

"Service Above Self," carrying out thousands of local and international service projects and strengthening our Lakeport community and beyond.

The Rotary Club of Lakeport was founded in 1925 after the Oakland Rotary Club sponsored its creation. Today, the club stands as one of more than 46,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide, with Rotary International encompassing over 1.2 million members of all races, colors, and creeds. The Lakeport club is composed of a diverse membership that includes business owners, religious leaders, attorneys, judges, educators, and other community leaders. The club also sponsored the creation of the Clearlake and Kelseyville Sunrise Rotary Clubs, showcasing its commitment to the development of our Lake County community.

Over the years, the club has made a lasting impact in our region through numerous initiatives. Its annual community Easter Egg Hunt, first held in 1925, remains their longest-standing event and will mark its 99th occurrence this year. Members also helped construct the bleachers for Clear Lake High School's football stadium, enhanced amenities at Westside Community Park, and restored the historic Lakeport Curfew Bell, which now stands in the newly completed Xabatin Lakeside Park. The club has also completed countless beautification projects in our area and helped found the Lake Area Rotary Club Association (LARCA), which provides vital disaster relief to victims of wildfires and other natural disasters in our Lake County.

The club has also generously supported healthcare institutions. It has donated medical equipment, refrigeration units and TV's to Lakeside Community Hospital and created a Hospice Memory Garden in honor of those who have passed. Their commitment to service includes the creation of a community garden, a medical equipment Lending Library, and the construction of restrooms and showers at the Lake Berryessa Boy Scout Camp. The club has also funded playgrounds for our local Safe House and a teen parenting facility and has maintained the Pearl Harbor Mast to honor the many veterans in our community.

Beyond local work, the Rotary Club of Lakeport has made notable contributions to international causes. Members have hosted numerous foreign exchange students and spearheaded projects across the globe, which include delivering clean water, constructing playgrounds and providing medical services to those in need. They have raised thousands of dollars to support Rotary International's mission to eradicate polio, with members even traveling village to village across the African continent to administer vaccines. Additionally, the club has shipped 100 hospital beds to Haiti, sent two tons of gardening tools to various countries, and supported humanitarian efforts in South Korea through the Lakeport Friendship Center. The club also formed a sister club in Loreto, Mexico, where it has helped build a children's playground, construct a Red Cross building, and have donated an ambulance to the area. Members have also participated in RotoPlast, offering cleft palate surgeries, and supported school infrastructure projects in Mexican orphanages.

Mr. Speaker, the Rotary Club of Lakeport's century of service is a powerful example of community dedication, international outreach, and compassion in action. It is fitting and proper that we recognize and honor their 100th anniversary here today.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA FURLONG

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ms. Patricia Furlong has made to our community through her volunteerism with the Pregnancy & Family Life Center. Ms. Furlong is part of a team of selfless and dedicated women who have worked at the Center in Inverness for several years. Their roles include working each week in the food pantry and clothing room. Last year, 472 clients were served, and more than 65,000 pounds of food was distributed. These critical volunteers also ensure families receive essential items for their infants and young children to include: formula, diapers, pull ups, baby wipes and wash, as well as age specific clothing. In 2024, more than 44,000 diapers and 9,500 items of clothing were distributed. These volunteers have a 'can do' attitude no matter how large the challenge.

They also have tremendous teamwork. They sort through all donations, retain those appropriate for a pregnancy center and then share other serviceable items with community partners. Ms. Furlong also visits the Center each weekend when the facility is closed to check the donation box and bring donated items inside to ensure they reach the intended recipients. When volunteers are united in an important mission, it naturally fosters camaraderie which is great for anyone who works or volunteers at the Center. All of these women maintain a loving demeanor and greet each client with a warm smile and conversation (and sometimes a hug). The Center's clients feel welcomed and cared for because of the lived values of love, respect, compassion, and family centeredness that is regularly displayed by these dedicated volunteers. The benefit to the community is great and the impact far reaching.

It is clear that Patricia Furlong has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING ALYSSA SAYERS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alyssa Sayers for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Alyssa has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Alyssa, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alyssa's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Alyssa Sayers on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JAMES E. "RED WARRIOR" RAWLINGS, R. PH., MPH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of an outstanding community leader and my dear friend, James E. "Red Warrior" Rawlings, who we lost this week. Over the course of his life, Jim was many things to many people, but at his core, he was a loving family man, a fearless advocate, and a dedicated member of the New Haven community. There are many who talk about visionary leadership and commitment to service. Jim Rawlings was the embodiment of these ideals, dedicating a lifetime to public health and the betterment of our community.

Jim came to New Haven via Providence, Rhode Island where he grew up. After attending Yale University where he earned his Master's in Public Health, Jim began what would be a 35-year distinguished career at Yale New Haven Hospital. He was dedicated to improving the quality of care people received, particularly those in marginalized communities. Jim brought an innovative and creative mind to the hospital. He pioneered Connecticut's first hospital based adult AIDS and Sickle Cell programs, receiving national recognition, as well as overseeing the administrative operations of critical departments like the emergency department, laboratory medicine, and medical/surgical units. When Jim retired, he did so as the hospital's first African American Assistant Vice President and Executive Director of Community Health.

Jim was not only a leader in public health, but in the community as well. Jim served four terms as President of the Greater New Haven branch of the NAACP during which time he modernized the organization and elevated its community impact. His steadfast leadership allowed the organization to grow its potential and its members to make meaningful and transformative contributions to every facet of the New Haven community. Jim was also a respected member of the Connecticut State NAACP, where he served as Health Chair for more than two decades, and at the national level where he served as a Trustee. In all of these roles, Jim gave voice to the multitude of challenges faced by the African American community while also providing a roadmap to overcome those obstacles. He was never one to identify a problem without also pointing to a potential resolution. Though Jim stepped down from his role as President of the Greater New Haven NAACP in 2014, he remained engaged and involved with the organization until his last day. Jim was also well-known for his dedication to conserving and celebrating Native American culture. As an elder of the Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe, based in Massachusetts, he dedicated countless hours to ensure that the traditions and teachings of his tribe would be preserved for new generations to learn, understand, and appreciate.

Though Jim was passionate about many things throughout his life, Sickle Cell Disease may have been his greatest. After his retirement from Yale New Haven Hospital, he served as President and CEO of the Sickle

Cell Disease Association of America, CT Chapter (SCDAA.CT). It was here that he founded Michelle's House, the first Sickle Cell Community Center in the Northeast, and championed academic support for students living with Sickle Cell Disease. Jim spearheaded outreach programs for individuals unaware of their SCD and Sickle Cell Trait status. He also advocated for and successfully achieved a partnership with CVS Health to advance equity in healthcare for the Sickle Cell community. It was, in fact, only a few months ago that I met with Jim to discuss his latest project, a Sickle Cell van which would provide a mobile operation to bring testing, counseling, and other services to those who would not otherwise have access to such care. Jim believed this effort could significantly enhance early detection and outreach to those affected by SCD, enabling individuals with the Sickle Cell trait to make more informed decisions and ultimately preventing more children from being born with Sickle Cell Disease. It is my hope that we will one day see that vision come to fruition.

In his obituary, Jim was described as "a man of unwavering purpose, humility, and compassion." I cannot think of a more fitting illustration of his character—of his soul. With his trademark Stetson and wonderful bolo ties, James E. "Red Warrior" Rawlings was a force of nature who left an indelible mark on our community and the many lives he touched. He will be missed by all those fortunate enough to have known him and his loss will be deeply felt by all those who called him friend as I was honored to do. My deepest condolences to his wife, Jennifer; sons Devol "Skip" Joyner, Andre Joyner, James "Jimmy" Rawlings and Jason Rawlings, and daughters Julie Rawlings-Dias and Jennifer Rawlings, as well as his eight beloved grandchildren Andre, Isaiah, Brooke, Miles, Maya, Dyami, Jaylyn and Bentley.

NEWSLETTER FROM
CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on the budget reconciliation process, reforming our education system, and bills that have been introduced:

DEAR FRIEND,

Congress is working through a budget reconciliation process to:

Keep taxes low for families and small businesses

Strengthen our borders

Bolster our economy

Support domestic energy production

Make the federal government more effective and efficient for the American people

As a member of the House Budget Committee, I helped craft a budget resolution that is serving as the framework to accomplish an agenda that puts America First.

Now that this budget resolution has passed out of the House, it is up to the Senate to move it forward so that we can deliver on the priorities that an overwhelming number of Americans have been asking for.

We are at a pivotal moment in which we can pave the way to implement significant changes in policies to get our nation back on

track, and I will continue to support opportunities to make life better for Western North Carolinians.

Strengthening and protecting our education systems:

President Trump took a major step forward in reforming our education system by signing an executive order to shut down the Department of Education.

This order paves the way for education authorities to finally be back in the hands of the states and parents who know what their students need to succeed best.

The historically high tax dollars funding the department have not paid off, with repeatedly low test scores among students, and it's time that we take a hard look at the root causes that are preventing students from achieving their potential.

The House is also working to protect our education system with the passage of the Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions Act (DETERRENT Act). I voted for this bill to strengthen oversight and disclosure requirements for gifts and contracts with foreign donors or entities. If a foreign entity is found to be of concern, for example—if they are connected with the Chinese Communist Party—then this bill allows for contracts with those concerning entities to be banned.

The CCP should not have the ability to influence our higher education institutions or students through expensive gifts and large donations. This bill will stop the infiltration and influence of bad actors on college and university campuses and make our education systems more transparent by staying focused on the core mission—preparing America's youth for the workforce.

Bringing contaminated properties back to life in our mountains:

Many investors who are interested in developing properties that have environmental challenges decide not to invest because the cost of cleanup exceeds the business' benefit. Due to the challenges associated with cleaning up Superfund and brownfield sites, contaminated properties will sit unoccupied for years.

The current Opportunity Zone program, which offers tax incentives for investors to redevelop areas that are designated as "Opportunity Zones," focuses solely on low-income communities and fails to consider the need for similar investment in communities with additional hardships, such as brownfields and Superfund sites.

To address this overlooked issue, I introduced the bipartisan Economic Opportunity for Distressed Communities Act, to designate all Superfund and brownfield areas as Opportunity Zones and to encourage the clean-up, redevelopment, and revitalization of these contaminated sites.

If cleaned, brownfields and Superfund sites can be redeveloped into new housing or business space, and promoting cleanup and development of these sites will create jobs, business opportunities, and increase property values in Western North Carolina and nationwide.

Supporting small businesses in the aftermath of disaster:

The destruction left by Hurricane Helene has forced many Western North Carolinians to depend on federal resources to rebuild their homes and businesses.

One obstacle that stands in the way of recovery is a current law that restricts hurricane survivors from double-dipping in the disaster aid system by prohibiting folks from receiving a "duplication of benefits."

Unfortunately, wrapped up in this law is limitation from accessing federal loans and federal grants for the same disaster. That means if a business owner receives a federal

disaster recovery loan from the Small Business Administration, they are ineligible to receive a federal recovery grant from the \$1.65 billion Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery funding that I authored and secured in the American Relief Act.

Even though SBA loans are required to be repaid and CDBG-DR grants are one-time payments to victims that do not require repayment, the federal government views the two as a "duplication of benefits."

That's why I introduced the Helene Small Business Recovery Act, which would temporarily waive loans from being considered as a duplication of benefits for disasters occurring in calendar year 2023 or 2024. This clarification would provide an exemption to the duplication of benefits issue for all WNC businesses that received an SBA loan from Hurricane Helene.

Hurricane Helene caused nearly \$60 billion in damage in WNC's mountains, and the state of North Carolina estimates at least \$30 billion of the damage was to the economy and housing. With damage far exceeding currently available resources, our communities must be able to access every possible dollar appropriated for Helene recovery.

Congress must pass this bill so that disaster survivors are not restricted from accessing critical federal aid needed to sustain our region's businesses and keep our families in our mountains.

Now accepting Congressional Art Competition submissions:

The 2025 Congressional Art Competition is open, and my office is accepting submissions from high school students living in North Carolina's 11th congressional district.

The winner of the competition will have their artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

After the Congressional Art Competition winner is selected by a panel of judges, I'll also hold a "Facebook Favorite" competition posted on my official Facebook page, @RepChuckEdwards, for Western North Carolinians to vote for their favorite piece of art.

The annual Congressional Art Competition is a great way for students in WNC to showcase their talent, creativity, and passion, and I hope you'll share this with a high school artist whom you know.

For details about the competition requirements and to submit your artwork, visit edwards.house.gov/artcompetition or contact my Hendersonville office with further questions.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KRAKOW UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary milestone—the 50th anniversary of Grand Valley State University's long-standing partnership with the Krakow University of Economics in Poland. For five decades, these two institutions have stood as a shining example of the power and promise of international collaboration in higher education, and I could not be prouder of the great work they have achieved together.