

'GABBY' LOVES GUNS But wounded rep's no fan of illegal aliens

Daily News (New York)

January 9, 2011 Sunday, METRO EDITION

Copyright 2011 Daily News, L.P.



Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 341 words

Byline: BY JAMES FANELLI DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Body

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, the motorcycle-riding, gun-owning Democrat known as Gabby, struck a decisively moderate tone in her first two terms as a congresswoman representing a Republican-heavy district.

The third-generation Arizonan took a hard stance on illegal immigration and pushed for a larger National Guard presence to protect the border with Mexico.

On her campaign website, she touts strong support of the Second Amendment and cites a court filing she made to the Supreme Court, urging the justices to uphold a lower court's ruling that overturned a hand-gun ban in Washington, D.C.

But her backing of President Obama's health care reform made her a popular target of conservative talking head Sarah Palin and Tea Party members during the 2010 election. On her Facebook page last spring, Palin posted a U.S. map with cross hairs of a rifle scope over the districts represented by Giffords and 19 other Democrats.

In March, after the Health Care reform bill passed, vandals broke the door of her district office - one of several attacks against Democrats following the vote.

The 40-year-old first became a member of the House in 2006, taking a district where Republican voters outnumber Democrats.

In November she narrowly beat her Republican challenger for a third term.

Giffords served in the Arizona legislature from 2001 to 2005 and was the youngest woman ever elected to the state Senate.

Before running for office, the Tucson native, who holds a degree from Cornell University, ran her family's automotive business.

A year after winning a House seat in 2006, she married Mark Kelly, a NASA astronaut.

The wedding followed a three-year romance in which the couple jetted among Tucson, Houston and Washington to see each another.

Giffords has also been an avid motorcycle rider since age 15. She owns a 1963 Vespa GS with a sidecar, which she parks in her living room.

'GABBY' LOVES GUNS But wounded rep's no fan of illegal aliens

The biography on her campaign website states, "She hopes to ride her bike to Argentina one day, but for now she opts for Highway 83 between Tucson and Patagonia."

jfanelli@nydailynews.com

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: US REPUBLICAN PARTY (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (90%); **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS** (89%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (78%); **ILLEGAL** WEAPONS (78%); FIREARMS (78%); TEA PARTY MOVEMENT (78%); **GUN** CONTROL (78%); HEALTH CARE POLICY (77%); CONSERVATISM (77%); US STATE GOVERNMENT (77%); LITIGATION (77%); LAW COURTS & TRIBUNALS (76%); LEGISLATION (76%); DECISIONS & RULINGS (76%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (76%); VOTERS & VOTING (74%); IMMIGRATION (72%); BORDER CONTROL (72%); SUPREME COURTS (71%); US PRESIDENTS (70%); HEALTH CARE REFORM (69%); OBAMA HEALTH CARE REFORM (69%); WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS (68%); PROFILES & BIOGRAPHIES (50%)

Company: FACEBOOK INC (56%)

Organization: CORNELL UNIVERSITY (54%)

Ticker: FB (NASDAQ) (56%)

Industry: MOTOR VEHICLES (78%); HEALTH CARE POLICY (77%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (76%); HEALTH CARE REFORM (69%); OBAMA HEALTH CARE REFORM (69%)

Person: GABRIELLE GIFFORDS (79%); SARAH PALIN (72%); BARACK OBAMA (58%)

Geographic: TUCSON, AZ, USA (93%); ARIZONA, USA (92%); DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (92%); ARGENTINA (79%)

Load-Date: January 13, 2011