



A Capitol View

by State Representative Addia Wuchner
66th Legislative District
September 13, 2006
Boone County Seniors Special Edition

Dear Boone County Senior Friends,

Greetings to each of you!

I started writing this message for the upcoming issue of Capital View on the morning of the fifth anniversary of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. I began to reflect on your generation and how much has changed in our world and this nation during your lifetime. To sit and speak with any one of you for an hour has always been like opening a book. Each page of your lives holds a glimpse of American life, rich with history.

As a young child, I was so enchanted with the stories of my grandparents and great-grandparents. Then, as my father grew older, I found that he, too, had grown wiser and that I loved listening and discussing with him the events from his pages of history. My husband and I are now grandparents, and I look forward to telling our stories to our grandchildren.

Many of you are veterans and I would like to say thank you for your noble service. May each of you be blessed.

I am humbled and honored to serve as your State Representative. Please never hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Addia

Addia Kathryn Wuchner
State Representative

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Reflections on America and September 11, 2001

I have always believed in good and evil. As a principle of my personal faith, I believe that good will always ultimately prevail over evil. However, on Sept. 11, 2001, I have never felt more anger, sadness, grief, and fear. It was the first time I remember experiencing that sort of deep fear that life as we know it was suddenly changing. The perpetrators of hatred and evil thought that they could successfully test our resolve, and that, perhaps, we had grown complacent in our freedom.

We are a nation of determination, unity, resolve, compassion, hope, friendship, strength, generosity, spirit, purpose, faith, charity, and perseverance. As we rise above the ashes of September 11, 2001, let us hold to these ideals. The United States stands because the ties that bind us together as Americans will never be broken. The colors of our flag--the red, the white, and the blue--are colors that do not fade with time or strife.

Our Founders established our Constitution setting forth directives and ideals that Americans hold dear. We began as a experiment in freedom that has withstood the test of time and trials. The United States of America is truly the home of the free because of the hundreds of thousands that have fought and died to defend the ideals we hold and so that we may live in freedom. America is the home of the brave because there is not a force in the world that she fears. America stands as a shining "city on a hill," a beacon of hope and freedom throughout the world. Many have fought and continue to fight daily to protect us and to ensure that we are safe. I am grateful for the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces and for those who serve our community in law enforcement, fire protection, and public safety to assure our way of life. I thank all who serve for their noble sacrifice.

God made America a special place. Peggy Noonan reflected recently, "Those who first sought our shores thought the streets were paved with gold, but it was more than gold; they're paved with the greatest thoughts man ever had, the greatest decisions man ever made, and the highest ideals about how to live." We have free thought, free speech, and freedom of

worship. We hold that freedom is a gift from our Creator, yet the noble sacrifice of so many reminds us that "freedom is not free."

Tonight, like most of you, I will turn out the lights and fall asleep, safe, secure, unafraid, and free. May each of you be blessed. God bless the United States of America, and may freedom continue to resonate in the hearts of all.

Addia Kathryn Wuchner
State Representative
Boone County Kentucky

Veterans, Thank You for Your Service

There are 50,714 World War II Veterans living in our great Commonwealth.

Amazingly Kentucky has one World War I veteran, who is 105 years old! He is still a very active volunteer at the Louisville Veterans Hospital, only slowing down slightly since he broke his hip and now has to use a walker.

Because of your service to our State and Country, a girl from Kentucky can serve in the State Legislature.

I would like to personally thank you for your service.

Senior Issues

Senior issues were very important during this year's legislative session. The budget passed this year expanded aging services by \$3.5 million in fiscal year 06-07 and \$4 million in fiscal year 07-08. The funds provided here will help to increase services provided in the Homecare Program, Personal Care Attendent program and increase the available Adult Day Care Services.

The rising cost of prescription medication is a serious issue for many of our seniors. This year's budget set funds aside for the Kentucky Prescription Drug Patient Assistance Program. More than \$300,000 was provided to help the program. Other bills passed this session dealing with prescription drugs included House Bill 181. This piece of legislation will allow a refillable prescription for a drug that is not a controlled substance to be refilled up to two weeks prior to the expiration date of the current supply. This is important to our many seniors who may not be able to make it to the drug store very often. While the Federal Government continues to make progress on Prescription Drug costs, I will continue to work hard at the state level to make sure seniors have access to affordable prescription drugs.

Also passed was Senate Bill 141. This bill relates to the inspection of long-term care facilities. This legislation no longer allows advance notice of inspections and if a state employee gives notice of an inspection they can be dismissed. This legislation is very important for those Kentucky seniors and others who depend on these long-term care facilities to administer the best care possible.