

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

St. John AME Church and 31 years at St. Matthew AME Church. During his long tenure at St. Matthew, he increased the congregation from 75 to over 2,800 members; he instituted more than 30 ministries to meet the spiritual, emotional, educational and physical needs of the church and community; and he increased the church annual budget from \$50,000 to \$2 million. George Washington Carver once said "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Bishop Jackson has used his life's work to advocate for the most vulnerable among us to include minorities, the young, the elderly, and the disenfranchised. He has been a voice for the voiceless and he has given hope to the hopeless.

Bishop Jackson served as Executive Director of the Black Ministers Council of New Jersey, representing over 600 New Jersey Churches; served on the Orange Public School System Board of Education as President for 12 years; and sits on the Board of Trustees of Essex County College, serving as President for 10 years. He was named Man of the Year by New Jersey Monthly Magazine, received the William Ashby Award from the United Way, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Newark North Ward Center, and Honorary Doctorates from Wilberforce University and Payne Theological Seminary. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and a Life Member of the NAACP.

In 2012, Reginald Thomas Jackson was elected and consecrated the 132nd Bishop of the AME Church at the 49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference, held in Nashville, Tennessee and was appointed to the 20th Episcopal District (Malawi Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Uganda) as the Ecumenical and Urban Affairs Officer. He has served as Chairman of the Social Action Commission of the AME Church and is the current Chairman of the Commission on Colleges, Universities and Seminaries.

Eight years ago, Bishop Jackson accepted his charge in Georgia as Presiding Prelate of the Sixth Episcopal District of the AME Church. Continuing his longstanding advocacy for social justice, he has been a staunch champion for voter registration, education and turnout. He has ferociously lobbied the Georgia General Assembly for hate crime legislation and gun reform. Following an arrest for a planned attack on an AME Church in Gainesville, Georgia and the murder of Ahamd Arbery in February 2020, Bishop Jackson led the charge for a bill which was signed into law

by Governor Brian Kemp in June 2020. In 2020, Bishop Jackson also collaborated with the leaders of every Georgia State African American religious denomination in conducting massive voter registration and education efforts throughout Georgia, resulting in the election of President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Senators Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, shifting the balance of power in the Senate. Because of this seismic shift, historic legislation to improve lives and communities was signed into law, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, Historic Funding for HBCU's, as well as the appointment of an African American woman to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2022 and now in 2024, he is leading an historic partnership with the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church to energize and mobilize minority voters for the 2024 elections.

Now, after 8 years in Georgia, Bishop Jackson will be leaving for assignment to another Episcopal District where he will no doubt share his vision and wisdom in service to God's people. While his departure will be a great loss to Georgia, I am certain that his impactful leadership will be a catalytic gain to those in his new region of responsibility.

Bishop Jackson has accomplished much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Attorney Christy Jackson, who has served along side him as Supervisor of the Sixth Episcopal District, and their children Regina and Seth. Georgia, our Nation and the world, are better because of Bishop Jackson's ministry and service. To God Be the Glory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Bishop Reginald Thomas Jackson upon his departure from Georgia as the Presiding Prelate of the Sixth Episcopal District of the AME Church. May God continue to bless his ministry and service on behalf of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a scheduled appointment at Walter Reed Med-

ical Center, I missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 348; YEA on Roll Call No. 349; YEA on Roll Call No. 350; and YEA on Roll Call No. 351.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 348 (Huizenga: amendment No. 1); NAY on Roll Call No. 349 (Self: amendment No. 3); NAY on Roll Call No. 350 (Jackson (TX): amendment No. 4); YEA on Roll Call No. 351 (MTR to H.R. 8772—Leg Branch Appropriations); NAY on Roll Call No. 352 (Final Passage to H.R. 8772—Leg Branch Appropriations); NAY on Roll Call No. 353 (Adoption of H. Res. 1344—Merrick Garland Contempt); NAY on Roll Call No. 354 (On passage of H.J. Res. 165); and YEA on Roll Call No. 355 (On Passage of H.J. Res. 109, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding).

#### CELEBRATING THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the Village of Franklin in Michigan's 12th District as they celebrate their bicentennial anniversary.

Established in 1824, the Village of Franklin is a very special place in our community. The village grew out of increased travel through the region after the completion of the Erie Canal, and its first residents were practical tradespeople skilled in smithing, carpentry, and masonry. To this day, Franklin residents embrace and preserve its beautiful, rural landscape, fondly calling it the "Town That Time Forgot." Because of its numerous original 19th-century properties, Franklin was designated as Michigan's first Historic District, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Please join me and the 12th Congressional District in celebrating the Village of Franklin's 200th birthday.