



# CARTER COURIER

<http://carter.house.gov>

SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 30

## LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

This week we honor and remember the 9-11 terrorist attacks that struck this nation's land five years ago. Although we are a safer nation today, we need to continue working to make our nation safe.

This week the House will make progress on two important national security issues: authorizing military tribunals for terrorists and authorizing the President's terrorist surveillance program targeted toward keeping America safe.

We will also continue work on border security initiatives with a goal of sending legislation to the President's desk for his signature this year.

These reforms will be focused on several specific areas which must be addressed this year, including providing more border patrol agents; strengthening security through additional fencing and infrastructure; stricter enforcement; and enhancing state and local law enforcement authority.

Until next week,

## FIVE YEARS LATER: SECURING A NATION

On September 11, 2001, a group of vicious terrorists attacked the United States, killing thousands of innocent Americans. On the fifth anniversary, we remember the lives lost in the 9-11 attacks, and pray for the surviving loved ones and a nation that continues to heal.

These cold blooded killers didn't wear uniforms. They didn't only attack military targets. They attacked the Pentagon, but their initial attack was a civilian target, a symbol of international freedom and economy. The total number of United States citizens killed in that single day was 2,973, the vast majority of whom were civilians, not military soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines; and they were not attacked by a country's army. Innocent American civilians who had done nothing to harm the people who killed them were unexpectedly attacked from behind the shadows.

On that day, Congress gathered on the steps of the Capitol in a very touching moment and sang, "God Bless America," Republicans and Democrats alike. Our country was united in seeing justice brought to those who had attacked innocent Americans on U.S. soil.

Our nation hasn't been hit again, and there are reasons for that. We are fighting a new kind of enemy, and we must do everything in our power to protect our nation's security and win the war on terror. We must use every tool that is constitutional and lawful to maintain our national security.

The Terrorist Surveillance Program is a critical intelligence tool to detect and prevent potential acts on the United

### CONTENTS

*Remembering 9-11*  
1-2

*Progress in Iraq*  
2

*Teen Driver Safety*  
2-3

*PHOTOS:*  
*Lions and Rotary*  
3

*Reminder: Community*  
*Outreach Visits*  
3

*Kid's Page:*  
*Constitution Day*  
4

*Coloring Page:*  
*President G.H.W. Bush*  
5





States. The House will authorize the President's Terrorist Surveillance Program in the next several days. This program is designed to identify and disrupt terror cells planning attacks against the United States. The American people are not the target of our information gathering efforts; al-Qaeda is the target. In order to be effective in the fight against terrorism, we must give the Department of Justice the ability to monitor the actions of suspected terrorists.

We are far better at gathering information than our enemy. It is an advantage we must exploit, and it is a capability that is keeping us safe. We have safeguards in place to vigorously protect American civil liberties and to protect our homeland. For the sake of our nation and the safety of its people, we must do both. As the Department of Justice has said, the Constitution gives the President the full authority necessary to conduct the program, which is lawful and protects civil liberties.

The American people in poll after poll have supported this, and they have every right to expect the government to use every tool we can to protect them. In fact, in multiple polls conducted earlier this year, nearly 70 percent of Americans strongly support the Terrorist Surveillance Program. Further, 65 percent of Americans believe that investigating terrorist threats and protecting Americans is a higher priority than protecting privacy. The Terrorist Surveillance Program is one of the many legal tools that we have, will, and must use.

It was this very kind of surveillance that has protected us from a number of additional attacks, including the recent plot that British authorities disrupted, which would have blown up a number of airliners headed to America just a few weeks ago.

Evil exists in the world and we must confront this evil. Backing away from this challenge will not make evil go away or make these terrorists stop killing innocent people. We must continue to support our soldiers as they do a very tough job. I have great compassion for the young men and women that go to war. It is hard, but those soldiers know that they are doing their duty, and they are doing what is necessary to keep our nation secure.

We must ensure that the lives lost in the 9/11 attacks are never forgotten. I will continue to support efforts to strengthen our homeland security by ensuring that our intelligence agencies have the tools necessary to stop terrorist plots before they happen. We must continue using every legal source of information to fight this war and help keep this country safe.

Complacency is not an option—we must maintain our resolve to protect American families and win the War on Terror. If we do not stay the course, all the investment in freedom that we have made in the past will pale to the surrender that follows.

---

---

### **HOUSE MEMBERS APPLAUD PROGRESS OF IRAQI GOVERNMENT**

On September 7, 2006, Iraq assumed full control of the Iraqi armed forces, putting the prime minister in direct control of the military. I joined other Members of Congress in making the following statement in response to this historic event:

“The transfer of the Iraqi military to direct Iraqi government control is a major step toward Iraq's full independence. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is committed to achieving a stable democratic society in Iraq. A competent military is essential for success.

“With two thirds of the Iraqi Army's combat units in the lead, we are encouraged that Iraqi Security Forces are assuming more responsibility for the security of their country. As these brave Iraqis continue to take the lead against those who seek to deprive their countrymen of the rights they have fought to secure, we will continue to stand with them.

“Success in Iraq is vital to world stability and security in the United States. Today's transfer is one step further to achieving victory in Iraq.”

---

---

### **CONGRESSMAN CARTER PROMOTES TEEN DRIVER SAFETY**

I am joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in promoting awareness of a critical national problem – teen driver safety. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15- to 20-year-olds, and in fact they are about twice as likely as other Americans to die in a crash.

According to studies from the NHTSA, teen drivers are at highest risk of any age group for involvement in crashes. In 2004, 3,620 drivers age 15 to 20 were killed, and an additional 303,000 injured, in motor vehicle crashes. In 2004, the teen fatality rate (per population) was about twice as high as the national average.

Lack of driving experience leads to more risk-taking behavior. Young drivers need time to develop their driving skills and judgment. The single most important way to help is to remind parents that they can manage their teens' risk by staying involved – especially during the summer months.



Nearly two-thirds (62%) of teen motor vehicle occupants who were killed in 2004 were unrestrained and 38 percent of male drivers age 15-20 involved in fatal crashes were speeding. Alcohol is also a factor in teen fatalities.

Parents can place limits on risky situations like nighttime driving and driving or riding with other teens. Parents also need to set firm rules about safety belt use, speeding, and alcohol.

*Pictured Right: Congressman Carter gives a Congressional Update to members of the Killeen Heights Rotary Club.*



*Pictured Left: Congressman Carter speaks to the Temple Lions Club. Carter discussed homeland security and immigration issues during his presentation.*

### **REMINDER: SEPTEMBER 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, SEPTEMBER 19th**

**9:00 am - 11:30 am**

##### **Rockdale**

Rockdale City Hall  
Council Chamber Room  
505 West Cameron Avenue  
Rockdale, Texas

#### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th**

**8:30 am - 11:00 am**

##### **Copperas Cove**

Chamber of Commerce  
Conference Room  
204 East Robertson Avenue  
Copperas Cove, Texas

#### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th**

**10:30 am - 1:30 pm**

##### **Cameron**

Bea's Kitchen  
101 East Main Street  
Cameron, Texas

#### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th**

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

##### **Marlin**

Marlin City Hall - Council Chambers  
101 Fortune Street  
Marlin, Texas



# Kids' Page

## SEPTEMBER 17TH CONSTITUTION DAY

September 17th is Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

This day commemorates the September 17, 1787, signing of the United States Constitution. The U.S. Constitution was drafted in 1787 by 55 delegates who originally gathered to revise the Articles of Confederation. The result was the "Constitutional Convention" where an entirely new plan of government was outlined.

Constitution is defined as the basic principles and laws of a nation, state, or social group that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people in it.

The original document continues to be safely preserved and displayed in the Rotunda of the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

*Below are a few interesting facts about the Constitution and its drafting.*

### **Who was called the "Sage of the Constitutional Convention"?**

Benjamin Franklin, of Pennsylvania.

### **Who was called the "Father of the Constitution"?**

James Madison, of Virginia, because in point of erudition and actual contributions to the formation of the Constitution he was preeminent.

### **Was Thomas Jefferson a member of the Constitutional Convention?**

No. Jefferson was American Minister to France at the time of the Constitutional Convention.

### **Who presided over the Constitutional Convention?**

George Washington, chosen unanimously.

### **How long did it take to frame the Constitution?**

It was drafted in fewer than one hundred working days.

### **Did George Washington sign the Declaration of Independence?**

No. He had been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army more than a year before and was at the time with the army in New York City.

### **What are the exact measurements of the original of the Constitution of the United States?**

Four sheets, approximately 28 3/4 in. by 23 5/8 in. each.

### **How many words are there in the texts in the present volume, and how long does it take to read them?**

The Constitution has 4,543 words, including the signatures but not the certificate on the interlineations; and takes about half an hour to read.

# Color the President



**George H.W. Bush**

**Presidential Number: 41st**

Years he was President: 1989-1993

State Represented: Texas

Party Affiliation: Republican

Fact(s): When he was 18, he joined the armed forces. He represented Texas in Congress.

**Personal**

Birthday: June 12, 1924

How old would he be this year? 82

School(s) attended: Yale University

Wife: Barbara Bush

Occupation(s) before he was President: Navy Pilot, businessman

Other way(s) he served: Congressman, United States Ambassador of the United Nations, Ambassador to China, Vice President

Height: 6 feet, 2 inches

Hobbies or Sports: Boating, fishing, golf, horse-shoes, jogging, tennis

Pets: Dogs, English Springer Spaniels named C. Fred and Millie

**Life in America**

How would he have traveled? Helicopter, airplane, car

How would he have communicated with his friends? Letters, phone, email

U.S. Population when term began: 248,718,301

Number of stars on flag when he left office: 50