

# Medicine, Science and Space

*Ellie Essalih -  
Legislative Director*

AS A STRONG ADVOCATE for medical and scientific research and development, Congressman Culberson was proud to support the Bush Administration's request to double funding for the National Institutes of Health and was pleased to hear President Bush announce in his State of the Union address a new American Competitiveness Initiative, which proposes increasing funding for basic scientific research in several agencies, including the National Science Foundation. Scientific research stimulates the innovation and technological breakthroughs that keep America competitive with the rapidly expanding economies of nations like China and India.

One agency that should be included in the American Competitiveness Initiative is NASA. Since the Columbia accident in 2003, NASA has been forced to reprogram billions of dollars from research into shuttle recovery. Meanwhile, China is spending billions more on its space program, which is operated by the Chinese military. Cheap labor costs allow China to employ nearly 200,000 people in its space program, while NASA employs only 75,000. China has announced an ambitious plan to double its research investment over the next 15 years, and to land on the moon by 2017, one year ahead of NASA's scheduled return.

The Congressman is working with his colleagues and the Administration to address the budget shortfalls at NASA. He is committed to increasing the overall budget for NASA so that we can sustain the Shuttle program through its retirement in 2010 and fulfill our obligations to global partners at the International Space Station, while providing steady increases for scientific research. America cannot remain competitive with China if they continue to graduate 600,000 engineers every year, to America's 70,000.

Congressman Culberson is privileged to represent the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical center in the world. The medical research conducted there is our nation's insurance policy for the future, and it provides the foundation for the treatments and cures of

diseases. The institutions of the Texas Medical Center receive billions of dollars in federal research grants yearly, but Houston still lags far behind other research centers like Boston, Philadelphia and San Diego. Many of the earmarks the Congressman has secured have gone to the medical center institutions to improve their facilities and leverage additional federal dollars.

Over the past 3 years he helped secure \$15 million for his top priority, the Alliance for NanoHealth. The bulk of that funding has gone to collaborative research focused on applying nanotechnology to treat and cure heart disease, cancer, diabetes, stroke, and infection. Other funding has been used to furnish laboratories with state of the art equipment that is necessary for the institutions to compete for federal dollars. Dr. Naomi Halas and

of successful treatment and decreases the risk of recurrence. The work of the Alliance for NanoHealth will be a key component of making Houston the nation's center of nanotechnology research.

Besides research, Congressman Culberson also takes into consideration whether projects will improve the quality of health care provided to Houstonians. Memorial Hermann Hospital System has developed a pilot program called "Neighborhood Health Centers," which are aimed at relieving overcrowded emergency rooms by providing primary and non-emergency care at an affordable cost. The clinic is able to reduce costs by charging only a flat fee for services and cutting out the red tape and paperwork involved with health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid. This

Photo courtesy NASA



*Congressman Culberson commemorates the 25th anniversary of the STS-1 mission with Congressman Tom DeLay, STS-1 Commander John Young, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and STS-1 pilot Bob Crippen.*

Dr. Jennifer West at Rice University have developed a cure for tumorous cancers like mesothelioma using gold nanoshells, and they will begin human trials this fall at MD Anderson. These gold nanoshells are coated with a protein that targets the cancerous tumor and when heated with near infrared light, destroys the cancer cells without damaging the surrounding cells.

Recently, Dr. Mauro Ferrari was recruited to serve as the first President of the Alliance for NanoHealth. He was the National Cancer Institute's Eminent Scholar and Special Expert on Nanotechnology before arriving in Houston. His cutting edge research on the early diagnosis of cancer is spurring the development of sensors that would continually monitor the body for the earliest signs of cancer, even before symptoms appear. Early detection greatly increases the chances

project could serve as a model for reducing health care costs in communities all over America.

Texas Children's Hospital recently expanded its Heart Center's operating room because it was becoming extremely difficult to schedule surgeries due to the demand for impromptu emergency surgeries. He obtained funding for new equipment for the expansion; they finished the operating room and reduced waiting time for both emergency pediatric cardiovascular surgeries and non-emergency, but essential surgeries. He also requested 16 cardiac monitors for the Harris County Hospital District. The hospital district serves as a critical safety net for the uninsured and underinsured in the county, and they were instrumental in absorbing the medical needs of the hurricane evacuees last summer.



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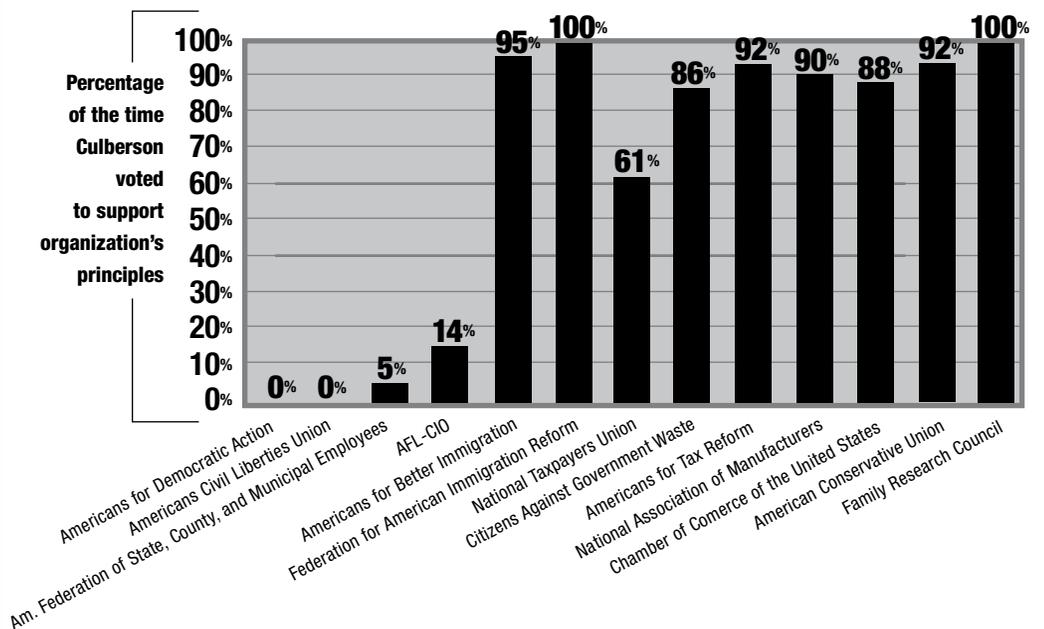
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# John Culberson's Voting Record

*Percentage is based on the most recent congressional votes scored by a variety of  
interest groups ranging from liberal to conservative (from left to right)*



*Use an internet search engine to find these organizations' websites so you can analyze  
my votes for yourself.*

# Winning the War on Terror Begins With Protecting Our Borders

Photo courtesy [www.AlexandersPortraits.com](http://www.AlexandersPortraits.com)

**N**OW THAT my first goal of rebuilding the Katy Freeway as fast as humanly possible has been achieved, I am totally focused on protecting our borders, strictly enforcing our immigration laws, balancing the federal budget and replacing the income tax with a national consumption tax.

We will never win the war on terror until we secure our borders. We have ample laws on the books to protect our borders and stop illegal immigration, but the Administration has systematically refused to enforce our immigration laws or employer sanctions, and has even moved Border Patrol agents out of Texas. Lawlessness breeds lawlessness, and this lack of enforcement has led to a stampede of illegal aliens across our border, which is overwhelming our health care system and social services, increasing our crime rate, and threatening our national security. I have confirmed that Middle Eastern terrorists have been crossing our open Southern border by pretending to be Hispanic illegal immigrants.

Our nation was built by immigrants, and we need legal immigrants who are willing to become Americans, learn English and become productive citizens. Texas in particular has thrived because of our good relationship with Mexico, and we need to preserve that strong history, but it must be based on respect for our laws, our common language, and our American culture. A nation that will not enforce its laws, or protect its borders, its language or its culture is doomed to follow the failure of the Roman Empire.

As the representative of former President George H.W. Bush's congressional district, and having served with Governor George W. Bush in Austin, I know that the Bushes are honorable, good people. I have the second highest percentage of votes supporting President Bush in the House, but remain strenuously opposed to the President's open border policy and the Senate immigration bill which would legalize illegal aliens. The bill we passed in the House last December will enforce our immigration laws and protect our borders. The House is committed to the enforcement first approach, and our bill will help bring law and order to the border. Common sense dictates that we first sandbag the broken levy and stop the flooding before we deal with the floodwater.

I have also passed an amendment in the House to block federal law enforcement funding for cities (like Houston) and counties that have adopted "sanctuary policies." These policies prevent local law enforcement officers from asking individuals they arrest, detain or stop whether or not they are in the country legally. Under current federal law, cities and counties cannot restrict local law enforcement officers from inquiring about immigration status, and this amendment will help enforce existing law and identify dangerous criminal aliens or potential terrorists. Border enforcement must be coupled with interior enforcement.

Inside this newsletter, you will find a description of the work I am doing on your behalf in Washington and Houston written by my Chief of Staff, Tony Essalih, and my Legislative Director, Ellie Essalih.

I am very grateful for the privilege of representing you in the United States Congress.

Sincerely,





*Governor Rick Perry and I led the ribbon cutting to open the first completed segment of the new Katy Freeway on June 26, 2006. The entire freeway and the Loop 610 interchange will be completely finished by fall 2008, and it will cut your travel time in half. Had I not won federal approval for local toll lanes on I-10, the project would be \$500 million short, and final completion would have been delayed until 2012 or as late as 2015.*



TEXANS SHOULD ALWAYS RUN TEXAS



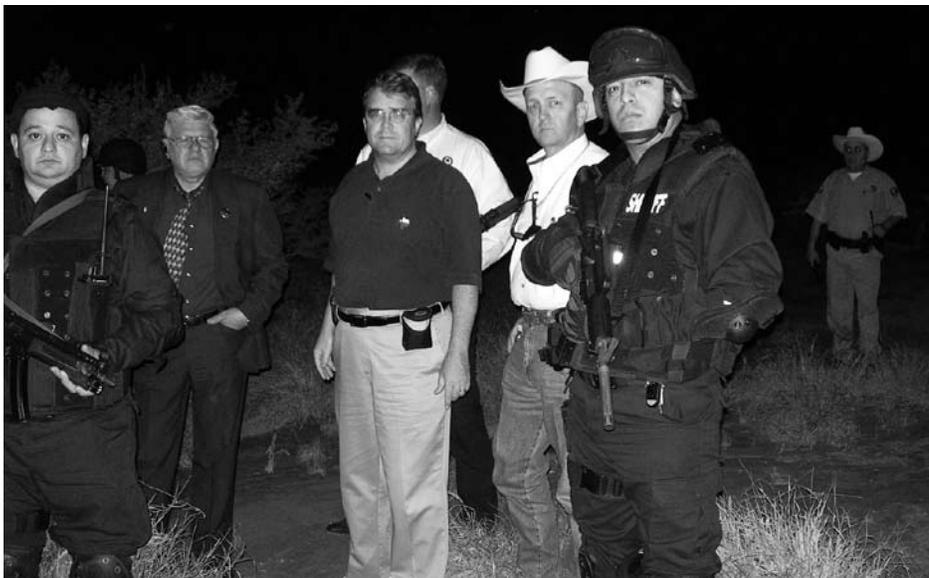
# Congressman Culberson's Priorities

By Tony Essalih -  
Chief of Staff



## Border Security

**B**ORDER SECURITY AND illegal immigration are two of the most important issues facing our nation. These issues galvanized the constituents of District Seven and other congressional districts across the country as frustration over the administration's failure to secure the borders and prevent illegal immigration reached the boiling point. Congressman Culberson and his colleagues in the



*Congressman Culberson tours the border at night with Val Verde County Sheriff D'Wayne Jernigan and Webb County Deputy Sheriffs. They routinely wear full body armor and carry automatic weapons on the Rio Grande, especially at night. They regularly encounter heavily armed narco-terrorists and smugglers, and gun battles are common. The river is so dangerous at night that the deputies are reluctant to turn on their vehicle strobe lights because they are likely to draw machine gun fire from the Mexican side. The war on terror can be seen right here in Laredo.*

House of Representatives got the message loud and clear, and they responded by passing the most sweeping border security and enforcement bill in a decade. According to a recent report from the Center for Immigration Studies, this bill would reduce illegal immigration by 50% over the next 5 years.

The House bill requires employers to verify the legal status of their employees using a national database, which will reduce the incentive for illegal immigration and provide employers with the information they need to hire legal, documented workers. It authorizes the construction of a 700 mile fence along high illegal immigrant

traffic areas of the border, including Laredo and El Paso. It also includes a section Congressman Culberson authored providing sheriffs along the U.S. - Mexico border \$100 million to hire, train, equip and deploy additional deputies as a second line of defense to the Border Patrol. He has already secured \$5 million for the Texas border sheriffs to buy equipment this year.

The House bill does not include an amnesty or a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants, and it allows us to take control of our borders for the first time in many years. The Congressman understands the need for a guest worker program allowing qualified workers to enroll, undergo criminal background checks, and matching them with employers who need their skills, but the nature of the threat along our borders means that border

security and enforcement take precedence over a guest worker program.

Through his seat on the Appropriations Committee, Congressman Culberson has supported legislation to bolster border security. Congress passed an Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill in May that provides \$1.9 billion for border enforcement, including \$708 million for the deployment of National Guard troops along the southern border. This funding will help pay the costs of sending 6,000 National Guard troops to the border from Brownsville to San Diego (1,600 troops will be deployed in Texas) to assist the Border Patrol and local law enforcement, who are out-

manned and outgunned by human and drug smugglers.

The Congressman also supported the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill providing funding for 1,200 new Border Patrol agents, 1,212 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who patrol the interior areas of our country, and the construction of 4,870 new detention beds to house illegal immigrants. Since Congressman Culberson arrived in Washington, we have seen a 14% increase in Border Patrol agents, funding for worksite enforcement has increased 42%, and there has been a 430% increase in criminal alien arrests. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, he is ideally situated to provide resources and tools to law enforcement to secure the border and reduce incentives for illegal immigrants to enter the country.

The Congressman successfully attached an amendment to the Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations Bill blocking federal funding for cities or counties with policies that prevent local law enforcement officers from questioning the citizenship or immigration status of individuals they arrest, detain, or stop. According to a Congressional Research Service report released in January, Houston has a sanctuary policy that ties the hands of the Houston Police Department and violates federal law, which clearly states that a city cannot prevent its police officers from asking whether or not an individual is in the country legally. Our law enforcement officers need every tool at their disposal to identify criminal aliens that are evading federal authorities and hiding behind sanctuary policies, and this amendment will help them protect and serve our neighborhoods.

## International Security

**A**MERICA IS A PROSPEROUS, powerful and thriving democracy, which causes animosity and resentment in certain regions of the world that do not share our democratic values. Hostile foreign governments and power-hungry dictators use this resentment to turn their citizens against America and our foreign policy goal of promoting democracy around the world. Recently, North Korea fired six missiles into the Sea of Japan and attempted to launch a seventh long-

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range ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean, near Hawaii in an arrogant display of its military capabilities. North Korea has the fifth largest army in the world led by the dangerous and irrational dictator, Kim Jong-Il, whose sworn enemy is the United States.

Meanwhile, Iran continues blatantly defying calls from President Bush and other world leaders to abandon its nuclear weapons program. Iran is building a facility to enrich uranium, a key component of nuclear weapons, which is a direct violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty it signed. Iran, along with Syria, is also financing the militant terrorist groups Hezbollah and Hamas in their relentless attacks on Israel. Congressman Culberson supports President Bush's efforts to resolve these situations through the diplomatic process, and he is committed to the defense of our best ally in the region, Israel.

History proves that a strong deterrence is the only way to deal with aggressive regimes, and the United States must maintain strong military capabilities to prevent threats to our citizens and allies. America's armed forces are capable of countering challenges throughout the world, and Congressman Culberson will continue strongly supporting these honorable and dedicated men and women. He does not believe we can abandon our security obligations around the world, including our commitments in Iraq. Defeat or withdrawal will embolden our enemies and weaken our national security. By maintaining a powerful military and helping our allies, such as Israel and Japan, and continuing to assist Iraq's democratic government, we can ensure peace for America and civilized people around the world.

## **Controlling Government Spending**

AS A MEMBER OF the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Culberson is devoted to balancing the budget. He is working to cut wasteful spending, eliminate redundant or ineffective government programs, and he opposes projects that are not cost-effective investments. The federal government will run a deficit of \$300 billion this year, and our national debt is nearly \$8.5 trillion, which means every Ameri-

can owns a \$28,000 share of that debt. Our economy grew at a rate of 5.6% in the first quarter of 2006 (the fastest growth of any major industrialized nation), but this robust growth must be accompanied by deep spending cuts if we are to make any progress in reducing the deficit and paying off the debt.

Everyone on our staff follows Congressman Culberson's strict guidelines for the spending requests we receive: The starting answer is "no," and "yes" must be earned because the federal government should be the last resort for funding. The project must be cost effective and fit within the legitimate responsibilities of the federal government under the 10th Amendment, and requests are limited to border security initiatives, essential transportation or infrastructure projects that will reduce traffic congestion, and promising scientific or medical research and development in our very own Texas Medical Center, or NASA.

This year on the Appropriations Committee, the Congressman voted to eliminate 95 ineffective government programs, supported a reduction in domestic (non-defense/security) spending from last year's levels, and opposed amendments from Democrats which would have increased spending by \$45 billion. The Committee is responsible for all annual spending done at the discretion of Congress, which constitutes only 39% of the federal budget. The other 61% of the budget ledger is mandatory spending, or money the government spends automatically to pay for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other entitlement benefits. These programs will need to be overhauled to achieve real savings, which is one reason the Congressman opposed the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit. He did not believe we could afford to create a massive, new entitlement program at a time of record debt and deficits.

Congressman Culberson has been a tireless advocate for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, which has protected Texas and the 48 other States that have balanced budget laws from financial ruin. He is also a vocal supporter of the Fair Tax Act, which would repeal all federal income taxes, payroll taxes, capital gains taxes, and gift and estate taxes and replace them with a twenty-three percent retail sales tax. Income taxes punish the

virtues of hard work and savings since the top 50% of taxpayers by income pay 96% of all taxes. Unless Congress takes decisive action to reform our outdated tax code, we will plunge further into debt as the 78 million members of the baby boom generation begin to retire around 2010.

The Committee, with his support, has also made a concerted effort to reduce the number of "earmarks," or specific projects requested by Members of Congress. Although there are thousands of examples of congressional earmarks that serve no legitimate government purpose and are a complete waste of taxpayer dollars, he does not believe that Members of Congress should surrender the ability to make spending decisions to unelected bureaucrats. An overlooked part of the debate on earmark reform is the fact that earmarks represent less than 1% of the overall budget, and even if they were eliminated, that money would still be spent by government bureaucrats. Earmark requests are down 37% from last year, which proves that sunlight really is the best disinfectant and that Members of Congress are starting to apply higher standards to their project requests.

For the last two years, Congressman Culberson has been encouraging his House colleagues to publish and justify their earmarks on their congressional websites. All of the earmark requests he has received during his three terms in Congress are listed on our website. The website also lists the aggregate amount of money in projects that he did NOT submit to the Committee because they did not meet his strict criteria (\$151 million during his first three years on the Committee). Congressman Culberson sees his role on the Appropriations Committee as a guardian of our tax dollars.

## **Katy Freeway Progress Report**

THE LANDMARK Katy Freeway Reconstruction project continues to move full speed ahead, with crews working around the clock. Once it is completed in the fall of 2008, the Freeway will be the nation's first combination toll road and Interstate highway. This project is a good working model for the Congressman's approach to the job as your representative. When he was sworn into office in January 2001, the project was scheduled to

take 10-12 years to complete, and it was \$500 million short of funding. Harris County Judge Robert Eckels had the visionary idea of building locally-owned and operated toll lanes down the center of the Freeway to help pay for construction and maintenance costs. The Congressman hand-carried the application for the combination toll road/Interstate to the head of the Federal Highway Administration, Mary Peters, who recognized the project's promise for freeway expansions across the country and approved it.

Since our federal gas tax dollars are stretched so thin and diverted to pay for many projects that provide no benefit to the people who actually pay gas taxes, the Congressman is pushing to make the innovative Katy Freeway expansion a national model. The project builds on the advantages of local control and performance based contracting, which rewards contractors for meeting deadlines and finishing segments under budget. The market imperative of repaying bondholders also helps drive the fast pace of reconstruction. Best of all, since the project relies on local toll revenues, we did not have to request one dime of additional federal money to pay for it. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, the reconstructed Katy Freeway will cut travel time in half once it is completed, which will help all of us who use the Freeway reclaim our most vital asset – our time.

## Houston Metro Update

CONGRESSMAN CULBERSON is following through on his commitment to honor the results of the 2003 referendum on light rail and support Houston Metro's requests for federal funding. His seat on the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee is important to the region since every federal transportation (highway or transit) dollar comes through his Subcommittee. Last year he helped Metro secure \$12 million for preliminary engineering of the first two planned light rail extensions, the North line and the Southeast line. He also obtained \$10 million for Metro's highly-regarded bus system. This year, his appropriations request for Metro was the single highest spending request that he made. However, Metro is not eligible for matching grants from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for construction

of these two rail lines or future lines, until Metro completes the federal review process and proves that they meet FTA standards for ridership and cost-effectiveness. Until FTA scores Metro "recommended" in its annual ratings report, the amount of funding he is able to deliver is severely limited because only FTA-recommended rail projects are eligible for top priority consideration from the Subcommittee.

Metro has been holding public meetings, and the Congressman has held town hall meetings, on the issue of building light rail along Richmond Avenue. He has an obligation to protect the neighborhoods and the quality of life of District Seven residents, and he will work with Metro to ensure that the line, wherever it is located, is one that serves and enhances the community. He has gathered feedback from nearly every resident, business or property owner along Richmond, and the vast majority of them indicated their strong opposition to rail on Richmond. Their concerns include

increased congestion, Metro's use of eminent domain powers, preserving historic trees in the median, business failures along the Main Street line, the removal of intersections and turning options, the splitting apart of neighborhoods, and the safety and flooding hazards of running rail in vehicle lanes that they have seen firsthand on Main Street and Fannin.

Metro officials have clearly listened to the public comments they received and have done their best to incorporate those ideas and suggestions into proposals for rail on Richmond, and the ball is now in Metro's court to convince the people who live, work and own property on Richmond of the merits of their proposals. If they oppose it, he will oppose it. It is not the Congressman's job to tell Metro where to build rail, or to help them sell their rail plans, but it is his job to protect his constituents if they tell him they do not want Metro to build rail in their neighborhood. Any neighborhood in any part of the district can always count on him to protect their quality of life in the same way.



*Congressman Culberson honors America's future military leaders, the students of District Seven that he nominated to our service academies (West Point, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy). These students received an appointment to one of the academies and will be graduating in the Class of 2010. Nominating promising young leaders like these to serve our nation as officers in our armed forces is one of the greatest privileges and pleasures of his job.*

*Front row, left to right:*

*Katherine Metkus-Houston Christian, Jessica Muckelroy-Cypress Springs, Congressman Culberson, Bruce Bain-Memorial*

*Back row, left to right:*

*Michael Fallon-Memorial, Josiah Reese-Cypress Ridge, Benjamin Huffines-Cypress Creek, Mark Contreras-Spring Woods, Alex Galvez-Jersey Village*

