

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.

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.

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.

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

Commission, and the Texas Department of Transportation and their commitment to making this vision a reality. On behalf of the 19th Congressional District of Texas, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all involved in this project for their dedication to our community. God bless, and go West Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on June 9, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 157; NAY on Roll Call No. 158; and YEA on Roll Call No. 159.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, June 9, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 157; YEA on Roll Call No. 158; and YEA on Roll Call No. 159.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL DANIEL BLACKLEDGE

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Blackledge for his more than two decades of service in the United States Air Force. A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and a proud leader within the intelligence community, Lt. Col. Blackledge has represented our Nation with distinction in uniformed service across the globe.

From his early days as an intelligence officer to his most recent assignment as a Legislative Liaison to the Secretary of the Air Force, Lt. Col. Blackledge has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the security and strategic readiness of our Nation. His operational leadership has taken him from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to RAF Molesworth, to deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan—always delivering with precision, integrity, and focus.

Over the course of his career, Lt. Col. Blackledge served in pivotal roles at the Pentagon, U.S. Strategic Command, and in multiple joint environments. His work has helped shape national policy and defense priorities, particularly through his most recent role advising Air Force leadership and Congress on programs vital to our military's intelligence gathering, communications, and battlefield awareness capabilities.

As he enters retirement, we also recognize the enduring support of his family. His wife, Captain Katie Blackledge, is a fellow veteran

and airman in her own right, and together they have raised two exceptional daughters, Laurel and Lane Blackledge. Their shared sacrifice and steadfast support have been essential to Daniel's service, and our Nation owes them a debt of gratitude as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Blackledge for his outstanding service to our country and in wishing him and his family continued success in this next chapter.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL ROUSE

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the lifelong service of Dr. Michael Rouse, a man whose dedication to ministry, education, and the advancement of Christian values has had a profound impact not only in Alabama, but across the Nation.

Dr. Rouse's commitment to faith and education is evident in his academic achievements. He earned his bachelor's degree from Baptist Bible College, followed by a master's degree in pastoral ministries, and a doctorate in theology from Bethany Seminary. These accomplishments laid the foundation for his more than forty years of devoted service as the senior pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Through his leadership, this church has been a beacon of faith and community in our state.

Beyond his pastoral duties, Dr. Rouse has been a leader in Christian education. In 1982, he founded Mountain View Baptist School, providing generations of students with a strong academic foundation rooted in biblical principles. His influence in education extended further through his twenty-five years of service as both vice president and president of the Alabama Christian Education Association.

Additionally, from 2016 to 2024, he served faithfully as the president of the American Association of Christian Schools, guiding Christian educational institutions across the country with wisdom and steadfast dedication.

Dr. Rouse's contributions to our communities, our schools, and our faith institutions cannot be overstated. His lifelong efforts have strengthened families, empowered students, and enriched the spiritual and educational fabric of Alabama and beyond.

RECOGNIZING MS. JAYDEN COFFEY

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional young leader from my district, Jayden Coffey, a student at Cass Job Corps in Franklin County, Arkansas, and the latest recipient of the Westerman Award—a quarterly honor given to students who demonstrate outstanding character, leadership, and service.

Jayden is a shining example of what hard work, humility, and dedication to others can

achieve. At Cass, she serves as the shop foreman in the paint trade department, where she leads by example and fosters excellence among her peers. Beyond her trade, Jayden is an active member of campus leadership. She serves as Secretary of the Student Government Association and as Vice President of her dormitory, roles in which she consistently promotes a culture of respect, accountability, and teamwork.

What truly sets Jayden apart is her servant leadership—an approach rooted in humility and a deep commitment to others. Her excellent people-skills and ability to inspire and motivate those around her make her a trusted leader among students and staff alike.

Jayden's commitment to her community is evident both on and off campus. She has volunteered her time at the local food pantry and played a key role in a student-led campaign to collect non-perishable items for blessing boxes in the community of Ozark, Arkansas, ensuring those in need have access to essential resources.

Jayden is also blazing trails in traditionally male-dominated fields. She is currently the only female member of the Fire Crew at Cass, where she recently passed the Pack Test and earned her Red Card for wildland firefighting. She participates in daily physical training to prepare for her upcoming Fire detail and is a dedicated member of the Camp Crew. Her passion for public service and emergency response will continue after graduation, as she plans to pursue advanced training in Fire and Rescue.

Jayden Coffey represents the very best of Arkansas' youth—resilient, service-driven, and ready to lead. It is my honor to recognize her today before this body and to commend her as a model citizen and recipient of the Westerman Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, during the week of June 2, 2025, I was unable to attend several votes due to a family medical issue. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 146; YEA on Roll Call No. 147; YEA on Roll Call No. 150; YEA on Roll Call No. 151; YEA on Roll Call No. 152; NAY on Roll Call No. 153; YEA on Roll Call No. 154; and NAY on Roll Call No. 155.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. REBA W. STEWART

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a dedicated wife, committed mother, loving grandmother, trail-blazing bank executive, benevolent community servant, giving neighbor, and dear friend of longstanding, Mrs. Reba W. Stewart. Sadly, Reba passed away on June 7, 2025. A graveside service to celebrate her remarkable life