



CARTER COURIER

<http://carter.house.gov>

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

The month of September will be a busy time for Congress. We will focus on addressing the safety and security needs of the American people through homeland security, national security, and border security initiatives.

We will take up legislation that will ensure U.S. intelligence agencies have the tools necessary to stop terrorist plots before they happen.

We will also provide our troops with every available resource necessary to carry out their mission and protect the American people through the Defense authorization conference report as well as the Department of Defense and Military Quality of Life appropriations conference reports.

Finally, we will provide additional resources to federal and state authorities to strengthen border patrol efforts and ensure our immigration laws are strictly enforced.

Until next week,

LABOR DAY: THANKING THE AMERICAN WORKER

Labor Day, which was celebrated September 4th this year, is an opportunity to honor everyday workers for their contribution to our nation's economic success. Labor Day was created by the labor movement and first celebrated in 1882 to pay tribute to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Labor Day gives us the opportunity to celebrate the people who are responsible for our nation's economic successes. In a time of unprecedented economic strength, we have a lot to celebrate this Labor Day. Tax relief and economic policies are spurring growth and creating an environment where innovation and opportunity flourish.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis released estimates showing that real gross domestic product (GDP) grew at a 2.9 percent rate in the second quarter of 2006. This announcement is great news for the U.S. and marks the 19th consecutive quarter of economic growth. This growth is providing American consumers with increased financial security that allows the market to enjoy continued growth. In fact, the U.S. Commerce Department has reported that consumer spending in July was at its fastest pace in six months. Further, the 2005 poverty rate of 12.6 percent is lower than the average poverty rate of the 1980s and 1990s.

American workers are to be commended for keeping our economy growing. Small businesses are also central to the

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American dream of self-improvement and individual achievement. More than 90 percent of all American employers are small businesses and generate approximately 70 percent of the new jobs created in the United States each year. Clearly, small businesses are crucial to the American economy and account for a significant majority of new product ideas and innovation.

In order to provide support to American workers and businesses, the House has passed 39 pieces of legislation this Congress to change the business environment and bring jobs back to America. We have addressed many of the issues that greatly affect small businesses, including health care, tax reform, litigation reform, reduction of regulations and paperwork, soaring energy prices, and increased access to capital and government procurement.

For example, the House overwhelmingly passed the Small Business Health Fairness Act, which would create national Association Health Plans (AHPs), allowing small businesses to band together and purchase health insurance through national associations at group rates. In 2002, only 30.8 percent of businesses with 25 employees or less offered health insurance to their workers. Unfortunately, the Senate failed to pass similar legislation even though a majority of Senators supported the measure.

The President recently signed tax relief legislation that extends \$70 billion in tax relief, including a two year extension of the higher \$100,000 small business expensing limit and a one year extension of individual Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) relief.

The House also passed legislation to rein in lawsuit abuse by imposing penalties against lawyers who file frivolous lawsuits. According to an October 2005 study, the legal cost to small business for actual litigation ranges from \$3,000 to \$150,000.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 was signed into law to provide adequate, affordable, and reliable energy supplies. This law is important to small businesses, particularly small manufacturers, because the legislation focuses on encouraging environmentally friendly extraction of energy resources here at home and also creates more incentives to conserve energy. In particular, tax credits to purchase energy efficient equipment helps small business contractors and re-modelers market products to homeowners and commercial property owners seeking to conserve energy.

The House also provided significant funding for the Small Business Administration (SBA), which provides loans and support to small businesses. The Fiscal Year 2007 Appropriations bill includes \$642.8 million for the SBA, providing a record level of budget authority for the two main guarantee lending programs of the SBA.

These are just a few of the actions taken by the House to help the U.S. compete in the global marketplace by bolstering the workforce and reducing the cost of doing business in our country. I will proudly continue my support of policies that will move America forward and provide opportunity for U.S. businesses and working families.

CARTER APPLAUDS OPERATION RIO GRANDE SUCCESSES

Attends Border Briefing with Governor's Office

Last week I participated in a briefing conducted by Governor Rick Perry's office to discuss border security issues. During the briefing we discussed the effectiveness of Operation Rio Grande, which directs resources to targeted portions of the border where criminal activity and illegal crossings are most prevalent. Since implementation of the initiative, crime has fallen by 40-70 percent in counties along the Texas border.

Operation Rio Grande has been successful in dramatically decreasing crime along the Texas border. I applaud the State of Texas and Governor Perry for taking swift action to effectively secure our border and protect Americans.

This initiative proves what I have said all along—we need to begin by securing our border with increased personnel and resources. In Texas, we are faced with serious problems associated with drug running, arms smuggling, and violence spilling over from Mexico border towns. We need to stop the bleeding, and right now, the bleeding is at the border.

CARTER ANNOUNCES \$493,614 GRANT TO TARLETON STATE

I recently announced that Tarleton State University has received a \$493,614 grant from the Department of Justice. I was responsible for securing these funds for Tarleton State in the Fiscal Year 2006 Appropriations bill. The grant will be used for Tarleton State University's Rural Law Enforcement Information Technology and Anti-Terrorism Service Center, which provides technological support to rural law enforcement.

I am pleased to have helped secure funding for this important initiative that will allow Tarleton State to continue supporting local law enforcement. There is an urgent need for information technology resources in rural areas across the nation, and this program gives rural law enforcement in Texas important access to computer technology and anti-terrorism training. This technological support gives rural police departments the resources needed to better protect



the communities they serve.

The purpose of this Tarleton State University program is to provide computer access, technical assistance, and anti-terrorism training to small city and county law enforcement operations in coordination with other state and federal resources. The project is focused on 30 law enforcement agencies throughout Texas.

PUBLIC SERVICE INFORMATION **TELEPHONE FRAUD INVOLVING JURY DUTY**

As I have told many of my constituents, identity theft is the fastest growing white collar crime in the U.S.

The FBI is providing a warning to the public against an ongoing scheme involving jury service. The public needs to be aware that individuals identifying themselves as U.S. court employees have been telephonically contacting citizens and advising them that they have been selected for jury duty. These individuals ask to verify names and Social Security numbers, then ask for credit card numbers. If the request is refused, citizens are then threatened with fines.

Please note, the judicial system does **not** contact people telephonically and ask for personal information such as your Social Security number, date of birth or credit card numbers. If you receive one of these phone calls, **do not provide** any personal or confidential information to these individuals. This is an attempt to steal or to use your identity by obtaining your name, Social Security number and potentially to apply for credit or credit cards or other loans in your name. It is an attempt to defraud you.

If you have already been contacted and have already given out your personal information, please monitor your account statements and credit reports, and contact your local FBI office. Local FBI field office telephone numbers can be found in the front of your local telephone directory or on www.fbi.gov. For further information, please review the warnings posted on the U.S. Courts website at www.uscourts.gov.

SEND A POSTCARD THANKING OUR TROOPS

There is a new way to let our soldiers know you appreciate their service. At www.LetsSayThanks.com, you can write a personalized message on postcards – drawn by children across the country – which will be printed and sent to deployed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. This FREE program from Xerox allows people to express their gratitude to the many soldiers deployed abroad to defend our freedom.

There are several artwork options, and you can choose from the pre-selected text or write your own message of thanks. To submit a card, simply visit www.LetsSayThanks.com, click on your favorite postcard design, personalize it with your message, and then hit submit.

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

TODAY IN HISTORY

**SEPTEMBER 5, 1882
THE FIRST LABOR DAY**

On September 5, 1882, some 10,000 workers assembled in New York City to participate in America's first Labor Day parade. After marching from City Hall to Union Square, the workers and their families gathered in Reservoir Park for a picnic, concert, and speeches.

This first Labor Day celebration was initiated by Peter J. McGuire, a carpenter and labor union leader who a year earlier co-founded the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, a precursor of the American Federation of Labor.

McGuire had proposed his idea for a holiday honoring American workers at a labor meeting in early 1882. New York's Central Labor Union quickly approved his proposal and began planning events for the second Tuesday in September. McGuire had suggested a September date in order to provide a break during the long stretch between Independence

Day and Thanksgiving. While the first Labor Day was held on a Tuesday, the holiday was soon moved to the first Monday in September, the date we continue to honor.

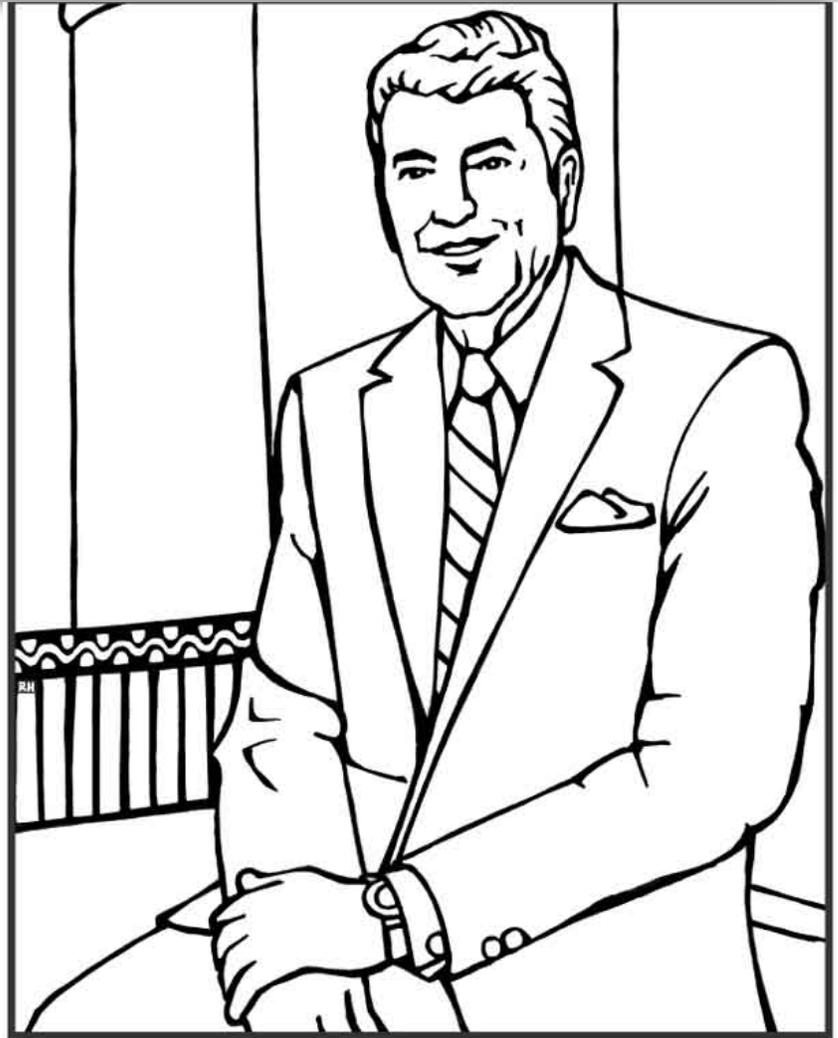


New York's Labor Day celebrations inspired similar events across the country. Oregon became the first state to grant legal status to the holiday in 1887; other states soon followed. In 1894, Congress passed legislation making Labor Day a national holiday.

For many decades, Labor Day was used by workers not only to celebrate their accomplishments, but also to air their grievances and discuss strategies for securing better working conditions and salaries.

Nowadays, Labor Day is associated less with union activities and protest marches and more with leisure. For many, the holiday is a time for family picnics, sporting events, and summer's last hurrah.

Color the President



Ronald Reagan

Presidential Number: 40th

Years he was President: 1981-1989

State Represented: California

Party Affiliation: Republican

Fact(s): He was shot by a would-be assassin and quickly recovered and returned to office.

Personal

Birthday: February 6, 1911

How old would he be this year? 95

School(s) attended: Eureka College (Illinois)

Wife: Nancy Reagan

Occupation(s) before he was Presi-

dent: Radio announcer and commentator, actor and public speaker

Other way(s) he served: Governor of California

Height: 6 feet, 1 inch

Favorite Foods: Jelly beans Hobbies or Sports:

Riding, swimming

Pets: Dog named Rex

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: 226,542,199

Number of stars on flag when he left office: 50