

from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. Lara then joined the San Joaquin Council of Governments as a Senior Regional Planner, focusing on transportation and land use policy.

Throughout her career, Lara has demonstrated her steadfast dedication to improving the lives of Contra Costa residents. Lara moved to Martinez, California in 1998 and began her role as Senior Management Analyst for the Contra Costa County Administrator's Office where she has diligently served our community for the last 26 years. In this role, Lara has worked with a number of county agencies, providing legislative analysis and interacting with state and federal lobbyists. Furthermore, she was instrumental in establishing the County's Office of Reentry & Justice, which works to reduce recidivism rates, provide support to formerly incarcerated individuals, and promote equity. She also played a key role in the development of the County's Arts & Culture Master Plan. Additionally, Lara served on the Martinez City Council for over twenty years. She has been highly engaged with the Martinez Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Boys and Girl Club, and spearheaded the Joe DiMaggio Hometown Hero Project.

Please join me in congratulating Lara Delaney on her well-deserved retirement after decades of outstanding public service.

EUGENE CARROCCIA

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to honor Dr. Eugene Carroccia, a Quilt of Valor recipient and Vietnam War veteran, for his exceptional service as a Battalion Surgeon in the late '60s. Eugene had just completed medical school at the New Jersey College of Medicine and was about to begin his residency when the United States Army called him to serve his country. He was assigned to the Ninth Infantry Division, where he became the sole physician, with the responsibility for the medical well-being of all the soldiers entirely on his shoulders. Dr. Eugene participated in the Medical Civic Action Program, during which he and his medics provided medical care to local Vietnamese citizens, including children at Saigon orphanages, ensuring they received the best care possible. After his time in Vietnam, he was stationed at Fort Ord in California, where he was first introduced to plastic surgery by performing reconstructive surgery for service members. Following his service in the Army, he attended St. Louis University, where he completed his surgical residency and then a fellowship in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Medical College of Ohio. Eugene returned to South Jersey, where he dedicated over 40 years to medical treatment and surgery until his retirement in 2020. I thank Eugene for the outstanding care he provided to his fellow soldiers and to the residents of Southern Jersey. God bless Dr. Eugene, and God bless our United States of America.

NEWSLETTER FROM  
CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on support for Western North Carolina in recovering from Hurricane Helene and reforms to the U.S. tax code.

DEAR FRIEND,

Hurricane Helene devastated WNC, with 81 lives lost in North Carolina's 11th District.

In some areas, water crested up to 30 feet above normal levels, though locals report crests as high as 40 feet, destroying entire communities as it rushed through our mountain valleys, carrying away homes, cars and roads.

During a House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing, I shared insight into the aftermath of Helene, including how FEMA's response was in some ways effective and how, in other ways, there were significant issues that need to be addressed.

For example, on Day Three after the storm, FEMA announced it had delivered 400 pallets of desperately needed water to Western North Carolina, but when asked where those supplies had been delivered, FEMA could not provide a single location.

As members of Congress, it is our job to conduct rigorous oversight and hold FEMA accountable for its disaster recovery processes.

The U.S. House must address the flaws in FEMA's response to prevent further delays and confusion in the recovery process for Western North Carolinians, and for survivors of any future disaster.

Rest assured, it is my top priority to continue to help WNC recover and receive the assistance our communities need.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman views hurricane damage in WNC.

Over the past few weeks, I've invited several legislators to visit our district to see the damage firsthand. I'll need each of them to fully understand the breadth of what is needed for us to rebuild as I advocate for the necessary funding. This has been helpful in gathering support for supplemental disaster assistance to help our road to recovery.

Most recently, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole accepted my invitation and visited Western North Carolina to personally see the impact of Hurricane Helene in our mountains.

Swannanoa and Marshall are just two of our small towns with tremendous needs, and Chairman Cole's visit was another important step toward securing funds that will help our communities rebuild.

Holding the National Institute of Health accountable.

Making commonsense reforms to U.S. tax code.

This week, the U.S. House passed a commonsense bill to fix our tax code with my support.

The Stop Terror Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act would prevent the IRS from charging late fees to American citizens who are wrongfully detained abroad.

Americans who are wrongfully detained or held hostage are currently provided only one year of tax relief. While these individuals should be focusing on getting their lives back, instead they are being charged late fees by the federal government. This is a

timely issue, with Americans still being held hostage by Hamas. The last thing these Americans and their families should have to worry about is settling an unpaid tax bill.

This legislation also revokes the tax-exempt status of U.S. non-profit organizations that provide financial or material support to terrorist groups like Hamas.

No organization that supports terrorism should benefit from the American tax code or receive a tax-exempt status.

Newly launched Supply Information Hub.

My office has launched a Supply Information Hub on my website for folks affected by Hurricane Helene and those who want to help.

Multiple organizations have shared that they have an overflow of resources they want to reallocate, and other groups have voiced that they're still in need of certain supplies.

To help consolidate efforts, my team is stepping in to help match supply requests with available resources.

If you have extra supplies or if you're in need of a specific product, please fill out the form on my website at [edwards.house.gov/hub](https://edwards.house.gov/hub), and my team will do our best to make sure that resources go where they are needed.

Do you need help with FEMA?

As Western North Carolina continues to pick up the pieces and rebuild after Hurricane Helene, I want to remind you that you can apply for FEMA financial assistance to help ease the financial burden of what you've lost.

If you've applied for FEMA relief and need assistance navigating the process, my Hendersonville office can engage with FEMA directly on your behalf and guide you on what documents are needed for your case.

Please call my phone line dedicated to FEMA casework at 223-FIX-FEMA.

Announcing Deputy Chief of Staff Jessie Frank.

I'm excited to announce the promotion of Jessie Frank from executive assistant to deputy chief of staff.

Those who have worked with Jessie in her capacity as my executive assistant can attest to her strong work ethic, steadfast loyalty to my office, and attention to detail. Since moving to DC, her leadership role has risen to new heights, and her contributions are widely recognized not only by our office, but by House Leadership, our committee staffs, and a multitude of other Member offices.

Jessie majored in political science at UNC Asheville, where she graduated summa cum laude. As a student athlete on the Bulldog swim team, she earned her college education through a swimming scholarship as a student athlete. She also served UNCA as editor-in-chief of Dignity, UNC Asheville's undergraduate human rights journal.

Before joining our DC team, Jessie served as legislative assistant and committee clerk in the North Carolina State Senate and interned with the NC Republican Senate Caucus.

Her rich background of experience also includes assistant swim coach, page to the Office of the Governor, intern at the lobbying firm of Smith Anderson Law, and page for the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Jessie's promotion will provide her a path to further develop her leadership skills on Capitol Hill, and to contribute to our team's success on a new level.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,

*Member of Congress.*

CELEBRATING THE INAUGURATION OF DR. ALI KASRAEIAN AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE DUVAL COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

**HON. AARON BEAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2024*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Doc is in. I rise today to celebrate the inauguration of Dr. Ali Kasraeian, MD, MHA, FACS, as the President of the Duval County Medical Society.

For Dr. Kasraeian, taking care of the health of Jacksonville, Florida is a family affair. His parents, Dr. Shahala Masoud and Dr. Ahmad Kasraeian, are also esteemed physicians in the community. Dr. Kasraeian followed in their footsteps to become a distinguished urologist and surgeon.

Dr. Kasraeian's contributions to the medical community are extraordinary. He has introduced cutting-edge technologies such as multiparametric MRI and MRI-ultrasound fusion prostate biopsy to the Jacksonville area. And for more than a decade, Dr. Kasraeian has been a dedicated leader within the Duval County Medical Society, consistently working to elevate healthcare standards in Northeast Florida.

Beyond his clinical work, Dr. Kasraeian engages directly with the community through his weekly radio program, delivering vital health news and empowering listeners to make informed decisions about their well-being. His service reflects a deep commitment not only to advancing medical science, but also to fostering a healthier, better-informed society.

Mr. Speaker, as he steps into this leadership role, we honor Dr. Ali Kasraeian's legacy of excellence, innovation, and compassion. I congratulate Dr. Kasraeian on this well-deserved recognition of his service to Northeast Florida. Keep up the good work and let's go get 'em.

HONORING COUNCILMAN SEAN MORGAN

**HON. DOUG LAMALFA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2024*

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend, Sean Morgan, who has served on the Chico City Council for the last 12 years. Like our American founders, he stepped up to serve and is returning back to private life. He has done an outstanding job for the City of Chico and must be recognized for his efforts.

Sean moved to Chico in 1974 at age 4. He attended Citrus and Shasta Elementary Schools, Bidwell Jr. High, and Chico High. In 1993 Sean graduated from the Chico State College of Business.

While raising his two boys, Ashton and Zachary, Sean was involved in local youth

sports for over a decade as a coach, referee, and team parent. Sean's favorite time of year is any day he can watch his own children participating in any activities.

Sean Morgan started his first company while still attending college and was traveling around the country speaking on the small business lecture circuit at age 25. It was here that he learned the value of budgets, living within one's means, and managing diverse groups of people. In addition to being a business owner, Sean teaches business at Chico State University.

In 2012, he was elected as a Chico City Council member and has served multiple roles during his twelve years on the council. Sean's intent as a council member was clear, to return Chico to a safe place to raise a family, an ideal location for business, and a premier place to live. Sean served as Vice Mayor for two years and then Mayor for two years. He served on the Finance Committee for ten years, serving as the Chair for eight of those ten years.

During his twelve years of service on the council, Sean was a strong defender of public safety, the rights of business owners, and the citizens. Sean has been a strong leader through numerous disasters, including the Oroville Dam Crisis, the Paradise Camp Fire, and the COVID pandemic, and fighting to clean up the City of Chico after a lopsided council created a homeless crisis and needle giveaway programs.

On a personal note, for more than 12 years now Sean has been Mr. Chico. He has been the Master of Ceremonies for more events than I can count, including many of mine. He has raised money, he has volunteered, he has been the loudest, most consistent voice for common sense in difficult times. Sean Morgan has sacrificed for the City of Chico. If there was something that needed to be done, Sean is who we all counted on to get it done.

The City, the County and I are grateful for his years of service and commitment to the City of Chico. With sincere appreciation I am happy to honor Sean Morgan for his extraordinary service and commitment. I thank Sean Morgan.

RECOGNIZING DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY, TAYLOR MILLS, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. DEAN PHILLIPS**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2024*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Director of Advocacy, Taylor Mills, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I am thrilled that the end of my time in Congress will not be the end of Taylor's service to the district, as she will now become the District Director for my successor, Congresswoman-Elect Kelly Morrison, and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Taylor earned a double major in Political Science and Justice and Peace Studies with a concentration in public policy analysis and advocacy from St. Catherine University and the University of St. Thomas. After college, she was offered the job of a lifetime in the Office of Governor Mark Dayton and (then) Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith. Her passion for constituent services and community engagement were fostered there until Governor Dayton's retirement. In early March of 2020, she was called upon to return to the Governor's Office, as the Director of Constituent Services and Public Engagement for Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. While there, she helped lead the team through multiple crisis situations including: COVID-19, the murders of George Floyd and Daunte Wright, and unprecedented numbers of constituent correspondence, casework, and community feedback. Transitioning from State Government to Federal, Taylor has brought a wealth of experience with her as she continues to build bridges in my office as the Director of Advocacy.

Taylor is a seasoned professional with sound judgement, and her broad experience has proven invaluable. She is a problem solver and creative thinker—eager to rethink systems and processes that are no longer serving their purposes. Taylor is a thoughtful and caring manager who invests her time helping her team grow professionally while also getting to know them personally.

Taylor is a fierce defender of the first amendment and capably coached my team members through moments of protest and celebration. Taylor is a natural in the community, building productive relationships and holding space for diverging viewpoints. Her approach to getting to the heart of the matter is most admirable as she does so in a gentle yet determined way. Taylor is Radical Hospitality in action—when you talk to her, you have her full attention. Taylor's bright spirit and warmth was a welcome addition to our office in a time of uncertainty and we instantly benefitted from her skills as a team-builder, morale-booster, and candy-dish-stocker.

Those who know Taylor well know that she is the biggest "Swiftie", the proudest of dog moms to her goldendoodle Ruthie (named in honor of her idol, Ruth Bader Ginsburg), and is fiercely passionate about making positive change in the world. She is incredibly kind, a listening ear to anybody who needs it, and a powerhouse in this work as a servant leader. She is a true professional in this field, and it has been a joy and an honor working with her over the past year and a half.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and I'm extraordinarily happy that she will continue to do this work and serve the Nation and the people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I wish Taylor all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for her service to this Nation in my office—and many more to come.