
- Diversify the Health Care Workforce
- Ensure Health Care Access in Compliance with Civil Rights laws
- Promote the Collection and Dissemination of Data
- Combat Diseases That Disproportionately Affect Racial and Ethnic Minorities
- Enhance Medical Research That Benefits All Communities
- Emphasize Prevention and Behavioral Health
- Recognize the Complexity of Racial and Ethnic Communities



*National Breast Cancer Awareness Month*

### CBC 33rd Annual Legislative Conference Collective Leadership - Challenging a Bold New World

The Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) is host to thousands of individuals who come to Washington to engage in debate on issues important to the African American community. This year, approximately 30,000 people attended the conference which is organized and hosted by the CBC Foundation.



**Leader Pelosi and Dem. Caucus Vice-Chair Clyburn (SC) discuss issues with National Association of Black Journalists President Herb Lowe and Washington, DC Anchor Derek McGinty.**