

# CARTER COURIER

JULY 18, 2006

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## LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

Congress is working to protect the American values that define our nation's character. We have made progress on the American Values Agenda, which includes protecting the pledge, the freedom to display the American flag, the freedom of religious expression, the right to keep and bear arms, and the dignity of all human life.

In this week's Courier, I will also discuss how pro-growth policies are helping to reduce the deficit. The White House released a deficit report last week that proves that conservative spending policies are producing real results.

You can be assured that I will also continue to urge passage of a strong border security bill. Progress continues to be made on this front, as a number of committees in the House are holding hearings this week so we can give the President a good bill that will secure our nation's borders.

Until next week,

## FISCAL RESTRAINT IS DRIVING DEFICIT DOWN

I came to Congress to alleviate the deficit. Conservative economic policies are allowing us to make progress in reaching that goal. While the deficit is still too high, news of a reduced deficit is evidence that pro-growth policies are working. This week the Office of Management and Budget announced that the federal deficit is being reduced at record rates. This is great news for the American people. Pro-growth policies have encouraged a strong economy and additional jobs, allowing for strengthened government revenues and a reduced deficit.

The Administration's mid-session review revealed that the deficit is projected to be \$296 billion. This estimate is 30 percent less than was expected six months ago. Further, the new forecast places the deficit at 2.3 percent of our economy (GDP), which is in line with the historical average.

As the Administration explained it, the deficit's relation to GDP is much like a mortgage. When you take out a home loan, you take into consideration how much you borrow compared to how much you earn. If your income increases, your mortgage takes up less of your budget. That is similar to how the federal economy works. When more revenue is generated, the burden of the deficit decreases.

Last year, revenues grew by a dramatic 14.5 percent, and revenue is expected to grow by \$245 billion or 11.4 percent this year. The revenue increase in 2005 symbolizes the largest

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increase in more than 20 years. The increased revenues are a sign that the economic policies are encouraging more spending among consumers, which allows for a reduced deficit. Tax relief is working. Allowing American taxpayers to keep more of their hard-earned money is promoting growth. In fact, the U.S. economy has resulted in 5.4 million new jobs since August 2003, 34 consecutive months of sustained job creation, and a record low 4.6 percent unemployment rate. This growth has created more jobs, and more jobs have increased revenue to the federal government.

Keeping taxes low and expanding revenue is only one part of the equation to realizing a reduced deficit. We must also continue to promote fiscally restrained spending. In the past several years, we have been successful in Congress in reducing the growth of discretionary spending of non-defense programs. In fact, this year House Republicans have proposed 95 program terminations, for a savings of nearly \$4 billion. This effort builds on similar efforts last year when we successfully eliminated 53 programs for a savings of \$3.5 billion. Additionally, we have made a push to ensure that the emergency supplemental bill truly funds immediate military, hurricanes recovery, and pandemic flu needs. That is why we rejected an additional \$14 billion in unnecessary and non-emergency spending in this year's supplemental.

The unsustainable growth in spending for entitlement programs is unquestionably one of the biggest challenges facing our nation's economy. We need to take significant action to rein in spending for such entitlement programs as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Millions of our fellow Americans rely on these programs for retirement health care needs. But the spending for these programs is growing faster than inflation, faster than the economy, and faster than our ability to pay for them. If we don't address this issue, these programs will not be around to assist future generations.

Although progress has been made, we need to be vigilant in our efforts to further rein in government spending. I remain committed to supporting initiatives that will lower taxes, restrain federal spending, and create jobs, so we can accomplish our goal to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the deficit.

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#### **CARTER COSPONSORS BILL PROTECTING FALLEN SOLDIERS FROM EXPLOITATION**

This week I signed on as a cosponsor of a bill that would ban the unauthorized use of a fallen soldier's name or image for commercial or political purposes. H.R. 5772, the Military Fallen Heroes Protection Act, was introduced in light of recent political ads and for-profit practices that use the names and images of deceased soldiers without the expressed consent from their families. In fact, several families who have lost loved ones in Iraq requested such a law after they discovered that the names of their sons had been printed on the back of anti-war t-shirts being sold for profit.

Our nation's brave soldiers put their lives on the line everyday for our freedom and sovereignty. For those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, it is our responsibility to protect their honor and memory—not exploit their sacrifice for commercial or political gain. Individuals and organizations that participate in such despicable practices should be ashamed of themselves. I am pleased to cosponsor a bill that will prohibit the exploitation of America's heroes. Although we cannot repay our service men and women for their sacrifices, I will continue to fight to protect their honor.

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#### **CARTER STATEMENT ON ISRAELI CONFLICT**

Israel is currently fighting a two-front battle on Hezbollah. The Israelis have a clear understanding that terrorism in any form or fashion has to be addressed immediately and with conviction. I commend them for their valor and strength, and wish them a successful conclusion to this conflict. The prayers of my family and Central Texas are with Israel during this difficult time.

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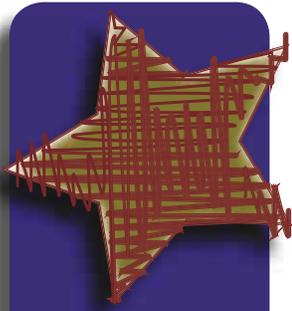
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#### **CARTER CONTINUES STRONG STAND ON IMMIGRATION**

Last week I had the opportunity once again to speak on the House Floor on the need for a strong border security bill. Below are a few excerpts from my speech:

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to address this House about an issue that, at least as I travel around my district, as I travel around my State, is one of the defining issues of our time, and that is the issue which we are hearing about every day: What are we going to do about the immigration policy and the immigration influx into this country?

I thought I would come down here today and see if we could not analyze this the way we sort of like to analyze evidence as we do in the courtroom. We need to take a look at what is the



problem that brings us to this point that we have to address this thing, and I would propose first and foremost we need to look at the big problem and decide where is the crisis today as we stand here on this floor on July 12.

Where would the American public define the crisis to be as we deal with people who are coming into this country from other countries? And when I say other countries, I mean many, many other countries but predominantly I am addressing today the crossing of our southern border out of Mexico. Where are we concerned and why are we concerned? ...

The bleeding, Mr. Speaker, is at the border. That is where the bleeding is. We have to do what we have to do to address how to stop the bleeding on the issue of immigration.

Right now we have two bills that are about to be discussed in conference committee that supposedly the two Houses of Congress are looking at what is important to take care of so that we can start down the road of having a responsible immigration process.

I would submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that after three trips to the border in the last 9 months, I am absolutely convinced that not only is the need most important that we secure our borders, but what the American people want us to do is secure our sovereignty and our borders, both on the southern border and the northern border of these United States, but the bleeding right now and the numbers coming across are clearly in the south.

I think the bill which has passed the House of Representatives is a bill that deals with the issue that is in crisis in America today on the issue of immigration. And I am going to submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that if any of our Members, and many of them have, and so I want to praise them for doing so, but if any of them will travel to the border towns of Texas, and I would highly recommend a trip...this day I recommend Laredo, Texas, and if you are not frightened about what you learn from the Nuevo Laredo citizens and from the Border Patrol immigration and ICE as to what is going on in Laredo, Mexico today, then you just don't see it.

The full text of my Floor speech that compares the House and Senate views on immigration can be found on my website at:

<http://carter.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=47201>.



### **CARTER ANNOUNCES GRANT TO TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

I was pleased to recently announce that the Texas Workforce Commission has received a \$1.5 million Disability Program Navigator (DPN) grant from the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. The DPN ensures that individuals with disabilities have full access to employment and training services and benefits through the One-Stop Career Center system.

These funds will provide essential resources for the Texas Workforce Commission. The support provided by the Disability Program Navigator will expand access to quality employment and career opportunities for Texans with disabilities.

The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration has partnered with the Social Security Administration on the DPN initiative so that Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income recipients can gain meaningful employment and career opportunities.

### **REMINDER COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS**

Congressman Carter's *staff* will hold community office hours at the following time and location. The staff will be able to meet with residents to listen to their concerns and provide assistance with regard to federal issues and federal agencies.

**TUESDAY, JULY 25th**

**8:00 am - 10:00 am**

**Copperas Cove**

Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

204 E. Robertson Avenue

Copperas Cove, Texas

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 26th**

**9:00 am - 11:00 am**

**Marlin**

Marlin City Hall Council Chambers

101 Fortune Street

Marlin, Texas



# Kids' Page

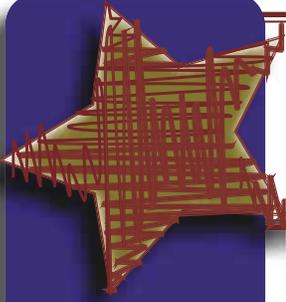
## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WORD SEARCH

I A M E R I C A U I  
N L A I L I S L N R  
D L I B E R T Y I I  
I E O G I E A N T N  
V G O D S P T E E A  
I I T D L U E P D T  
S A R L A B S L C I  
I N R O E L O E F O  
B C B S R I G D L N  
L E E L S C L G A E  
E J U S T I C E G N

Can you find all of the underlined words in the Pledge of Allegiance?

I pledge allegiance to the flag  
Of the United States of America  
And to the Republic for which it stands:  
One nation under God, indivisible,  
With liberty and justice for all.

This week in Congress, I am working with my colleagues to make sure you can still recite the Pledge with the phrase, "under God."



# Color the President



**John F. Kennedy**

**Presidential Number: 35th**

Years he was President: 1961-1963

State Represented: Massachusetts

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Fact(s): He liked to swim. He represented Massachusetts in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

**Personal**

Birthday: May 29, 1917

How old would he be this year? 89

School(s) attended: Harvard University

Wife: Jacqueline Kennedy

Occupation(s) before he was Presi-

dent: Journalist, author

Other way(s) he served: Served in Navy, Congressman, U.S. Senator

Height: 6 feet

Favorite Foods: New England clam chowder

Hobbies or Sports: Sailing, swimming, football

Pets: Ponies

**Life in America**

How would he have traveled? Helicopter, airplane, car

How would he have communicated with his friends? Telephone, typed letter

U.S. Population when term began: 179,323,031

Number of stars on flag when he left office: 50