



CARTER COURIER

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

Last week, Congress took important steps to keep your taxes from being raised and to give the Department of Defense the tools they need to keep us safe.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I have also been busy ensuring that federal dollars are being allocated for important, worthwhile projects, including those that will benefit Central Texas. I am adamantly against wasteful spending, and have requested funds for projects that are necessary for improvements to critical infrastructure in our communities. For example, initial approval has been given for a watershed to benefit Marlin, a wastewater treatment center in Jarrell, and a water recycling program in Williamson County.

So far this year, Appropriations Committee Democrats have requested \$19.5 billion in new spending above and beyond Republicans, offsetting it by increasing taxes on small businesses. I will continue to work with my Republican colleagues in the interest of Americans to focus on lower taxes and fiscal responsibility.

Until next week,

CARTER ACTS TO PREVENT TAX INCREASES

I am proud to report that I voted in support of a bill to prevent tax increases on small business owners, seniors, and families. H.R. 4297, the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act, extends alternative minimum tax relief, the increased limit on small business expensing, and the low rates on capital gains and dividends.

I am proud to support tax relief for millions of American small business owners, families, and seniors. This tax bill will assist seniors who are dependent on dividends as well as working families currently burdened by unnecessary taxation. This legislation will extend the tax policies that have been responsible for the historic economic growth and strength that Americans have been enjoying in the past several months.

Among other things, the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act will:

- Extend alternative minimum tax (AMT) relief for an additional year.
- Extend the increased limit on small business expensing.
- Extend the lower tax rate on dividend income through 2010, thus preventing a \$13 billion tax increase over the next four years. This provision will benefit 1 in 2 taxpaying seniors.

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- Extend the lower tax rate on capital gains income through 2010, thus preventing a \$7 billion tax increase over the next four years. This provision will benefit nearly 1 in 3 senior citizens.

CARTER SUPPORTS AND HONORS TROOPS

Last week, the House passed two bills that I cosponsored, which will support and honor our service men and women. The Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act, H.R. 5037, will prevent protestors from harassing mourners at the funerals of military men and women who die while serving their nation. H.R. 1499, the Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities (HERO) Act allows members of the Armed Forces who earn combat pay to contribute into retirement savings plans.

Honoring and protecting our service men and women is one of my top priorities in Congress. The dedicated members of our military and their families make incredible sacrifices to ensure the freedom of all Americans.

The Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act bans protestors from demonstrating at military funerals in national cemeteries for 60 minutes before a funeral and continuing until 60 minutes afterward. It also requires protestors to remain at least 500 feet from the funeral site and mourners, and includes a sense of Congress that all 50 states should adopt such legislation affecting the locations of military funerals.

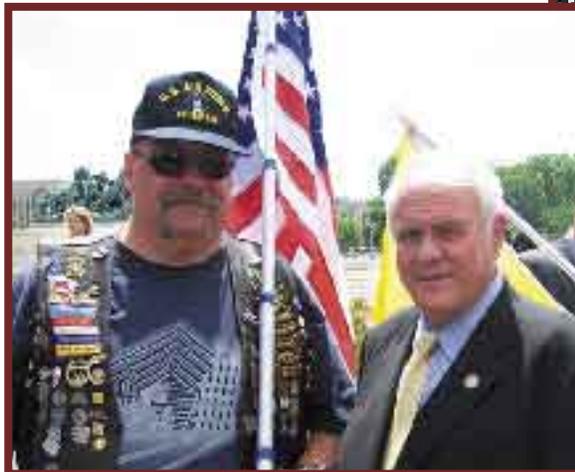
I feel strongly about the need for this legislation, especially following the infuriating incident in March where protestors picketed the Temple funeral of a 19 year old female soldier, Pfc. Amy Duerksen, of the 4th Infantry Division who lost her life while bravely serving in Iraq.

Our service men and women, who give their lives in service to the nation, deserve to be buried peacefully and with dignity. Families should not have to listen to this hateful, vile, disrespectful speech when they are mourning the death and honoring the life of their loved one. Protesting at a funeral goes beyond the bounds of decency. What that group does to grieving families is nothing short of criminal.

The HERO Act takes important steps to ensure that our military members serving in combat zones overseas are able to fully participate in saving through Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Currently, combat pay earned by a member of the Armed Forces is not eligible for contribution to retirement accounts. As deployment times have grown longer and longer, many soldiers now serve entire calendar years overseas, making their yearly compensation consist of hazard pay exclusively.

The brave service men and women who are defending America overseas certainly deserve the same access to retirement savings that we receive. It simply is not fair to exclude our soldiers from fully participating in this important retirement investment opportunity because of a glitch in our tax code. The legislation passed by the House today will take steps to correct this serious injustice.

Below are photos of Congressman Carter with members of the Patriot Guard Riders. This group of riders has joined together and traveled throughout the country to shield mourning military families and friends from protestors and to preserve the memory of fallen service members at funerals.





DELTA ANNOUNCES SERVICE TO KILLEEN

I was also pleased to learn that Delta Air Lines will begin offering twice-daily service between Atlanta Killeen, Texas, effective Sept. 7, 2006.

The new year-round service will be Delta's first between Killeen-Fort Hood and Atlanta and will provide Central Texas customers easy access to Delta's global network, including non-stop service to 84 international destinations in 46 countries and 211 domestic destinations in all 50 states*.

"Delta is pleased to continue our growth to underserved markets like Killeen-Fort Hood and to become the only carrier with non-stop flights between Killeen and the Eastern United States," said Bob Cortelyou, vice president, Network Planning. "Fort Hood is the largest military installation in the country and we look forward to the opportunity to bring thousands of troops home to their families throughout the United States, as well as serving the growing base of business and industry throughout the Texas Hill Country."

"Delta's new service to Killeen is great news for the Central Texas region. Dependable air service to the East Coast will provide enhanced opportunity for economic expansion in the Killeen community, and will be invaluable for the service men and women at Fort Hood. I applaud Delta for recognizing the value of flying to Killeen," Congressman John Carter said.

CARTER SUPPORTS DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

I also voted in favor of legislation to provide for our country's defense and promote the welfare of our heroic men and women in uniform. H.R. 5122, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 provides a comprehensive outline for the Department of Defense annual priorities. The bill also blocks the Department of Defense's proposed TRICARE fee increases and zeroes out co-pays for generic and formulary mail order prescriptions for military beneficiaries. The House overwhelmingly passed this bill by a vote of 396-31.

I am proud to have supported this critical piece of legislation that will help protect our homeland and ensure that the brave men and women of our armed forces have the resources they need to effectively fight the war on terror. I am also pleased that we were able to fend off efforts to increase TRICARE fees for our active duty and retired military personnel, especially during a time of war."

Among other things, the National Defense Authorization Act includes:

- A 2.7 percent across-the-board pay raise for members of the military;
- \$50 billion in supplemental funding to support the global war on terror;
- An increase of \$390 million for continued production of enhanced body armor and body armor components; and
- Additional funding for force-protection needs, including up-armored Humvees, improvised explosive device (IED) jammers, and Humvee IED protection kits and gunner protection kits.

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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2006

8:30 am – 10:30 am

COPPERAS COVE

Chamber of Commerce – Conference Room

204 E. Robertson Ave.

Copperas Cove, TX, 76522



Kids' Page

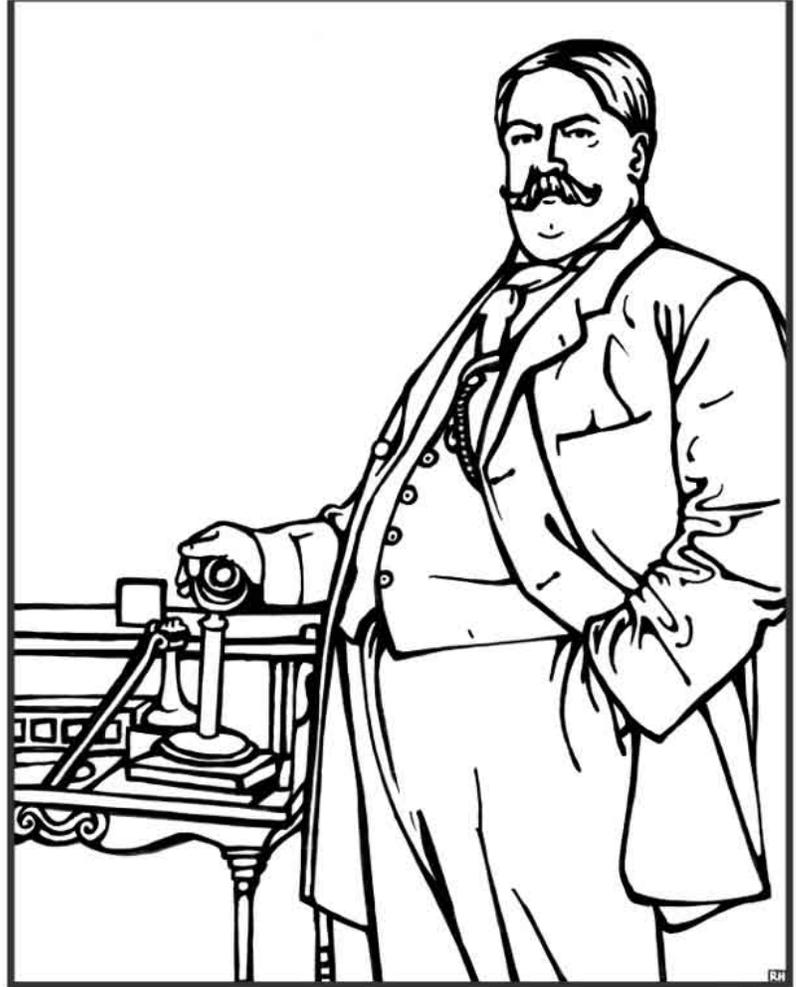
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WORDS OF WISDOM

Fill in the missing word or words to complete these Ben Franklin quotations:

1. A penny saved is a penny _____.
2. Early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy, _____, and _____.
3. God helps them that help _____.
4. Haste makes _____.
5. Lost time is never _____ again.
6. Necessity never made a good _____.
7. Remember, that time is _____.
8. The door to _____ is never shut.
9. To lengthen thy Life, lessen thy _____.
10. We must indeed all hang together, or, most assuredly, we shall all _____.
11. Well done is better than well _____.
12. When you're good to others you are best to _____.

*Answers can be found on page 4.

Color the President



William Taft

Presidential Number: 27th

Years he was President: 1909--1913

State Represented: Ohio

Party Affiliation: Republican

Fact(s): Improved the economy and helped to build the government of the Philippines. He was the son of a distinguished judge. He preferred law to politics.

Personal

Birthday: September 15, 1857

How old would he be this year? 149

School(s) attended: Yale College, Cincinnati Law School

Wife: Helen Taft

Occupation(s) before he was President: Federal circuit judge, professor of law at Yale

Other way(s) he served: Secretary of War

Height: 6 feet

Favorite Foods: Turtle Soup

Hobbies or Sports: Golf, riding

Pets: Cow named Pauline Wayne

Life in America

How would he have traveled? Car, train

How would he have communicated with his friends?

Telephone, typed letter, telegram

U.S. Population when term began: 95,972,266

Number of stars on flag when he left office: 48