



CARTER COURIER

<http://carter.house.gov>

DECEMBER 13, 2006

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 40

LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

Last week the House of Representatives adjourned for the year and for the 109th Congress. This year, we passed important measures addressing our military needs, border security, education, tax relief, health care, family values, and energy solutions. Although we passed a number of important bills that benefit the American people, I am disappointed that the Senate did not support our efforts to pass tough border security legislation and important appropriations spending bills.

As a member of the House Republican leadership team in the 110th Congress (If you missed it, you can view the release at <http://carter.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=53069>), I will continue to work hard on behalf of the issues that are important to you, the constituents of the 31st Congressional District.

I wish you all a safe and blessed Christmas!

Until next week,



CARTER HAILS PASSAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE TAX RELIEF BILL

Last week I voted in support of a bill that extends tax relief to millions of Americans, retains current Medicare physician payments, and expands domestic offshore oil exploration. H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, is of particular importance to Texans, extending through 2007 a provision that allows taxpayers to deduct their State and local sales taxes in lieu of their State and local income taxes.

This comprehensive bill will allow taxpayers to keep more of their money where it belongs—in their pockets and out of the hands of Washington bureaucrats. We were also able to level the playing field for taxpayers living in states such as Texas by extending policies that allow Texas taxpayers to deduct their State and local sales taxes.

I am also pleased that this bill encourages the expansion of domestic oil exploration along the Outer Continental Shelf. Increased domestic production and exploration are critical to effectively addressing our nation's energy needs.

I also strongly supported language in this bill that will allow millions of our nation's seniors to receive quality medical care. By preventing cuts to the Medicare physician payment rates, physicians will be able to offer dependable, quality services to Medicare patients.

H.R. 6111 includes language to improve Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). This bill also enhances and extends a number of valuable tax relief provisions, such as the Research

CONTENTS

Tax Relief
1-2

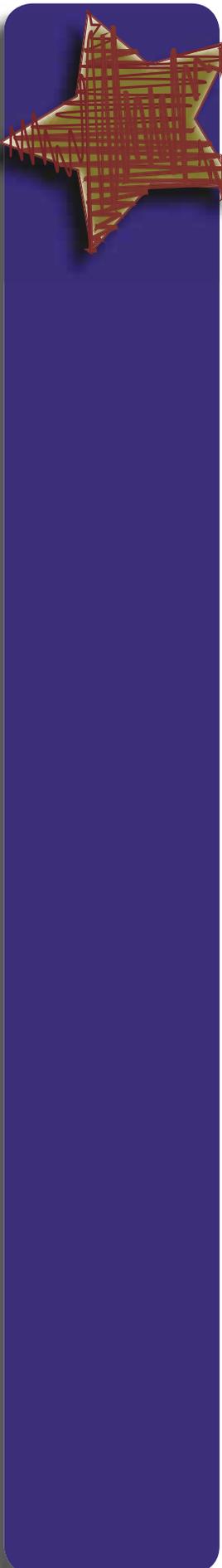
*Protecting Unborn
Children*
2

Veterans Benefits
2

Kid's Page
3

Coloring Page
4





and Development Tax Credit and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, have been enhanced to provide more valuable incentives and additional tax relief.

PROTECTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE

For the past four years I have had the privilege of serving Central Texas as a United States Congressman. Twenty years previous to my first term as a congressman, I served as a District Judge for our great state. Although I have made many friends and memories and learned many life-long lessons during my years in public service, neither of these careers has had the same effect on my life as my first profession: fatherhood.

Before congressional hearings and weekly flights between Texas and Washington filled my days, there were softball tournaments, school plays, and of course, Round Rock Dragon football games to occupy every waking hour. Being a father to my four amazing children has always been the priority in my life, and even though they have outgrown softball and school plays, their happiness and safety still takes precedence over anything else I do. They are the reason I strive to make this world a little better, not for myself, but for my children and my future grandchildren.

Recently in Washington, we were given the opportunity to stand up for the children of this nation by voting on the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act. Although this bill gained majority vote, it did not gain the two-thirds majority needed to pass under suspension. Unfortunately, 162 Democrats voted against this bill, keeping it from moving forward so it might protect unborn children. Research has shown that unborn children feel pain. During an abortion, fetuses experience pain more intense than that which would be felt by newborns or older children. This bill would require every abortionist to provide information about the ability of a woman's unborn child to experience pain during an abortion.

This information would have been provided to any woman who is past 20 weeks of her pregnancy. The mother would also have the option of providing pain-reducing drugs directly to the unborn child before the abortion occurs. Finally, the mother of the child would have been required to give written consent on the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Decision Form and her explicit request for or against pain killers for the child. As a conservative and a pro-life advocate, I believe this bill is an important step in the right direction to prevent, as much as possible, terrible suffering from being inflicted on unborn children.

If signed into law, this bill would have penalized doctors who did not comply with its provisions. The doctor would be subject to a fine of up to \$250,000 and a civil lawsuit. The bill also requires state licensing boards to be notified if violations occur.

As a former judge and proud father, I will take all steps necessary to ensure the unborn children of today have a bright future tomorrow. We have laws that prevent this type of abuse to animals and children. It is only right that we extend these laws to protect those rights of our society's most vulnerable. As your Congressman, you can be sure that I will continue to fight to protect unborn children.

On July 4, 1776, Thomas Jefferson stated in The Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights: among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

As members of Congress it is our solemn duty to serve the constituents of this nation and to adhere to what is right by the laws of this country. As mothers and fathers it is our responsibility to protect the rights of our unborn children who cannot protect themselves. Life is a sacred gift from God that must be cherished and celebrated, and as a society we must not take this precious gift for granted.

CARTER VOTES TO EXTEND BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

Last week I voted in favor of an important bill that extends critical health care, education, and other assistance to our nation's veterans and their families. As a member on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, ensuring that our veterans have access to the assistance needed to help them transition to civilian life is a priority of mine.

Our veterans have selflessly sacrificed so we might continue to live in a free America. It is important that we show them the same respect and care as they have shown to our country and its citizens. Providing veterans with critical benefits is the least we can do to thank them for their dedication and service.

The House overwhelmingly passed the Veterans Programs Extension Act of 2006, which provides important mental and physical health care services to veterans. It also extends the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (VA) work study program, giving veterans guidance as they begin a new career path. Further, the bill authorizes the VA to provide education benefits under chapter 35 to spouses and dependent children of severely injured service members prior to the member's discharge, allowing individuals to receive benefits sooner than under current law.



Kids' Page

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

What is a few years younger than the Mayflower Compact (1620); a lot older than the Declaration of Independence (1776) and U.S. Constitution (1787); predates the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps by 139 years; and is 311 years older than the Air Force?

Answer: The National Guard.

Known originally as the militia, the National Guard turns 370 years old today, December 13, 2006.

It began in 1636, when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which functioned as the colony's legislature, ordered existing militia companies from the towns surrounding Boston to form into three regiments: North, South and East.

A string of 20-year career enlistments divides the Guard's life span into more than 18 "generations." The differences between generation one and the current 19th generation are countless. Although the National Guard has transformed many times, it remains true to the Founder's intent of a citizens' Army; and, for the last three generations, a citizens' Air Force.

Today, the National Guard is a force of more than 450,000 men and women who serve voluntarily and can be deployed anywhere in the world.

Today's National Guard members and yesterday's Minutemen remain the same person: citizens with the conviction that their military service is required to make their nation and communities a safer and better place.

In fact, recently in Texas, members of the National Guard were sent to the Texas-Mexico border to protect our nation's borders.

I want to thank all of the National Guard members for their service, and wish them a happy 370th birthday!!



Coloring Page: Helicopter

Helicopters are just one way that members of the National Guard, and other military forces are able to travel from place to place. Connect the dots and then color the helicopter below.

