

Crypto is the currency of choice for our foreign adversaries, terrorist groups, drug and human traffickers, child sex abusers, and ransomware attackers. These bad actors chose to use crypto because they know the industry does comply with securities laws and regulations, allowing the groups to circumvent regulatory, supervisory, and enforcement regimes. Congress should be considering legislation that will make it harder for these bad actors to access currency, not allowing loopholes to persist. We must ensure to be sure that crypto is not used as the black market for bad actors.

Crypto asset platforms, where customers buy and sell crypto assets, are known to use vertical product and service integration, creating conflicts of interests for the platforms. Some crypto asset platforms blend exchange, brokerage, market making, and clearing agency functions in their platform. This vertical integration of products and services has long been prohibited in traditional markets because it leads to risks for investors. We saw this loophole exploited in 2022 when FTX's CEO, Sam Bankman-Fried, used its affiliated trading firm, Alameda Research, as a market maker, allowing FTX to transfer billions of dollars in customer accounts to Alameda. Sam Bankman-Fried is now serving a 25-year prison sentence for defrauding consumers. H.R. 4763 bakes in these existing conflicts of interest, allowing crypto asset platforms like FTX to continue to work against their customers' best interest for their own gains.

Rather than putting forward a bill that would severely undermine the functioning of our capital markets, Congress should instead consider a comprehensive regulatory framework for crypto that will promote the responsible development of these digital assets while protecting American consumers and investors. I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 4763.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219, H.R. 5863, and YEA on Roll Call No. 220, H.R. 3019.

THANKING JOANN FARLEY FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2024

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank my constituent, Joann Farley, who is retiring on May 31, 2024 after over 21 years of outstanding service to the House of Representatives in financial administrative and support roles. Joann lives in Annapolis, MD, and I am proud to represent her here in Congress.

Joann is retiring after having lent her talents and skills to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for over two decades. The daughter of

a U. S. Army soldier. Joann grew up on several Army bases and eventually landed in Marina, CA, where she started her federal career as an aide for the Supply Department of the Naval Postgraduate School. In August 1982, she met a young Navy Lieutenant, Norm Farley of Annapolis, MD, who decided then and there that he wanted to marry her, and the two married in 1984. As a Navy wife moving from base to base, she continued her career in various positions with the Navy, IRS, Army Research Center and Department of Veterans Affairs. She and Norm were blessed with three children: Laura in 1989, Jared in 1992 and Jacob in 2000. Eventually the family landed in the Washington, D.C. area, where Joann worked for the Department of the Air Force, the Naval Academy and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

In March 2003, Joann began her career with the CAO as a Vendor Management and Financial Counselor, processing payments and providing financial services and optimization of resources to House offices to ensure adherence to House rules and regulations. She managed and enforced over 50 vendor contracts to ensure swift and comprehensive vendor response, safeguarding House terms and conditions. Her knowledge, experience and courteous attentiveness enabled her to be an invaluable asset to the House of Representatives. Joann also formed long-lasting friendships with her customers and colleagues, among whom she is well respected and will be dearly missed.

Joann became a proud grandmother in 2019 when Laura gave birth to twins Lilyana and CeCe, and later, granddaughter Raina was born in 2023. She and Norm recently purchased a home in Cape Coral, FL, where Joann will enjoy her retirement spending time with her family, pursuing various creative and home improvement projects, and enjoying winters in sunny Florida as a 'snowbird.'

I congratulate Joann on her retirement and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her distinguished service to the House and our Nation. I wish her all the best as she begins a new chapter in her life.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF RON HEYMANN

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2024

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Mr. Ron Heymann, although he doesn't look a day over 45, I think the secret must be the early morning workouts at the YMCA.

Mr. Heymann's life reads like the All-American story. Born on June 2, 1934, to Florence and Russel Heymann, Ron grew up in New Jersey where he attended Phillipsburg-Easton High and Rutgers University. After graduating from Rutgers in 1956, Ron served his country in the Army Reserves in El Paso, Texas and at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

On June 22, 1959, Ron married his sweetheart, Barbara. They will soon celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. Ron and Barbara are blessed with two children, Carol and Ron Jr., and a daughter-in-law Raegan.

After his service to our country, Mr. Heymann spent most of his career working for Bell Telephone. He left the telecommunications world for a stint in politics, working for Governor William Cahill of New Jersey, as the Director of Motor Vehicles, and as a consultant to President Richard Nixon's administration. Ron often says he did such a good job eliminating bureaucracy at the New Jersey DMV, the Heymann cars never passed another vehicle inspection until the family moved to the free state of Florida upon Ron's retirement in 1991, taking up full time residence on Amelia Island.

Since that time, Ron has been very active in the Fernandina Beach community. He worked as a docent at the Amelia Island Museum of History, directed traffic at the Presbyterian Vacation Bible School, and is an avid supporter of local charities. Of course, he has also spent hours shuttling his three grandchildren Megan, Kate, and Jack around the Island. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I thank him for his support to the community, his leadership in the Republican Party, and his dedication to his family.

Mr. Speaker, if you want Mr. Heymann's secret to staying youthful, you too can join me in an early morning workout at the YMCA and wish Mr. Heymann a very special 90th birthday.

NEWSLETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents to bring awareness to issues surrounding the border and fentanyl crises, antisemitism and Americans' financial privacy.

Dear Friend,

It's been more than a year since the House passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, the strongest border security bill in history.

H.R. 2 would reimplement President Trump's effective border policies and end this administration's border crisis, which continues to jeopardize our national security and sovereignty.

In fact, a record-breaking number of nationals from our adversary, China, are illegally crossing our border. In April, the Customs and Border Patrol found that in this fiscal year alone, they have encountered 27,583 Chinese nationals, a nearly 8,000 percent increase from fiscal year 2021.

With the rising threat of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), border security is paramount to national security and I will not relent in the fight to secure America's borders.

I recently spoke on the House floor about how the fentanyl pouring in through our borders has taken lives in our own communities in the mountains and urged that this administration put the American people first and close our southern border once and for all.

THE U.S. MUST STAND WITH ISRAEL

As our ally, Israel, is defending itself from terrorist organizations, it is critical that we continue to stand with and support Israel.

The president recently announced he would stop military aid to Israel at a time when this aid is needed to target Hamas terrorists and avoid more civilian casualties in what

looks like an attempt to appease the growing pro-Hamas sentiment among the left.

In light of this administration's misguided decision to halt military aid to Israel, a bipartisan group of colleagues and I demanded that the president provide answers on his decision to withhold shipments to Israel.

Furthermore, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued baseless arrest warrants for Israeli officials, equating them to the terrorists who committed the horrific attacks of Oct. 7. The ICC's decision is great news to terrorists around the globe and is a slap in the face to the only free-standing democracy in the Middle East.

If I have my way, the United States will never abandon Israel, especially not while it is fighting for the right to exist and the rights of Jewish people everywhere, and no country should recognize any legitimacy of a pro-terrorist international court.

PROTECTING AMERICANS' RIGHT TO FINANCIAL PRIVACY

President Biden released a framework to evaluate the establishment of a central bank digital currency (CBDC), which can be used as a surveillance tool and weaponized against the American people.

In China, the Communist Party has been using a CBDC to track the spending habits of its citizens and we cannot allow this level of financial surveillance in America.

That's why I cast NC-11's vote for the CBDC Anti-Surveillance State Act. This bill protects Americans' right to financial privacy by halting unelected bureaucrats from issuing a CBDC and is the first anti-central bank digital currency legislative effort ever introduced in Congress.

WNC BACKS THE BLUE

During the past three years, the Defund the Police movement and anti-police policies have led to a surge in violent crime across the country.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, we recently celebrated National Police Week and honored America's law enforcement heroes by passing legislation to support our men and women in blue.

Some of the bills that I voted for to support our police officers include bills that would:

- Require ICE to detain illegal immigrants who are arrested, charged or convicted with assaulting a law enforcement officer or other first responder.

- Make sure officers can protect themselves and others by allowing concealed weapon possession in more areas open to the public.

- Direct the attorney general to report to Congress on how the border crisis affects law enforcement at various levels.

- Make sure there is adequate data collection to address the rise of attacks on police officers.

While this year's police week might be over, I will continue to back policies that support America's law enforcement officers who risk their own lives to protect and serve citizens day after day.

HOUSE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATES CHINA'S ROLE IN THE FENTANYL CRISIS

Following a months-long bipartisan investigation, the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) revealed its findings of the CCP's role in the deadly fentanyl epidemic that has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans.

The fentanyl crisis is one of the most devastating disasters that our nation has faced and has made its way to the mountains of Western North Carolina. Fentanyl kills more than 200 Americans daily on average, which is the equivalent to a packed Boeing 737 crashing every single day. After all, the amount of fentanyl that is considered a potentially deadly dose is as small as the amount that fits on the tip of a pencil.

This dangerous drug is the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18–49 and has led to millions more suffering from addiction while continuing to destroy families and communities. The fentanyl crisis is not just limited to the United States, as fentanyl and other mass-produced synthetic narcotics from the People's Republic of China (PRC) are devastating nations around the world.

This is why the U.S. must swiftly act on the following findings from the select committee's investigation to address the root cause of this global crisis.

- The select committee's investigation found that the PRC government, under the control of the CCP:

- Directly subsidizes the manufacturing and export of illicit fentanyl materials and other synthetic narcotics through tax rebates.

- Gave monetary grants and awards to companies openly trafficking illicit fentanyl materials and other synthetic narcotics.

- Holds ownership interest in several PRC companies tied to drug trafficking.

- Fails to prosecute fentanyl and precursor manufacturers.

- Allows the open sale of fentanyl precursors and other illicit materials on the extensively monitored and controlled PRC internet.

- Censors content about domestic drug sales but leaves export-focused narcotics content untouched.

- Strategically and economically benefits from the fentanyl crisis.

The takeaways from these findings are that the U.S. needs to take the following decisive actions to address the fentanyl crisis: establish a Joint Task Force—Counter Opioids; provide law enforcement and intelligence officials with the authorities, tools and resources they need; strengthen U.S. sanctions authorities; enact and use trade

and customs enforcement measures and close regulatory and enforcement gaps.

INFLATION CONTINUES TO WREAK HAVOC ON WESTERN NORTH CAROLINIANS' WAY OF LIFE

Our economy continues to suffer due to this administration's fiscal policies.

Inflation was at 1.4 percent when Biden took office and has risen nearly 20 percent since then. High prices are forcing Americans to spend more than \$12,000 more a year to afford the same basics compared to three years ago.

From my seats on the House Appropriations and Budget Committees, I am pushing to change how Washington works so that we can restore fiscal responsibility in our government, improve America's economic outlook and allow Western North Carolinians to keep more of their hard-earned dollars in their wallets.

WNC'S LATEST SERVICE ACADEMY ACCEPTANCES

One of the most important duties and greatest honors of representing the 11th district of North Carolina is selecting nominees among those who are seeking appointments to our nation's military service academies.

I had the great pleasure and excitement of hosting an event to celebrate the following students whose exceptional leadership, hard work and patriotism made them stand out from a competitive pool of applicants and were accepted into their respective service academies.

Cedric Gordon, alumnus of Asheville High School: U.S. Air Force Academy

William "Liam" Lawing, student at Nesbitt Discovery Academy: U.S. Air Force Academy

Joshua Morgan, alumnus of Asheville Christian Academy: U.S. Air Force Academy

Michael Puzerewski, student at Holy Innocence Academy: U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

Anita Zavvalova, student at A.C. Reynolds High School: U.S. Naval Academy

These students represent the best of America, and I want to extend my congratulations once again for this life-changing achievement.

CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS: UNPLUGGED

Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 20 to join my next in-person town hall in Graham County. The town hall will take place from 6:00–7:30 p.m. at the Graham County Courthouse, 12 N. Main St., Robbinsville, NC. I'm looking forward to sharing an update about legislative priorities in Congress and answering questions about the issues that matter to you.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.