



September 25, 2007 – Volume 3, Issue 32

Thank you for reading The Conaway Chronicle, a weekly review of my activities in Congress. This newsletter is to let you know what’s going on in Washington and what important issues are being debated in Congress.

UPHOLDING THE CONSTITUTION

On September 17th, 220 years ago, the 55 delegates to the Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia to hold their final meeting and sign a document that would change the course of history. Our Founding Fathers created a monumental plan to govern a sprawling young country dedicated to the idea that citizens were sovereign and should be as free from the tyranny of unchecked authority. Constitution Day presents us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on what a magnificent job these 55 individuals did in crafting a compromise that has provided us with a unified and stable nation. In their wisdom, they sought to protect the rights and liberties of individuals by dividing power and authority between the states and the national government. The result is a system of shared roles designed to prevent any one element from gaining too much power.



That is why last week, on the 220th Anniversary of the signing of our Constitution, I introduced the AMERICA Act – A Modest Effort to Read and Instill the Constitution Again. The AMERICA Act would require all Members of Congress, Senators, and their staff’s to read the Constitution at least once a year. It is my hope that this modest yearly effort will help us renew and deepen our appreciation for the brilliance of our Constitution and return to our Founding Father’s original idea a limited Federal Government.

[Click here](#) to watch me speak about this legislation on the House Floor.

GENERAL PETRAEUS AND MOVEON.ORG

Two week’s ago, General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker came to Washington to present their reports on the current state of affairs in Iraq. Prior to their testimonies, various organizations and members of Congress displayed despicable conduct by questioning their service to our country. The heinous New York Times ad, sponsored by the leftist organization MoveOn.org, blatantly and shamefully accused General Petraeus of betraying our country. I am saddened and appalled at both the New York Times for running the ad (they gave more than a \$100,000 discount to MoveOn.org) and by the number of Congressional Democrats who refused to condemn MoveOn for attacking one of the most decorated soldiers serving in the armed forces. Finally, after two weeks of denials, the New York Times has owned up to offering MoveOn.org a 60% discount off the full-page ad calling U.S. Commander General Petraeus, “General Betray Us.” The New York Times has also admitted it might have violated its advertising policy, a policy that bars “attacks of a personal nature.” While their apology is well and good, the damage is already done. The New York Times continues to show their true colors and must be held accountable. [Click here](#) to listen to my podcast on this issue.

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BACK FROM IRAQ

I returned last night from Iraq and Afghanistan. Visiting with our troops was an incredible experience. Their spirits are high and they are excited about completing their mission. Be on the lookout for a special edition of the Conaway Chronicle with a full update on my trip tomorrow.

PASSPORT UPDATE

Thanks to the accommodations made by the U.S. State Department, many travelers who were unable to receive their passports due to long delays, were still able to enjoy their summer vacations with proof of passport application.



At midnight on September 30, 2007, the temporary Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), which allows U.S. citizens to travel by air using an official proof of passport application receipt, will end. Effective Oct. 1, 2007, U.S. citizens traveling by air to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda must present either a passport or WHTI-compliant document to enter or depart from the United States.

Please note that people traveling by vehicle or cruise ship do not need a passport, but still must show a government-issued ID.

You may visit www.dhs.gov for more information on passport regulations.

Note: As of January 1, 2008 an official U.S. passport will be required for any travel by any mode of transportation when leaving or re-entering the U.S. If you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact one of my district offices nearest you.

The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every Monday or Tuesday when Congress is in session. I hope that you will find it informative and will continue to stay informed with my recent legislative activities in Washington. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for future issues of the Conaway Chronicle, please visit the website at www.house.gov/conaway or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at www.conawayblog.com!

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