

the Federation and ultimately the U.S. Congress as established by the Constitution in 1787.

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress, in July 2024 the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia, the nonprofit organization founded in 1724 that owns and operates Carpenters' Hall, will convene the Young People's Continental Congress (YPCC). From July 15–19, a diverse group of high school students and their teachers from the 13 original colonies will gather in Philadelphia to explore our Nation's founding. A second convening in July 2025 will engage students and teachers from all 56 states and jurisdictions.

YPCC is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage young people in history and civics as well as launch Philadelphia's celebration of the Semiquincentennial of American independence in 2026. YPCC has been named a National Partner Program of America250 and has been endorsed by America250PA and Philadelphia250. YPCC delegates will discuss America's founding principles and how those principles have been expressed over our history. They will also experience Philadelphia's world-class historic attractions to enhance their understanding of the democratic process and how our country began. The program will provide young people across the country with the opportunity to share their voices and perspectives.

YPCC will harness the power of convening for a new generation of civic leaders, who often are more connected with their peers via technology and social media than they are in physical time and space. As generations of leaders have learned, there is nothing like being "in the room where it happened."

NEWSLETTER FROM
CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on issues surrounding military readiness, national security, and the appropriations process.

DEAR FRIEND:

The United States is facing unprecedented threats from those who want to do us harm, so the House is prioritizing policies that strengthen our nation's security and borders.

The House recently passed H.R. 8070, the Servicemembers Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for FY25, which is focused on improving our servicemembers' lives while restoring our military's focus on warfighting.

I'm excited to share that this bill also included three of my amendments.

The first requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to complete a survey of the 15 counties in North Carolina's 11th District as potential locations for future defense facilities. Western North Carolina's topography is much like that of many of our adversaries, including China's, and would be advantageous for military training.

Another of my amendments requires the DOD to submit an annual report to the General Services Administration about office space occupancy data so that taxpayer dollars are not being thrown away on unused office space by the federal government.

The third amendment would revoke the security clearances of retired or active members of the armed forces or Defense Department civilian employees who support or participate in demonstrations in support of a designated foreign terrorist organization. It should be a no-brainer that someone who supports a terrorist organization should not have access to classified security information.

This year's NDAA took an important step in getting our military away from wokeness and back to its mission of protecting and defending America, and I was glad to support it.

OPEN BORDERS PUT AMERICAN LIVES AT RISK.

Protecting the long-term success of our nation and Americans require defending our border.

Since President Biden has taken office, there have been more than 9.6 million illegal immigrant encounters nationwide, with more than 7.9 million of them just at our southern border.

Over the past three years, the left's failed border policies have made every community in America a border community, and the president's latest executive order does nothing to actually address the crisis at our southern border.

Recent news of Americans murdered by illegal immigrants makes it clear that we must secure our borders to keep our citizens safe. We cannot protect Americans if we don't secure our border. That's why I helped pass the strongest border security bill in history, H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, which would put an end to this administration's border crisis that is putting Americans' lives at risk.

APPROPRIATIONS SEASON IS UPON US

The House Appropriations Committee continues to fulfill our Article I responsibility by moving 12 bills that fund the federal government through the committee and the House floor in regular order with robust debate on spending.

A common theme that marks these appropriations bills is a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility and American values.

One of the funding bills I helped pass as a member of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee is nearly 20 percent less than the president's budget request and nearly 10 percent less than the spending level in FY24. Notably, this bill prioritizes agencies and programs that combat terrorism financing, maintain the integrity of our financial markets, spur small business growth, support the judicial branch and target opioid abuse.

After the Appropriations Committee's passage of the Defense, Homeland Security, and State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs appropriations bills, the House also advanced these bills, putting our nation a step closer to increasing the safety and security of the American people.

Some of the highlights in these bills that strengthen our national security include the following:

The Defense bill refocuses the DOD on its core mission preparing combat-ready military forces to deter war and safeguard our national security. The measure includes targeting funding to counter China and related adversaries, supporting innovation to develop modernized weapons and capabilities, and supporting our servicemembers and their families, including giving a pay raise to all military personnel.

It also reduces waste by cutting \$18 billion from the president's budget request and eliminating the use of taxpayer dollars that would have gone to fund the radical left's woke agenda.

The Homeland Security bill takes steps toward securing our southern border and

makes sure that the Department of Homeland Security upholds federal law. The measure includes providing \$600 million for constructing the southern border wall, sustained funding for 22,000 Border Patrol agents, and prohibits the transportation of illegal immigrants into the interior of the United States for purposes other than enforcement.

The State and Foreign Operations bill prioritizes agencies and programs that protect our national security while safeguarding our global economic interests, supporting our allies, targeting our enemies and promoting freedom and democracy abroad in a fiscally responsible manner, cutting overall funding by 11 percent.

The measure includes about \$2 billion for U.S. national security interests in the Indo-Pacific and to counter influence by our adversaries, and more than \$3 billion for Israel to defend itself against terrorist attacks. The bill also stops funding for the United Nations' regular budget, terminates more than 18 unnecessary programs and eliminates 33 special envoys and special representatives at the Department of State.

This administration's America Last foreign policy approach has weakened the United States' standing on the world stage, emboldened our adversaries such as China, Iran and Russia, abandoned our allies and placed American servicemembers' lives at risk.

As the House Appropriations Committee continues to work through our process of funding the government, you can follow along on Facebook or X for ongoing updates.

IF CONGRESS DOES NOT DO OUR JOB, WE DO NOT
GO HOME

Every year since 1996, Congress has failed to pass our annual spending bills on time, and yet once August rolls around, Congress goes home, despite work still left to be done in DC. We cannot continue putting funding our federal government on the backburner.

The Constitution gives the power of the purse in Congress, yet we cannot seem to get our single most important job done in a timely manner.

I'm introducing the Do Our Job Act because if our work is not done, we should not go home. The American people cannot afford Congress not funding our government on time. The way Congress runs is broken, and this bill is one of the ways that I'm waking to fix how Washington works.

STANDING UP FOR LIFE

The second anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark Dobbs decision is a celebratory reminder that the Constitution does not grant a right to abortion. This ruling was a major step toward protecting unborn life. I'll continue to stand up for the most vulnerable through legislative actions and advocating for expecting mothers and families so that they feel empowered to choose life.

COMING TO WNC SOON: NEW ARMY RESERVE
FACILITY

The Department of the Army is funding a \$32 million project in Asheville for the construction of a U.S. Army Reserve center, vehicle maintenance facility and organizational storage building in the Asheville vicinity, to be completed by June 2026.

I'm pleased that the Department of the Army has agreed with the approach taken by my House-passed National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) amendment, which requires the Department of Defense to complete a survey of the 15 counties in North Carolina's 11th District as potential locations for future defense facilities and report to Congress on its findings.

The new construction will not only benefit our Army reservists, but it is also an opportunity for military leaders to explore additional avenues for WNC to uniquely contribute to doing our part to support our military and reservists.

“UNPLUGGED” TOWN HALL IN YANCEY COUNTY

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, July 16 to join my next in-person town hall in Yancey County. The town hall will take place from 6:00–7:30 p.m. at the Yancey County Courthouse, 110 Town Sq., Burnsville, NC.

I'm looking forward to sharing an update about the latest legislative opportunities and challenges in Congress and answering questions about the issues that matter to you.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

REMEMBERING WWII VETERAN
STANISLAU “STAN” WOJCİK

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and service of Stanislaw “Stan” Wojcik, a proud veteran from Michigan’s 9th Congressional District, who passed away on June 9, 2024. Stan’s service and courage as a World War II Navy machinist aboard the USS *Sarasota* (APA-204) left a long-lasting impact on his fellow soldiers and our country.

Born on August 13, 1925, Stan Wojcik exemplified the values of duty, honor, and sacrifice from a young age. His service in the South Pacific during World War II, and particularly in his role aboard the USS *Sarasota*, stands as a testament to his sense of service.

During his service, Stan participated in critical operations throughout the war. Stan aided in disaster relief after the explosion of the USS *Mt. Hood*, the Battle of Luzon, the Battle of Manila, the Battle of Okinawa, and the invasion of Ie Shima. His contributions during these campaigns underscored his unwavering commitment to defending our Nation during one of the most defining eras of our history.

Throughout his service, Stan Wojcik was awarded numerous honors recognizing his bravery and dedication, including the Combat Action Ribbon, China Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal, Honorable Service Lapel Pin, Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering Stanislaw Wojcik’s family, friends, and community our deepest condolences. We are indebted to his generation for their bravery, sacrifice, and leadership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed nine votes on June 28, 2024 due to con-

tracting COVID-19. Had I been present, I would have voted:

NAY on Roll Call No. 327 on Agreeing to the Amendment: Tenney of New York Part A Amendment No. 163;

NAY on Roll Call No. 328 on Agreeing to the Amendment: Tenney of New York Part A Amendment No. 164;

YEA on Roll Call No. 329 on Agreeing to the Amendment: Titus of Nevada Part A Amendment No. 171;

YEA on Roll Call No. 330 on Motion to Re-commit: Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2025;

NAY on Roll Call No. 331 on Passage: Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2025;

YEA on Roll Call No. 332 on Motion to Re-commit: Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2025;

NAY on Roll Call No. 333 on Passage: Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2025;

YEA on Roll Call No. 334 on Motion to Re-commit: Making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; and

NAY on Roll Call No. 335 on Passage: Making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor and celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Michigan Municipal League, an organization dedicated to making communities better through innovation, connection, and service. Since its founding in 1899, the League has played a crucial role in enhancing municipal governance and fostering community development across Michigan.

Originally known as the League of Michigan Municipalities, the League found a permanent home in Ann Arbor in 1928 and established an additional office in Lansing in 1957. Initially focused on promoting home rule for cities and villages, it has evolved to address a wide range of municipal concerns, from legislative advocacy to comprehensive service offerings. Today, the League represents over 500 full-service cities, villages, and townships. It has worked tirelessly to educate and inspire public servants to build trust and create a sense of belonging among residents and local leaders to build opportunity and address social and economic needs.

The League’s motto is “Cooperation solves any problem,” a principle the organization has demonstrated for over a century by bringing together officials to learn from one another. Through its advocacy efforts and commitment to cooperation and mutual support, the League has highlighted the transformative power of public service in local governments.

Throughout its history, the Michigan Municipal League has been instrumental in numerous significant initiatives. The League played a vital role in the construction of the Mackinac Bridge in the 1950s, a landmark project that connected Michigan’s Upper and Lower Peninsulas. Its advocacy was pivotal in the expansion of the Dial-A-Ride Transportation system in 1975, which greatly benefited seniors and individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the League championed the Complete Streets Act in Michigan, which was signed in 2010 and promotes mobility and safety for all users, including pedestrians, public transportation users, older individuals, and children.

In 2009, the League, alongside the Detroit Regional Chamber and Transportation Riders United, formed a coalition to embrace public transit as a powerful economic development tool and resource for residents. This initiative underscored the League’s belief in collaborative efforts and the power of community-focused policies that has been a tenet of its mission since its earliest days.

This 125th anniversary is a perfect time to recognize the Michigan Municipal League for its dedication to improving local governance and fostering vibrant, equitable communities. It is with great respect that I honor the League’s 125 years of service and its ongoing contributions to Michigan’s cities, villages, and townships. May the Michigan Municipal League continue to inspire and lead for many more years to come.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
WILLIAM LORICK

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. William Lorick, a beloved member of our Amelia Island family.

Born in 1947, William grew up in Augusta, Georgia before attending Newberry College in South Carolina. After graduating, William embarked on a long and extremely successful real estate career. In 1973, William moved to Amelia Island, Florida where he lived for the rest of his life.

William was a pillar of the Amelia Island community, but his service to the island went far beyond that. He was key to the growth of the Lutheran Prince of Peace Church, he was a founding member of the Barnabas Center, and he was one of the first volunteers for the South End Auxiliary Fire Fighters. William also spent years as a mentor in the Big Brothers program. He might even be remembered most for his 1929 Ford Model A, which was certainly the coolest car in town.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues join me in celebrating the amazing life of William Lorick, along with offering our deepest condolences to his wife Stephanie, their children Barlass and Abigail, and to all of his friends and family who miss him dearly.