

parts of the Washington, D.C. metro area began to join. To accommodate their growth, they incorporated Victory Christian Ministries International of Woodbridge, Virginia in July 2005. Over the years, VCMi has grown from a single church to an international ministry with several locations across our nation and in Europe. This growth is a testament to the positive influence and transformative power of their message.

Since its establishment, the Woodbridge branch of VCMi has been a beacon of hope and a source of strength for many in the community. Through their dynamic Sunday services and engaging weekly activities, they have offered spiritual nourishment and guidance to countless individuals and families. VCMi's commitment to youth development is particularly noteworthy. Their Christa Teens program has provided a safe and nurturing environment for our young people from all walks of life to explore their faith, develop leadership skills, and give back to their community.

As we commemorate this 19th anniversary, we celebrate not just the longevity of an institution, but the countless lives that have been touched, the families that have been strengthened, and the communities that have been enriched by their work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Victory Christian Ministries International's Woodbridge branch on their 19th anniversary. I applaud Pastors Tony and Cynthia Brazelton as well as the entire VCMi community for their contributions to Prince William County—guided by the values of love, compassion, and community service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES HATCH

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of James "Jim" Hatch.

Jim was dedicated to serving our community and was always kind and helpful. Included in his long career, he assisted with former Congressman George Miller's campaign and the Youth Fund. Additionally, Jim was incredibly hardworking and was a skilled handyman. He also enjoyed traveling the world and was a proud dog parent to Minnie the Pooch. Jim will be remembered for his optimism, positivity, and the impact he's had on countless lives.

Jim is survived by Carol, his loving wife of 60 years, and his children Suzanne (Rob) and Jill (Steve), grandchildren Sophie (Joshua), Sarah (Rick), Matthew, Lauren, Kristi (Ben) and Sarah (Jason Henry), great grandchildren Olivia and Cameron, his sister Sandra, brother Robert, and bonus daughter and grandsons Tomoko, Hiro, and Akira Tamura.

Please join me in honoring my friend Jim Hatch. He will be remembered for his outstanding character and his commitment to his community.

RECOGNIZING THE GREAT BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Great Bridge High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Chesapeake, Virginia, the Great Bridge High School Wildcats were able to bring the Class 5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Great Bridge Boys' Soccer team is undefeated this season, and goalie, Griffin Thomas, recorded a shutout in the net, and Carson Danner scored the game winning goal to secure their championship.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young men to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Great Bridge High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR GENERAL DAVID F. WHERLEY, JR., DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD RETENTION AND COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program Act. This bill would permanently authorize funding for the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program, which provides financial assistance for higher education to members of the D.C. National Guard, which is an exclusively federal entity.

This program and bill are named for Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., former Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, who, along with his wife, Ann, and seven others were tragically killed when Metro trains collided on the Red Line on June 22, 2009. I named this bill for Major General Wherley because he worked tirelessly with me for many years to get funding for this program, and because of his devotion to D.C. youth and to the D.C. National Guard.

This program was recommended by Major General Wherley and his successor at the D.C. National Guard, Major General Errol Schwartz, to stem the troublesome loss of D.C. National Guard members to other units, including National Guards in surrounding states that offer financial assistance for higher education to their members. I am grateful that Congress has consistently provided funding for this program, most recently \$600,000 in fis-

cal year 2024. Permanently authorizing this program will help ensure that members of the D.C. National Guard receive the same benefits as members of other National Guards and help the D.C. National Guard recruit and retain members.

This program not only benefits D.C. National Guard members, the great majority of whom live in Maryland or Virginia, but also helps the D.C. National Guard to maintain the force necessary to protect the federal presence in D.C. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING JUDGE ROBERT O. BOWEN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Judge Robert O. Bowen of the Marshall County Superior Court No. 1 as he prepares to retire from serving on the bench.

A 1974 graduate of Indiana University, Judge Bowen obtained his Juris Doctor from Valparaiso University in 1977. In addition to his service on the bench, Robert also served as a Legislative Assistant in the Indiana General Assembly. Since his tenure on the Marshall County Superior Court No. 1 began on January 1, 1995, Judge Bowen has dedicated himself to advancing the principles of justice and ensuring that Hoosiers get a fair shake before the law.

The Rule of Law tradition we have inherited helps secure individual liberty and promotes the conditions necessary for human flourishing. It is incumbent on us to do our part to make sure these principles of justice and Rule of Law precepts are passed seamlessly from one generation to the next. That mission is one Judge Bowen has embraced wholeheartedly and worked tirelessly to advance.

While serving on the Court, Judge Bowen has also demonstrated his steadfast commitment to the local community, most especially in his church membership where he taught adult education over the years. Additionally, the Sagamore of the Wabash Award he has been honored with is another testament to Judge Bowen's leadership abilities and his civic-oriented nature.

As Judge Bowen's career comes to a close, I have no doubt that the Marshall County community is better off because of his service. I know that Robert's wife Patty and their three children—Andrew, Chris, and Betsy—are all very proud of him, and I am too. I join Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second Congressional District in expressing our gratitude to Judge Robert O. Bowen for his service and in wishing him a very happy retirement and all the best going forward.

RECOGNIZING THE NANSEMOND-SUFFOLK SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the

Nansemond-Suffolk Softball team on winning the 2024 VISAA DII State Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Suffolk, Virginia, the Nansemond-Suffolk Saints were able to bring the VISAA DII State Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Nansemond-Suffolk Softball Team is celebrating their fifth straight state championship title with their head coach, Brittany Thornburg, leading her team to victory.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Nansemond-Suffolk Softball Team on winning the 2024 VISAA DII State Championship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on July 8th and 9th as I had an immovable commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on H.R. 5441—Roll Call No. 337; YEA on H.R. 897—Roll Call No. 336; YEA on H.R. 7700—Roll Call No. 343; and YEA on H.R. 7637—Roll Call No. 341.

NEWSLETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on issues surrounding our NATO partners and election integrity.

DEAR FRIEND: As a member of the House Appropriations State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee, I recently traveled with a small delegation to the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, then Poland. There we met with those nations' top military and political leaders and diplomats. Throughout this trip I was constantly reminded of the evil that has reigned over earth for centuries.

In the U.S. we are somewhat isolated geographically. In this volatile region they live under the constant reminder of their struggles for freedom and despicable acts of centuries of occupation, depopulation, repopulation, and genocide. Daily, these critical NATO allies are exposed to Putin's verbal threats as well as living in the fear of regular cyber and terrorist attacks.

More importantly, those in the Baltics are watching the reality of Russian aggression, cruelty, and massacres play out in their own backyard today. They saw the barbaric act of Putin bombing a children's hospital. They saw that over 20,000 Ukrainian children have been kidnapped and moved to Russia as part of their history's reputation for depopulating those they dominate.

The leaders in this region talked with me because of their close proximity to Russia

and Belarus about their constant fear that they could be annihilated within seconds, and might never see it coming. They know that Putin is ruthless enough and has the thirst for power and land to do it.

We don't see these pressures from our secure vantage point in the U.S., outside of our new threats created by Joe Biden's lackadaisical policies over our own border. However, these European partners feel a daily struggle to cling to their democracy and freedom.

Each of these vulnerable countries are doing their part. Each of them contributes well over 2 percent of their GDP toward their own defense, knowing they'll likely have to face another Russian invasion of their homeland some day. Additionally, they are contributing to the military and humanitarian needs in Ukraine.

But one thing became very clear to me on this trip. None of them have the size, the economy, nor the military capability to preserve freedom and democracy on their own. Their existence is dependent on all of our NATO partners.

ONLY U.S. CITIZENS SHOULD HAVE INFLUENCE ON U.S. ELECTIONS.

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act that I co-sponsored and helped the House pass protects and preserves the right of American citizens to vote. This legislation would require states to obtain proof of citizenship in person when registering an individual to vote in federal elections and requires states to remove non-citizens from existing voter rolls.

Foreign election interference is made possible because of our lax voter registration laws that allow noncitizens to register and vote in federal elections. With the ongoing crisis at our southern border, this piece of legislation is essential to safeguard the integrity of American elections.

The SAVE Act will close the loopholes that allow noncitizen registration, and thereby voting, to improve election security, minimize the risk of foreign interference and restore Americans' confidence in U.S. elections.

"UNPLUGGED" TOWN HALL IN YANCEY COUNTY

Reminder: Join my next in-person town hall in Yancey County on Tuesday, July 16. 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.

DC OFFICE'S FIRST GREEN THUMB AWARD WINNER

Congratulations, Jessie Frank, for winning our DC office's first ever Green Thumb Award.

These DC Longworth building offices are drab. To add a little life, spirit, and ambiance to our office, for the past 90 days our team was challenged to keep the area around their workspace green and vibrant. I appreciate my entire team's enthusiasm and light-hearted competition to make our office green and alive. Jessie received the award, but we all benefited with a more pleasant place to work.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE GREENBRIER CHRISTIAN BASEBALL TEAM

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Greenbrier Christian Baseball team on winning the 2024 VISAA DII State Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Chesapeake, Virginia, the Greenbrier Christian Gators were able to bring the VISAA DII State Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends by their hard work and dedication to their team. The Greenbrier Christian Baseball Team has fifteen State Championship titles under their belt. In the beginning of the year this team was unranked and quickly became unstoppable averaging 8.9 runs per game. This reflects not only their athletic capabilities, but also their steadfast determination to excel.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young men to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Greenbrier Christian Baseball Team on winning the 2024 VISAA DII State Championship.

HONORING BISHOP REGINALD THOMAS JACKSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated husband, loving father, exceptional community leader, faithful servant of God, and friend of longstanding, Bishop Reginald Thomas Jackson. Bishop Jackson was honored for his 8 years of dedicated service in Georgia as the Presiding Prelate of the Sixth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. This event was held at the Saint Phillip AME Church in Decatur, Georgia on July 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

The genesis of the life of Bishop Reginald Jackson began with his birth on April 26, 1954, in Dover, Delaware. He is a product of Dover Public Schools and in 1976 graduated from Delaware State University with a Bachelor's Degree in History. In 1972, he was called to preach the Gospel and licensed under the pastorate of the Rev. Rudolph W. Coleman; was ordained as an Itinerant Deacon in 1975 under the leadership of Bishop Earnest Lawrence Hickman and appointed Supply Pastor at Graham AME Church. Always working to improve his preaching skills and knowledge of the Gospel, Bishop Jackson graduated from the Turner Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in 1979, was ordained as an Itinerant Elder by Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand in 1977 and appointed Supply Pastor at St. John AME Church in Atlanta, Georgia in 1978.

Bishop Jackson spent 33 years serving in the state of New Jersey, 2 years as Pastor of