

House Foundation, which maintains and preserves the House today.

Since 1986, the House has served as DACOR's headquarters, regularly hosting educational programming related to foreign policy, including professional development and networking. The House continues to welcome dignitaries, including the numerous ambassadors, military officers, political appointees and members of Congress who are members of DACOR.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the DACOR Bacon House for its contributions to American history.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN J. MCGUIRE, III

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2025*

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I missed the vote on the House Floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 157.

#### RECOGNIZING MISSION MISSISSIPPI OF LEFLORE COUNTY FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO RACIAL RECONCILIATION AND COMMUNITY UNITY

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Mission Mississippi of Leflore County, a remarkable organization based in Greenwood, Mississippi, for its unwavering commitment to racial reconciliation, spiritual healing, and community building.

Founded as part of the broader Mission Mississippi movement, which began in Jackson in 1992, the Leflore County chapter has become a beacon of hope and unity in the Mississippi Delta. At a time when division often dominates our national discourse, this grassroots organization brings people together across racial and denominational lines through intentional fellowship, shared meals, and mutual respect.

Mission Mississippi of Leflore County is led by Mr. Terry Williams, a local painting contractor and pastor, and Mr. Luke Quinn, a minister and clinical therapist. Together, they facilitate regular gatherings—often breakfasts or luncheons—that rotate between churches with historically Black or White congregations. These events are not mere meetings; they are powerful acts of reconciliation, fostering honest dialogue, trust, and deeper understanding among individuals of diverse backgrounds.

Through these efforts, Mission Mississippi of Leflore County engages in what Mr. Williams aptly describes as “heart work”—emphasizing their belief that the path to racial harmony begins with the courage to know one another, to listen, and to love unconditionally. Their work underscores that true unity is not achieved solely through laws or policies, but through relationships and shared purpose.

In January of this year, the chapter hosted a luncheon at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, followed by a community meal in April

that featured remarks from Dr. Montrell Greene, pastor of Sycamore Street Church of Christ. These are but a few examples of their ongoing efforts to bring diverse voices to the table and create a space where differences are acknowledged and celebrated.

Mr. Quinn, reflecting on his journey from Texas to Georgia to Wisconsin before settling in the Delta, spoke candidly of Mississippi's often misunderstood legacy. He rightly observed that Mississippi is too frequently portrayed as a scapegoat for America's racial challenges, when in truth, it is home to many individuals working tirelessly to heal those very wounds—Mission Mississippi of Leflore County among the foremost.

Grounded in faith and expansive in impact, their mission exemplifies what it means to live out the gospel in a divided world—breaking bread, building bridges, and showing that we have more in common than in conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mission Mississippi of Leflore County for their vital work in uplifting their community, challenging stereotypes, and leading with grace and love. Their efforts remind us that reconciliation is possible—one conversation, one relationship, and one act of compassion at a time.

#### RECOGNIZING SCOTT GATTO AS JUNE 2025 VETERAN OF THE MONTH

### HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2025*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound respect and gratitude to recognize the extraordinary service and unwavering dedication of Staff Sergeant Scott Gatto, a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps and our distinguished Veteran of the Month for June 2025 from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. His exceptional military career and steadfast commitment to innovation, leadership, and mentorship embody the very best of American service.

Scott Gatto answered the call to serve his country after he completed high school when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He reported to the 3rd Marine Division on September 11, 2001, just two hours before the tragic attack on the World Trade Center occurred. Over a remarkable near-decade career, Scott worked to forge strong relationships with foreign leaders, serving in diverse and demanding environments across the globe. Scott and his unit conducted hundreds of combat missions, demonstrating bravery and commitment.

During the intense second Battle of Fallujah, Scott was one of only nine Marines from his 41-member platoon to survive. Five of these survivors were critically wounded. Scott and his unit demonstrated dedication to our country and made tremendous sacrifices.

After his service with the United States Marine Corps, Scott played a vital role in working with the Department of Defense. Here, he led teams responsible for providing essential gear to troops on the battlefield. In 2013, Scott then transitioned into the pharmaceutical industry, applying his college education and background to become a top sales representative.

Scott focused on advocating for patients and helping drive success within his teams. Scott continues to work and thrive in the industry by helping counteract the social stigmas associated with the field. He has received several honors and awards for his efforts.

In 2017, Scott founded a non-profit organization called “Reunite the Fight”. The organization is dedicated to supporting veterans who struggle with PTSD, survivors' guilt and other mental health challenges. Having been diagnosed with PTSD himself, Scott felt the call to help other veterans access essential support such as medical treatments, PTSD therapy workshops, employment opportunities, and veterans' benefits. His non-profit has successfully helped over 1,500 veterans and continues to make significant contributions to his community today.

Above all, Scott is a devoted father to three children—Alaina, Scottie, and Kai. Together, they share a passion for adventure and the outdoors, while also valuing the importance of learning about new and diverse cultures.

Mr. Speaker, let us express our sincerest appreciation to Scott Gatto for his outstanding military service and for his excellent acts of leadership that have protected our country and also helped his local community. His story is a testament to the American spirit of service, sacrifice, and leadership, and it is an honor to recognize him as our Veteran of the Month.

#### NEWSLETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

### HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2025*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on Helene recovery, Chatuge Dam repair, and protecting consumer choice.

Dear Friend,

News outlets thrive on controversy, and nothing grabs attention like conflict.

Since coming to Congress, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have come together to pass more than 430 bills and amendments, but that doesn't make for entertaining news.

To stir up conflict, news outlets often create a black hole of information by limiting views or regularly misrepresenting or ignoring them.

If the media is a driving force behind division, it must also be part of the solution. You can read my full discussion on media bias here.

#### CLEARING DEBRIS FROM WATERWAYS POST-HELENE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) continues to work diligently to clear debris from many of our waterways after Hurricane Helene.

I appreciated the opportunity to receive an update on their progress and share a few of the concerns that I've been hearing from our community, including the need for debris removal efforts to be mindful of endangered and threatened species and to avoid removing healthy vegetation from the streambanks.

USACE's methodical approach to debris removal has facilitated the clearing of over 3.4 million cubic yards of debris, giving the natural environments that have been reshaped by Helene the opportunity to heal.

The Corps shared that they were not just removing debris for the short-term. Instead, they have been focused on the long-term health of the region by implementing a zero-tolerance policy for over-cleaning or reckless removal of debris.

While we can all acknowledge that there are times when the Corps has missed the zero-tolerance mark, our conversation made it clear that we are both committed to working together to make sure that our streams and rivers are cleaned the right way, so they can return to being safe, healthy, and free of debris for decades to come.

#### TAX DEADLINES EXTENDED FOR HELENE VICTIMS

The IRS is extending various tax deadlines to Sept. 25, 2025 for folks located in areas affected by Hurricane Helene.

If you need assistance navigating issues with the IRS, my district office is available to help. Visit my website at [edwards.house.gov/services/federalagency](https://edwards.house.gov/services/federalagency).

#### ENSURING SAFETY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ALONG THE HIWASSEE RIVER

Western North Carolina, with its many lakes and rivers, must remain at the forefront of dam safety.

With the recent vulnerabilities found in the Chatuge Dam, it is critical that safety risks are addressed to protect lives and downstream communities in our mountains. That said, the Hiwassee River is foundational to the rural, westernmost areas of our district's recreation industry and economy. That is why I have requested that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) provide the risk analysis and data behind their decision to move forward with repairs and improvements.

The people of Western North Carolina deserve to know why repairs are needed if we are going to come to an educated opinion on the best path forward. It's imperative that the condition of the dam, the safety of the community downstream, and the economic security of the businesses and people surrounding the dam be considered when evaluating the best approach to addressing the safety concerns.

My office will continue to work with local and federal officials to determine the best path forward, while strengthening the long-term viability of the dam so that our local economy can thrive.

TVA is early in their process of analyzing potential solutions and impacts, and anyone interested in the decision-making process can attend in-person or virtual public input sessions. The dates and times for these sessions can be found on their website here.

#### MYTH BUSTER: MS-13 GANG MEMBER OF "MARYLAND FATHER"?

There are folks who have been up in arms about an MS-13 gang member, whom some have dubbed as a "Maryland man," claiming that he has been "mistakenly" deported to El Salvador.

Let's be clear: Deporting him was NOT a mistake.

There has been a deportation order for Abrego Garcia since 2019, when an immigration court and an appellate immigration court both ruled that he was a member of MS-13 and in our country illegally.

When MS-13 was declared a foreign terrorist organization, Abrego Garcia became no longer eligible for any form of immigration relief in our country.

This is just another example of hand-picked information errantly fueling public outrage. Not only should journalistic institutions prioritize factual, balanced reporting over sensationalism, but we as citizens must also take responsibility for looking at the facts rather than retreating into ideological bubbles.

#### PROTECTING CONSUMER CHOICE FROM RADICAL MANDATES

You may have heard of California's electric vehicle (EV) mandate to ban the sale of gas-powered cars, which is the latest attempt to force an extreme agenda that would take away consumer choice, lead to higher prices for both new and used cars, and strain our electric grid.

Such a ban would affect consumers in every state in our country by raising costs and decreasing availability of gas vehicles.

The assertion that EVs are affordable and highly sought after is out of touch with reality: only 1 percent of registered vehicles in the U.S. are EV's.

I voted for three resolutions that passed the House to push back on such radical policies from the prior administration and repeal these disastrous mandates:

House Joint Resolution 88 would repeal California's waiver allowing the state to ban the sale of gas-powered vehicles by 2035.

House Joint Resolution 87 would repeal California's waiver allowing the state to require the sale of zero-emission trucks.

House Joint Resolution 89 would end California's nitrogen oxide engine emission standards, which create unrealistic standards for heavy-duty on-road engines.

The U.S. has reduced emissions for decades through wise investment and innovation, not extreme government mandates. Congress must protect consumer choice and stop California from circumventing the federal government's environmental regulations, to the detriment of consumers and the automobile market nationwide.

#### BRINGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FOLKS ACROSS WNC

In keeping with my office's motto of being "First in Constituent Services" and helping folks after Hurricane Helene, my office regularly brings the Carolina Cruiser across our mountains for mobile office hours.

In April alone, the Carolina Cruiser made 16 stops where members of my team heard about the issues that matter to WNC communities, answered questions about disaster recovery, and assisted with federal agencies. During these office hours, my team heard from over 150 individuals.

As your congressman, it is my goal to remain accessible to you. In addition to mobile office hours, I regularly host "Chat With Chuck" meetings to hear from constituents one-on-one about their concerns and answer their questions individually. If you're interested in scheduling a meeting with me, please fill out the form on my website at [edwards.house.gov/chatwithchuck](https://edwards.house.gov/chatwithchuck).

If you want to stop by mobile office hours for assistance navigating a federal agency or to just provide feedback, stay updated on the office hours schedule by following the Carolina Cruiser on X and Facebook, and visiting my website at [edwards.house.gov/carolinacruiser](https://edwards.house.gov/carolinacruiser).

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,  
Member of Congress.

#### SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ORVAL MULLEN

#### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember the life and service of a dedicated American veteran, Mr. Orval

Mullens of Oakwood, Ohio. Orval, who celebrated his 103rd birthday in February, passed away on May 15, 2025. Orval led a long, productive life, and I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize his many accomplishments in life, especially his service to our Nation.

During World War II, Orval served as a field lineman in the Eighth Regiment of the Fourth Infantry of the U.S. Army from October 14, 1942, to September 25, 1945. Orval landed on Utah Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and he fought in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. In April of 1945, Orval and the soldiers of the Eighth Regiment assisted in the liberation of the concentration camp at Dachau. He was awarded two Purple Hearts for his service. He also received a Bronze Star and the French Legion of Honor, as well as several other medals.

After completing his military service, he started O.H. Mullen Sales in the 1950s and owned and operated the business until the mid-1980s. His company manufactured, sold, and distributed archery equipment. He married Luella Conley on October 24, 1942, and they were together for 74 years until her passing in 2016. They had three children: Dr. Orval Lee Mullen, James Mullen of Oakwood, and Judith Wieging of Willshire. The family has grown to include grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the life and service of Orval Mullen. On behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio, it is my honor to recognize his contributions to our Nation, community, and his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family as they celebrate his long life.

#### RECOGNIZING THE GROUND- BREAKING OF THE CROSSROADS BUSINESS PARK IN BIG SPRING, TEXAS

#### HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to hail from the Food, Fuel, and Fiber Capital of the World, which powers, feeds, and clothes our great Nation and beyond. Today, I am honored to celebrate an occasion that represents the true embodiment of the spirit and unparalleled ingenuity of West Texas—the groundbreaking of the Crossroads Business Park in Big Spring, Texas.

This development is the first major business park in West Texas tied to the Ports-to-Plains initiative, which will transform the I-27 corridor from Dumas to Laredo. The hundreds of acres of new office space the Crossroads Business Park will create is a model of how Ports-to-Plains will fuel investment in West Texas and represents a major boon for Big Spring, Howard County, and the entire region. This business park offers a new hub for commercial opportunities and job creation, and I am proud to recognize such a remarkable commitment to our community.

This project is also thanks to the strong investment made by Howard County, the City of Big Spring, the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation, the Cross Ell Ranch Corporation, the Permian Basin Regional Planning