



CARTER COURIER

<http://carter.house.gov>

JUNE 27, 2008

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 10

LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

Since I last wrote you, Congress has passed two very critical pieces of legislation. The first being the Emergency War funding bill, which includes critical funding for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as additional G.I. benefits. A comprehensive FISA bill also passed the house. Both of these bills are strong victories for the American people.

While I was happy to see these bills pass the house, one major issue that hasn't been addressed is the rising cost of gas prices. Republicans have a plan that will bring these prices down, but Democrats have yet to show interest in working with us. I hope they will put politics aside and do what is best for the American people.

As always, I thank all of you in the 31st District for the opportunity to serve you in Congress and will keep you updated on the latest information regarding important issues. God Bless Texas!

Until next week,



CARTER WORKS TO FUND CRITICAL IMMIGRATION PROGRAM

This week I introduced an amendment to the FY 09 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. The amendment would provide \$12 million to section 287(g) of the Immigration Nationality Act (INA) which allows Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to delegate enforcement powers to state and local law enforcement allowing them to investigate, detain and arrest criminal aliens. The "287(g) program" directly promotes the goal of finding and removing dangerous illegal aliens.

Local and state law enforcement agents are on the front lines in the battle against criminal aliens, and we need to provide them with every resource available to win this fight. ICE has requested \$12 million to provide for the 77 new state and local agencies who want to benefit from this program. We need to give them this money. If we don't, we could stop the growth of this critical program and lose our ability to effectively remove dangerous alien fugitives from our streets.

The 287(g) program has been successful and will continue to grow as long as Congress continues to provide it with funds. Over 720 law enforcement agents have been trained to handle criminal aliens and over 29,700 criminal aliens have been investigated, detained and arrested.

Unfortunately, the amendment failed by a party-line vote in the

CONTENTS

*Fighting for Immigration
Enforcement Funding*
1-2

*Emergency War Funding
Bill*
2

Outreach Schedule
2

FISA Bill Passes House
2

Weekly Radio Address
2

*Students Earn Academy
Nominations*
3



Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee Markup, but I look forward to bringing this fight to the House floor.

CARTER SUPPORTS EMERGENCY WAR FUNDING BILL

Recently I voted for the long-awaited emergency war funding bill. The bi-partisan bill includes \$161.8 billion for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, \$2.65 billion for disaster relief in the Midwest and expanded G.I. Benefits.

Our troops waited close to 500 days for these funds to provide them with the tools and resources they need to help them succeed and return home safely. Although I believe this is far too long for our soldiers to wait, I am pleased to see House Democrats and Republicans worked out their differences and agreed on a package that will get funding to our troops without restrictions.

I am very proud of House Republicans who fought tirelessly to eliminate tax increases, plans for withdrawal and billions in additional spending.

I am also pleased to see that the new G.I. bill, of which I am a co-sponsor and proud supporter, was also included. For the first time, soldiers will be able to pass their hard-earned education benefits to their family members.

In addition to these important items, it was also important to provide the victims of the Midwest floods the resources they need to start rebuilding their lives. As they pick up the pieces of their homes and communities, I would like them to know that Texas is praying for each and every one of them.

ERATH, HAMILTON AND CORYELL OUTREACH SCHEDULES

In order to better serve the constituents of the 31st District, the caseworkers of my office will be traveling to towns throughout the district and setting up local office hours. During these hours constituents can ask questions about services that my office offers or seek help with problems dealing with federal agencies.

Dublin: Mon., June 30, 2008 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (Chamber of Commerce, 110 South Patrick)

Stephenville: Mon. June 30, 2008 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. (City Hall, 298 W. Washington)

Gatesville: Tues. July 1, 2008 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. (Extraco Banks, 800 Main Street)

Hico: Tues. July 1, 2008 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (Hico City Office, 120 W. First Street)

CARTER SUPPORTS BIPARTISAN FISA LEGISLATION

I recently voted for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Amendments of 2008 (H.R. 6304)

There is nothing more important than the safety of our children and grandchildren, and this bill sends a clear message to our enemies that we will not take this security lightly.

The bipartisan bill, which passed the House last week, modernizes our terrorist surveillance laws by allowing for our intelligence community to have the ability to monitor terrorists who wish to harm Americans without cutting through miles of red tape. It also adds critical retroactive liability protections for those companies who helped the government snuff out and prevent terrorist attacks after 9/11. This bill is not perfect, but it is a good compromise, and I look forward to seeing it signed into law.

CARTER'S WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS NOW AVAILABLE

In this week's 7:51 minute address, I discuss the Democrats "Use it or Lose It" bill and why it won't bring down energy prices. The audio file is available for download on my website at <http://carter.house.gov/multimedia> (right click on "MP3" and select "Save Target As" to download.)



STUDENTS IN THE 31ST DISTRICT EARN NOMINATIONS TO MILITARY ACADEMIES

Each year, some of the most outstanding students from Texas' 31st District are chosen to attend one of the United States military service academies. I am honored to have the opportunity as a U.S. Congressman to nominate these exceptional students, many of whom will become our nation's military leaders, to the academies. Students can seek nominations to the United States Military Academy in West Point, NY; the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO; the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD; and the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY.

Assisted by my Service Academy Screening Committee, I recently nominated many exceptional students from the 31st District. The following students are those that were nominated and accepted to one of the service academies or service academy prep schools where they will attend in the upcoming months.

Attending the United States Military Academy

- Micah Ables from Copperas Cove
- Zachary Barba from Round Rock
- Joshua Coleman from Salado
- John Jantzen from Cedar Park
- Joseph Krusee from Austin
- Kelsee Miller from Taylor
- Stephen "Jeffrey" Pickett from Temple
- Jeremy Prater from Georgetown
- William Salter from Harker Heights
- Christian Vernau from Arlington, VA but is a resident of Bell County

Attending the United States Military Academy Preparatory School

- Felipe Anciola from Cedar Park
- Michael Carrion from Killeen
- Janay Wilson from Killeen

Attending the United States Naval Academy

- Terrence Barcelon from Killeen
- Brandon Tinkhom of Round Rock

United States Naval Academy Preparatory School

- Shafiq Ladha from Killeen
- Darrius Upshaw from Harker Heights
- Jenson Wenzel from Austin

Attending the United States Air Force Academy

- Bill Song of Killeen

Attending Falcon Academy Preparatory School

- Christopher Valencia from Round Rock

These students have gone through a rigorous nomination and acceptance process. After the application period closes, my Service Academy Selection Committee reviews the applications and meets with individual candidates. The Committee bases its recommendations on students' academic records, extracurricular and community activities, test scores and letters of recommendation. After carefully evaluating my committee's recommendations, I submit my nominations to the academies.

Admittance into any of the service academies offers the opportunity for students to receive a first-class education at no cost to their families. Further, once students graduate from the academy, they are able to serve our country as commissioned officers in the United States military. The academies are very competitive and open only to those students who demonstrate high standards in academics, extracurricular activities, and in their personal conduct. Students who have completed their education at one of the academies would tell you that the education and leadership training they received is well worth the effort and hard work.