



CARTER COURIER

<http://carter.house.gov>

DECEMBER 5, 2006

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 39

LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

I hope this holiday season finds you and your loved ones in good health and good spirits. The time surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas is a joyous time to celebrate family and friends. This Thanksgiving, my wife, Erika, and I were honored to join the service men and women at Fort Hood for Thanksgiving. Below, you can read more about the enjoyable time we had while visiting with the soldiers.

Although I have enjoyed the past few weeks that I have spent at home in Round Rock, I am back in Washington to conduct business this week. We are voting on bills to support our veterans and troops, as well as the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act.

Until next week,



THANKING OUR TROOPS FOR THEIR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

One of my favorite holidays is Thanksgiving. I cherish the thought of sitting around a big table surrounded by my family laughing and talking and giving thanks for all of the blessings in our lives. As an American and a Texan, I have so much to thank God for. I am thankful for my wonderful family and the support they have shown me over the years. I am thankful for the people of the 31st District, and their never ending Texas spirit that flames the heart of our great state. I am thankful for our country and the freedoms we enjoy and must never take for granted.

This Thanksgiving, my wife and I had the honor of fellowshiping with soldiers and their families at Fort Hood. The tables were filled with soldiers who had just returned from the war in Iraq, and also those soldiers who were on their way back to fight for our freedom against terrorists. We experienced feelings of happiness for the soldiers and their families who were once again home in the United States to celebrate the holiday, but there was also a sense of sadness for those families who would once again say goodbye to the ones they love so dearly as they return to Iraq. As we bowed our heads in prayer before the meal, I felt an overwhelming sense of pride in the men and women who so bravely serve our country and the sacrifices their families are making to keep America a nation of freedom.

Centuries ago, the Pilgrims gathered to celebrate the blessings God had given them in the New World which would become the America we all know today. Little did they know that centuries of battles and wars would follow to ensure the integrity and prosperity of this great nation. Though much has

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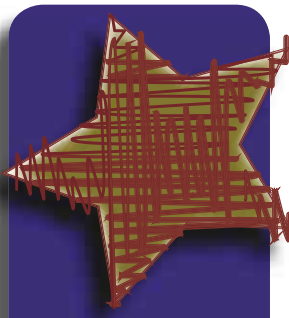
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changed over the years, the fight for truth and freedom still exists. The security of our nation is still at stake. There are still battles to be fought, and wars to be won. As Americans we must continue to support and pray for our troops as they defend the values and freedoms of America.

During this season of thanksgiving I am reminded of the words President Ronald Reagan spoke about Thanksgiving in 1982. He stated, "Today, we have more to be thankful for than our pilgrim mothers and fathers who huddled on the edge of the New World that first Thanksgiving Day could ever dream. We should be grateful not only for our blessings, but also for the courage and strength of our ancestors which enable us to enjoy the lives we do today. Let us reaffirm through prayer and actions our thankfulness for America's bounty and heritage."

As I count my many blessings this holiday season, I thank God for the soldiers throughout history who fought so bravely to give us the freedoms we enjoy today. I also thank God for each and every man and woman who, as we enjoy the comforts of our families and homes this holiday season, endure discomfort and sacrifice many miles from home as they fight to keep us free.

CARTER AGAIN SUPPORTS JOBS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Today, I again took action to help soldiers and their families obtain quality employment. I voted in favor of H.Res. 1070, which encourages employers to hire current and former service men and women who have been wounded in service.

Earlier this year, I introduced the Military Spouses Employment Act that will provide employers a tax incentive to hire qualified military spouses.

As Fort Hood's representative in Congress, I am proud to consistently support our nation's brave soldiers and their families. Today's vote is important in giving wounded service men and women an opportunity to excel in the workplace. After all, it is the least we can do for those who have sacrificed for our country.

Enhancing the quality of life for military families continues to be a top priority of mine, which is why I introduced the Military Spouses Employment Act and voted in support of today's resolution.

I am committed to seeing my bill, the Military Spouses Employment Act, become law. If this bill is not brought up in the final days of the 109th Congress, I will reintroduce this legislation at the beginning of the 110th Congress.

H.Res. 1070, which the House passed today, expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Members of the House should actively engage with employers and the American public at large to encourage the hiring of members and former members of the Armed Forces who were wounded in service and are facing a transition to civilian life.

INTERNS GAIN INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE

College students can gain valuable experience by working as an intern in a Congressional office. As a Congressman, I am always pleased to see young men and women taking an interest in the political process. Internships allow students to see the practical application of the things they are learning in government class.

One of the interns in my Round Rock office is Elizabeth Hoffman. She is a senior at Southwestern University from Dallas, and is majoring in political science with a minor in economics. Elizabeth first interned with my office last spring, and she was welcomed back with open arms this fall. To hear about Elizabeth's experience in my office, visit my website at: <http://carter.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=53940>.

Internships are an exciting and challenging way to learn more about the political process. Interns are important to the successful operation of my office. They are the voice and face of the office to many constituents, as they help answer the phones and greet constituents when they visit my offices. They also have the opportunity to assist the staff by writing letters, attending briefings, and sorting mail. My Washington, D.C. interns also give tours of the U.S. Capitol building to visitors from Central Texas.

If you are a college student—like Elizabeth—and think you might be interested in working in politics, I strongly suggest you apply for an internship in one of my offices. In fact, many of my full time staffers began as interns in my office or the office of another Member of Congress. An internship helps you to better understand the political process, and allows you to meet a number of people who are working in jobs that you might be interested in pursuing.

Internships for the spring 2007 semester are still available in each of my offices: Round Rock, Temple, and Washington, D.C. Depending on your school and major, you may even be eligible to receive college credit hours for your internship.

If you would like to intern in one of my Texas offices, please call 512-246-1600 and ask for the Intern Coordinator. If you would like to intern in D.C., please call 202-225-3864 and ask for the Intern Coordinator. You can also apply for an internship through my website at <http://carter.house.gov>.



Kids' Page

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES QUIZ

As your U.S. Congressman, I wanted to see how much you know about the House of Representatives. Take the below quiz to learn interesting facts about where I work!

1. How many Members are in the House of Representatives?

- 400 Members
- 435 Members
- 450 Members
- 465 Members

2. The process that determines how many Representatives each state has is called:

- Appropriation
- Cloture
- Apportionment
- Checks and Balances

3. How long is a Representative's term?

- 2 years
- 4 years
- 5 years
- 8 years

4. How often can Representatives run for office?

- Only once
- Every five years
- Once every census
- As often as they want

5. Representatives must be at least what age when entering office?

- 25 years old
- 35 years old
- 40 years old
- There is no minimum age

Coloring Page: U.S. Capitol

The House of Representatives is housed in the U.S. Capitol building. This is where I work.

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Kids
IN THE HOUSE

