

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](https://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.

GVSU is a pillar of our community. Year after year, their commitment to academic excellence and innovation has led generations of students to reach their full potential. With a dedication to fostering global understanding, GVSU has always known the importance of offering students opportunities that extend beyond our borders, and they have worked tirelessly to connect their students with experiences that broaden their global understanding. This is why their partnership with the Krakow University of Economics is so meaningful—a true testament to their mission.

This partnership began in 1975, at a time when the United States and Poland shared more differences than they did similarities. Still, they came together with a mission to educate, building a strong connection based on mutual respect and a shared goal of helping students grow through global learning. Over the course of 50 years, their partnership has helped foster not only academic excellence, but cultural exchange and understanding between our two nations. As our world becomes more interconnected than ever, this partnership continues to serve as a shining example of what can be achieved when we come together to learn and grow from each other.

On behalf of Michigan's Third Congressional District, congratulations to those at both Grand Valley State University and the Krakow University of Economics who have maintained this collaboration over the years. This partnership has touched the lives of countless students, faculty, and communities across the globe. Today and every day, we thank both institutions for their lasting impact on the communities they serve.

#### RECOGNIZING PARVIN AHMADI

#### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2025*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions of Parvin Ahmadi, a lifelong educator whose 36 years of service in public education have profoundly shaped the lives of students, families, and educators across California.

Parvin Ahmadi began her career as a classroom teacher in San Jose before taking on administrative roles in Fremont and ultimately serving as Superintendent of the Castro Valley Unified School District for the past decade. Her unwavering belief that “nothing you do for children is ever wasted” has guided her leadership and inspired a generation of educators to pursue equity, access, and excellence in every classroom.

Over the course of her distinguished career, Superintendent Ahmadi has served as a teacher, principal, director, assistant superintendent, and superintendent—holding the latter position for 15 years. Throughout her journey, she has built inclusive learning environments by collaborating with school boards and communities to ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Superintendent Ahmadi holds a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University, a master's in teaching from Chicago, and a master's in educational leadership from Saint

Mary's College of California. She also earned a School Management Certificate from UCLA.

In addition to her district leadership, Parvin Ahmadi has made a lasting impact at the state level. As President of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), she represented more than 18,000 administrators serving six million students. She continues her advocacy as Past President, mentoring new superintendents through ACSA's professional development academies. In 2019, she was named Senate District 10 Woman of the Year by Senator Bob Wieckowski and also contributed her expertise as a member of Assemblymember Anthony Rendon's State Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood.

It is my honor to recognize Parvin Ahmadi for her decades of service, leadership, and enduring impact on public education. Her legacy is one of integrity, dedication, and a deep commitment to the belief that every child deserves a champion. We thank her for her remarkable career and wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING TOHICKON MIDDLE SCHOOL'S HONORING THE LEGACY OF VETERANS FROM BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AND THE USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62)

#### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound respect and admiration that I rise today to recognize the extraordinary efforts of the students from Tohickon Middle School, part of the Central Bucks School District, in Bucks County Pennsylvania, who have demonstrated exceptional civic commitment through their participation in the Central Bucks Veterans Recognition Project, the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, and the United States Navy Memorial Student Interview Program.

These students embody the very best of American youth—curious, compassionate, and committed to preserving the legacy of those who have selflessly served our Nation. Through countless hours spent interviewing and documenting the personal histories of our Veterans, they have become stewards of memory, ensuring that the voices of our heroes are not lost to time but instead honored and heard by future generations.

For over a decade, students from Tohickon Middle School, Lenape Middle School, Central Bucks High School East, and Central Bucks High School West have gone above and beyond the classroom. After school hours, they have dedicated themselves to capturing the lived experiences of local Veterans—contributions that now form part of a national archive of living history. These stories, rich with courage, sacrifice, and resilience, serve not only as a tribute to those who served but also as a powerful educational resource for all Americans.

Today, I especially commend the Tohickon Middle School History Corps, led with vision and dedication by Dr. Fash, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Girardi, Mr. Neely, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Pakstis. Under their guidance, students have conducted interviews with Veterans from every

branch of the Armed Forces, spanning from World War II to the present day. Many of these Veterans had never before shared their stories on record. By capturing these memories, the students have created an irreplaceable bridge between generations—one that deepens our collective understanding of service, sacrifice, and patriotism.

One particularly moving example of their work took place during the reunion of over 100 Veterans from the *USS New Jersey*, the most decorated battleship in U.S. Navy history. Invited to document this historic gathering, the students traveled to the ship to interview its crew members—many of whom were returning to their vessel for the first time in decades. From September through May, the students meticulously crafted short documentaries that not only chronicled the Veterans' experiences but also honored their enduring legacy.

These documentaries were presented on May 22, 2025, at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., before an audience that included *USS New Jersey* Veterans, retired military personnel, and leadership from both the Navy Memorial and the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. This moment was not only a celebration of the Veterans' service but also a testament to the students' remarkable ability to preserve and elevate the stories that define our national character.

Mr. Speaker, the work of these students is more than an academic exercise—it is a profound act of remembrance and gratitude. Their efforts remind us that history is not merely written in textbooks but lives in the hearts and voices of those who lived it. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these young historians for their dedication, their empathy, and their unwavering respect for those who have worn their uniform of the United States of America.

I include in the RECORD the following who have documented the Service Memories of Veterans and their families from Bucks County, Pennsylvania:

Dr. Matthew Fash  
Mr. James Neely  
Mrs. Bridget Fox  
Mrs. Amanda Girardi  
Mr. Marcus Smith  
Mr. William Pakstis  
Paige Badiali  
Lucy Cavallo  
Zoey Gabriel  
Jack Gabriel  
Sanjana Kishore  
Whitaker Leyland  
Surina Manojkumar  
Ella Menard  
Chisom Oraedu  
Charlotte Raynor  
Thea Ritenbaugh-Martinez  
Jette Rodriguez  
Madeline Sawarynski  
Nihitha Vadicharla  
Timothy Wojciechowski

#### RECOGNIZING AMELIA BROWN

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amelia Brown for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.