

Dear Friend, Thank you for reading another edition of my e-newsletter, the Carson Courier.

In this week's Carson Courier:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

President Obama Visits Indiana

Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday

100th Anniversary of the NAACP

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

This week, following months of negotiation and speculation on the national stage, Congress acted decisively on behalf of struggling American families by passing the most expansive and comprehensive job creation package in our nation's history. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will stabilize our receding economy and create over 3.5 million jobs across the United States through record investment in transportation infrastructure, health care, and green technology.

This legislation is a bipartisan compromise that will have a significant impact in Indiana, creating 75,000 jobs and providing much needed tax cuts to 2.5 million Hoosier families. It will also help to modernize hundreds of crumbling schools and shore up critical state assistance programs.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is the right solution for our current situation, but it is only the first step in a long series of initiatives to come. Surely, it will not mark the end of the push in Congress to bring unemployed Americans back to work and promote more sustainable industries.

PRESIDENT OBAMA VISITS INDIANA

On Monday, I was given the unique privilege to join President Obama as he traveled to Elkhart, Indiana for the first town hall meeting of his presidency. While flying to Indiana aboard Air Force One I had an opportunity to speak privately with the President about the needs and concerns of the Seventh Congressional District. As always, he was very receptive and reaffirmed his commitment to support Indianapolis residents in these difficult economic times.

While Elkhart has borne the brunt of our economic downturn, the apprehension expressed at the town hall meeting were no different from those I hear everyday from my constituents in Indianapolis. Americans everywhere are suffering. The job market is unstable, basic costs are rising and families are concerned that the slightest misstep will leave them unemployed and in foreclosure. I stand firmly behind President Obama's dedication to the working men and women of our state and I will continue to work by his side to bring about much needed relief to all working Americans.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S 200TH BIRTHDAY

Thursday marked the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln. I have been proud to witness so many Americans making time to remember his legacy and the irrefutable impact he has had on our national identity. There are few lessons more worthy of passing onto future generations than the courage and moral fortitude with which he led us through the Civil War and into a new era of freedom.

Today, President Lincoln is rightly regarded as one of our most devoted protectors of liberty. He continues to serve as a shining example of character, perseverance and the true American spirit. As Americans we should all follow his example by rededicating ourselves to the structuring of a more unified and just United States.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAACP

One hundred years ago this week, amid pervasive bigotry and limited opportunities, W.E.B. Du Bois and a group of prominent activists courageously joined together to form the first national organization dedicated to the advancement of African-Americans. Since then, the NAACP has played a critical role in every hard fought civil rights victory, from the abolishment of Jim Crow to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In our current struggling economy, minority communities continue to suffer disproportionately. Millions of African-Americans are still fighting for equal housing, education and employment opportunities. For the last century, NAACP chapters across the United States have been ever present in their fight for their full rights as Americans. At home in Indianapolis, we are proud to have one of our nation's most active NAACP chapters. By promoting civic involvement, investing in struggling neighborhoods, and supporting local schools, our local NAACP members have helped to boost pride and encourage success in African-American communities across our city.

On this centennial anniversary, I commend the NAACP for their enduring commitment to justice and equality. Their century long fight has strengthened the fabric of American society and prepared us all to better tackle the challenges of the future.

Thank you for reading the Carson Courier. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your thoughts and concerns. I value your views and your input helps me to better represent the people of Indiana's Seventh District in Congress.