



# Congressman JIM DAVIS



*Representing the People of the 11th District of Florida*

WINTER 2005

Dear Friend:

It is my honor to serve you and other residents of Florida's 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. To find out more about the issues I am working on in Congress and the Tampa Bay community, please visit my website at [www.house.gov/jimdavis](http://www.house.gov/jimdavis). You may sign up for my periodic e-mail updates on my website or by calling the Tampa office at (813) 354-9217. Please also feel free to visit one of my offices' monthly mobile offices (see page 3 for more locations throughout the Tampa Bay area).

Sincerely,

## SAVING FLORIDA'S SHORES

Last year, Congressman Davis led the fight in Congress to prevent oil and gas drilling off of Florida's shores. Davis helped block proposals in the energy bill, a federal spending bill and a budget bill that would have eliminated the ban on drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and fought to preserve a law that allows states like Florida to stop drilling projects that threaten to spoil their coastlines.

Florida's beautiful beaches are more than just a tropical paradise; they are the economic lifeblood for many Floridians. Congressman Davis will continue to fight any effort to put dangerous oil and gas rigs near our shores.



## HONORING OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

*On September 11<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Davis participated in the dedication of Operation Field of Honor in Riverview, which pays tribute to every U.S. service man and woman who has died in Afghanistan and Iraq. In the photo, he congratulates Tristen Braun, who placed the first flag in the Field of Honor. Tristen is with his grandfather, Dave Braun, President of The Veterans Council of Hillsborough County.*

In Congress, Davis is a strong supporter of the G.I. Bill of Rights for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, legislation to provide America's service men and women with the treatment they deserve when they are relieved of duty. The bill would improve veterans health care, enhance education and job training programs, expand benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve and end the policy of forcing disabled military retirees to sacrifice a portion of their pension in exchange for their disability pay.

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

In October, Congressman Davis met with Governor Bush, other Members of Congress from Florida and local, state and federal emergency response officials to discuss disaster preparedness for the Tampa Bay area. In Congress, Davis is working to improve the federal response to hurricanes and other disasters.

## MEDICARE RX BENEFIT NOW AVAILABLE

On January 1, 2006, Medicare beneficiaries became eligible to participate in Medicare's new prescription drug benefit, which provides prescription drug coverage through new private drug plans and managed care plans. To avoid late penalties, beneficiaries must enroll in this new benefit by May 15, 2006.

Congressman Davis opposed the bill that created the drug benefit because it provides inadequate coverage and no limits on premiums. However, Davis supports legislation to give seniors more time to make their enrollment decisions. For more details on the plans available in the Tampa Bay area, visit [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov).

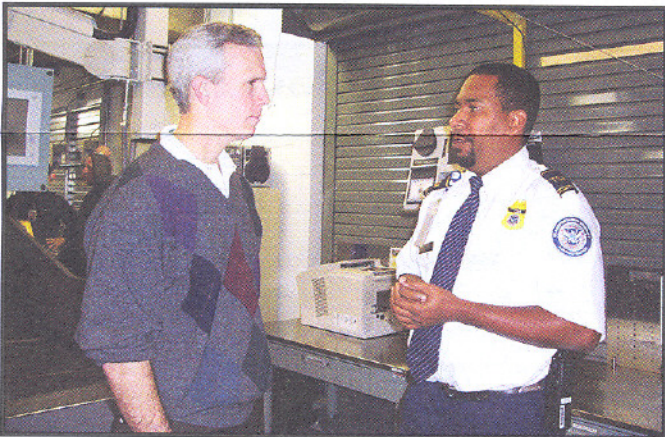


*Congressman Davis talks with seniors about the new Medicare Rx benefit. In October, Davis hosted a town hall meeting to help local Medicare beneficiaries make the best decision about enrolling in the program.*

## ON THE OFFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM

In December, the House passed legislation introduced by Congressman Davis which calls on Saudi Arabia to reform its education system and abolish curriculum that promotes religious extremism and intolerance. For decades, the Saudi government has permitted followers of a rigid interpretation of Islam to control the country's education system, using lesson plans that encourage intolerance and anti-Semitic, anti-American and anti-Western views. As a result, some Saudi students have become prime recruiting targets for militant extremist groups.

Davis' resolution urges the President and his administration to make education reform in Saudi Arabia a priority and to monitor and take into account the Saudi government's progress in reforming the system when determining US-Saudi relations. He will be working to secure a house vote on the resolution this year.

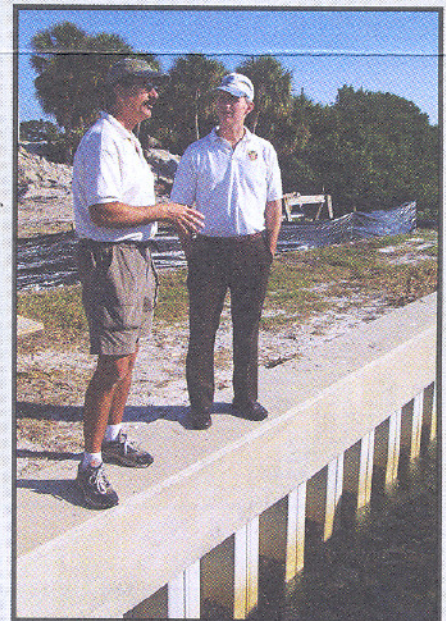


*During a tour of Tampa International Airport, Congressman Davis talks with a Transportation Security Administration officer about the airport's state-of-the-art baggage screening system.*

## IMPROVING ROADS, EXPANDING MASS TRANSIT

In this year's transportation bill, Congressman Davis secured more than \$21 million for road, bridge and bus improvements in the Tampa Bay area.

*Congressman Davis talks with Peter Clark, Executive Director of Tampa Bay Watch, about the group's habitat restoration projects. Davis supports increased funding to protect Florida's estuaries.*



## PROTECTING FLORIDA'S MEDICAID PATIENTS

Congressman Davis is fighting efforts in Congress to cut Medicaid funds and increase co-pays on prescription drugs regardless of a Medicaid patient's ability to pay. As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Davis offered amendments to a budget bill to ensure that children, especially those with special needs, are not stripped of vital Medicaid prescription drug coverage if their families cannot afford co-payments. Although his amendments did not pass, Davis continues to oppose these Medicaid cuts.

Congressman Davis also fought Gov. Jeb Bush's proposal to allow Florida to shift 2.2 million Medicaid beneficiaries to managed care while also capping per-beneficiary state expenditures. Davis called for congressional hearings on the proposal and has asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to monitor Florida's overhaul of the Medicaid program.

## PRESERVING DRINKING WATER RESOURCES

Congressman Davis is working to address nationwide water shortages by promoting alternative water source projects. His bill, which was passed by a House committee this May, extends a federal grant program that provides funds for alternative water source projects, such as water reuse and reclamation projects for municipal, industrial or agricultural uses.

With Florida's population growing by nearly 900 residents a day, our communities are rapidly depleting precious groundwater supplies. H.R. 1359 provides communities with an important tool to meet expanding water demands, preserve fresh water for drinking and tap into alternative water sources for commercial and outdoor watering purposes.

## PROBLEMS WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

If you are having trouble dealing with a federal agency, our offices may be able to help. Please call the Tampa office at (813) 354-9217 or Florida Toll Free 1 (888) 266-0205 or the St. Petersburg satellite office at (727) 867-5301. You may also visit one of our monthly mobile offices. Each month, one of my representatives will be available to serve you at the following locations and dates. Please visit [www.house.gov/jimdavis/OfficeHours.htm](http://www.house.gov/jimdavis/OfficeHours.htm) or call our office for further information (**para personas que habla Español llamen a la oficina en Tampa (813) 354-9217**).

### Hillsborough County:

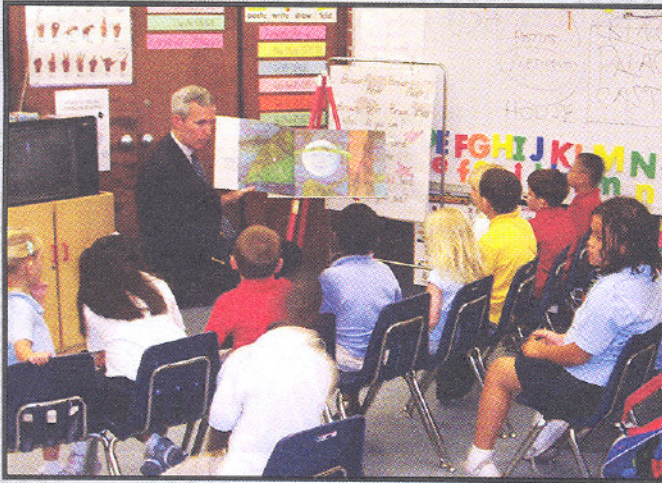
78th Street Community Library: 3rd Wednesday, 11:30am - 1:00pm  
Temple Terrace Public Library: 2nd Wednesday, 11:30am - 1:00pm  
West Gate Regional Library, Town 'N Country: 4th Wednesday, 11:30am - 1:00pm

### Manatee County:

Bradenton Jobs Etc. One Stop Center: 2nd Wednesday, 11:30am - 1:00pm  
Palmetto Community Redevelopment Agency: 4th Wednesday, 11:30am - 1:00pm

### St. Petersburg:

Enoch Davis Center, Midtown: 3rd Tuesday, 11:30am - 1:00pm



## CALLING ALL STUDENT ARTISTS!

Submissions for the 2006 High School Art Competition, which exhibits at the Tampa Museum of Art, are due in mid January. For more information, talk to your art teacher or visit [www.house.gov/jimdavis/ArtBrochure.htm](http://www.house.gov/jimdavis/ArtBrochure.htm).

*Congressman Davis observes a special education class at Chiaramonte Elementary School in Tampa. Davis has been a long time advocate for increasing federal funds to support special education students.*

*Congressman Davis participates in the grand opening of the Midtown Post Office in St. Petersburg. He is pictured with (left to right) John Wooten, who is leasing the building to the Postal Service, Mrs. Dorothy Milton and St. Petersburg Postmaster Tom Palowski. Congressman Davis is working in Congress to name the facility after Mrs. Milton's late husband, Morris Milton, an attorney and St. Petersburg community activist who fought for civil rights.*

Davis has secured more than \$1 million in federal funds for the City of St. Petersburg's Midtown redevelopment plan, which included the opening of Midtown's first grocery store.

## REVITALIZING MIDTOWN



## 11th District Congressional Offices

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## CONGRESSMAN JIM DAVIS

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*Jim Davis*  
M.C.  
Presorted Standard