

Throughout his time in public service, Walt focused on leaving a positive impact wherever he went. His mission was always clear: to support his fellow Veterans, their families, and the communities that supported them. He dedicated himself to making each day better for his fellow Veterans, and his leadership, kindness, and dedication will not be forgotten.

Walt's loss is profound, and it is impossible to overstate the impact he had on the Veterans' community, his colleagues, and his family. A true champion for Veterans, his legacy will live on in the work he did and the countless lives he touched. Walt's commitment to serving his fellow Veterans, his courage in the face of adversity, and his deep love for his community will continue to inspire us all. His memory will forever remind us of the importance of honoring those who serve and making a lasting difference in the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the extraordinary life and service of Walt Hartnett. May his memory continue to serve as a reminder of the impact one person can have on a community, a country, and a cause.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2025*

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 160; YEA on Roll Call No. 161; YEA on Roll Call No. 162; and YEA on Roll Call No. 163.

#### NEWSLETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2025*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, post office disruptions, National Police Week, and Helene recovery.

DEAR FRIEND: Late into the night and in the early hours of the morning, I debated and voted to pass the One Big Beautiful Bill Act on the House floor. This robust package delivers on our promises to working Americans to eliminate tax on tips and overtime, raise child tax credits, and eliminate tax on car loans.

Our historic bill is about restoring a pro-growth, pro-American agenda, and I'm confident that it will accomplish just that by strengthening our national defense, giving our troops a raise, bolstering border security, and reigniting economic growth.

Some are claiming that this bill will provide tax cuts for billionaires and corporations.

The truth of the matter is: \$3 out of every \$4 dollars from the 2017 tax cuts went to individuals, cutting taxes for the lowest-income Americans by 10% while the top 1% saw a cut of less than 0.5%.

This is not a "tax cuts for the rich" bill—it's a "tax cuts for hardworking Americans" bill. Furthermore, this bill provides additional tax relief to senior citizens who have been productive, working members of society

for their entire lives. The bill truly takes a comprehensive approach to make sure that all working-class Americans and families, regardless of occupation or age, can reap the benefits of our big, beautiful bill.

To fix how Washington works, we need to make sure that your hard-earned tax dollars are being efficiently and effectively used, and this One Big, Beautiful Bill will make sure of that.

#### HURRICANE HELENE'S DISRUPTION OF WNC POST OFFICES

Eight months after Hurricane Helene devastated #NC11, several post offices remain inoperable, forcing residents to travel up to an hour to access services.

During the House Appropriations Committee's Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee hearing, I questioned USPS Inspector General Tammy Hull on the status of these post offices. My office will continue to press this issue until services are restored for Western North Carolinians.

#### GETTING OUR FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

Interest payments on federal debt currently consume nearly 20% of federal revenue and could rise to 40% by 2035 or 82% by 2054, depending on interest rates.

Even modest interest rate increases could drastically worsen our country's fiscal outlook and limit policymaking flexibility. If we don't get our fiscal house in order, mortgage interest rates will skyrocket for hardworking Western North Carolinians, doubling if not tripling over the next few decades—making homeownership even less attainable for young Americans.

We must take dramatic steps to right the ship before it's too late by cutting unnecessary spending and limiting our country's out-of-control, year-over-year mandatory spending growth that continues to dominate our available capital. As a member of the House Budget Committee, I'm willing and working to take these hard votes and fix how Washington works, so we can get our Nation's fiscal house in order for our children, grandchildren, and future generations to come.

#### HONORING OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS DURING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

During National Police Week, Americans honored the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers and their families nationwide.

In the U.S. House, I voted to pass multiple bills that support our men and women in blue:

The Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act requires the Department of Justice to collect data on violence against law enforcement officers, strengthening protections for those who protect us.

The LEOSA Reform Act would allow qualified officers to carry concealed firearms in public, state, or federal properties, making it easier for them to respond quickly to emergencies in public spaces.

The Gold Shield Families Resolution encourages local communities to support non-profit organizations that provide resources to Gold Shield Families during their time of need. Gold Shield Families are families of fallen police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, correction officers, emergency dispatch officers, and emergency service providers.

I am also co-sponsoring the POLICE Act, which makes it permissible to deport any illegal immigrant who assaults a law enforcement officer, and the Uproot Rioting International Students Engaged in Radical Subversion Act (UPRISERS) Act, which would revoke the visa of anyone in the U.S. who engages in violence against a police officer or is convicted of an offense related to rioting.

Our law enforcement officers keep us safe and deserve to be protected through federal policy. I will continue to support legislation that protects those who protect us.

#### MYTH BUSTER: MEDICAID FOR ILLEGALS

In this week's episode of Myth Busters, it's time to shed some light on the myth that illegal immigrants are not recipients of Medicaid.

That is false. The Congressional Budget Office has acknowledged that the budget reconciliation bill would remove at least 1.4 million illegal aliens who are on taxpayer-funded programs, including Medicaid. By removing illegals from Medicaid, we can strengthen those programs for Americans who need them.

#### WNC IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Western North Carolina is beginning to reopen for business and is ready for visitors and customers!

Thank you to all the local leaders, dedicated employees, and incredible volunteers for your hard work to help us get to this point after Hurricane Helene.

In honor of this victory, I am excited to highlight some places that recently opened back up for business.

#### SBA LOANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses and private nonprofit organizations in North Carolina who experienced economic loss from Helene are encouraged to apply for the Small Business Administration's economic injury disaster loans.

These loans help eligible small businesses and private nonprofits cover operating expenses following a disaster.

The deadline to apply is June 30, 2025. For more information and to apply online visit [sba.gov/disaster](https://sba.gov/disaster). Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for assistance.

If you've applied and need additional help navigating the SBA, please visit my website at [edwards.house.gov/services/federalagency](https://edwards.house.gov/services/federalagency) or call my Hendersonville office.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO NC-11'S 2025 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNER

Congratulations to Christina Cannon, the 2025 Congressional Art Competition winner for Western North Carolina!

Her artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol building for one year where visitors from all over can see and admire her talent.

A big round of applause also goes to our runners-up and Facebook Favorite competition winners.

Thank you to all who took the time and effort to participate in the competition and for sharing your gifts to contribute to our community.

With my warmest regards,  
CHUCK EDWARDS,  
Member of Congress.

#### RECOGNIZING KEVIN VAUGHN

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2025*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to recognize Mr. Kevin Vaughn for his service at Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC) and his remarkable role in the Light Up Navajo Project. In May, a courageous team of 16 WREC employees traveled over 1,800 miles to the remote, rugged terrains of Arizona and New Mexico, where they spent two weeks installing vital electrical

infrastructure for Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. Their efforts brought light, safety, and hope to communities long overlooked, allowing children to study after dark, families to preserve food, and elders to live with greater comfort. Despite daunting challenges and limited equipment, the WREC team completed a demanding project in just eight days—far ahead of expectations—demonstrating professionalism, humility, and unwavering commitment to this life-changing mission.

The impact of WREC's work goes far beyond electricity; it represents a bridge to connection, opportunity, and the return of future generations to their ancestral homes. The emotional moment when power was turned on for the impacted families—bringing tears of joy and renewed hope—is a testament to the profound difference this project made. WREC's participation in the "Light Up Navajo" initiative reflects not only their technical expertise but also their heart and respect for the people they serve. Their dedication has energized ten homesteads and countless lives, creating a legacy of service that embodies the true spirit of cooperative values. The WREC team's journey inspires us all, proving that with compassion and teamwork, even the most daunting challenges can be overcome to light up lives and communities. I commend the entire team for their efforts on this worthwhile endeavor and for their ongoing service to our local community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RABBI PHILIP LAZOWSKI AND RUTH LAZOWSKI

### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2025*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Philip Lazowski and his wife of 70 years, Ruth Lazowski—both Holocaust survivors and pillars of the Greater Hartford community.

On June 14, 2025, a kiddush will be held in their honor, along with their granddaughter, Jesse, as they all celebrate birthdays in the month of June. This joyous occasion will take place at the Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford, Connecticut, where Rabbi Lazowski serves as Rabbi Emeritus. Rabbi Lazowski will turn 95 on June 13, 2025; Ruth Lazowski celebrated her 90th birthday on June 9, 2025; and Jesse will turn 35, also on June 13, 2025.

The Lazowski name is synonymous with service in Connecticut and beyond. For the past 70 years, Rabbi Lazowski has been widely regarded as the spiritual leader of Greater Hartford's Jewish community, having served at Congregation Beth Shalom Synagogue in Hartford and later as spiritual leader at Beth Hillel Synagogue in Bloomfield, until his retirement in 2000.

In addition to his leadership in these synagogues, Rabbi Lazowski served as Chaplain for Hartford Hospital's Institute of Living, where he spearheaded a mental health initiative, and as Chaplain for the Hartford Police. He also recently retired, after 25 years, as Chaplain of the State Senate. Upon his retirement, Rabbi Lazowski declared, "As a Holocaust survivor, I am grateful to be alive, to live

in this free and noble state of Connecticut, in our blessed United States of America."

Rabbi Lazowski and his family's story is one of courage, triumph, and perseverance in the face of adversity. He and Ruth narrowly escaped Nazi-occupied Poland, only to be reunited in Hartford after World War II. Philip was separated from his family in a round-up in the Zhetel ghetto in Bielica. In an extraordinary act of selflessness and bravery, a nurse named Miriam Rabinowitz helped save Philip's life by pretending to be his mother while also protecting her two young daughters (one of whom was Ruth). Philip evaded capture by hiding in the "White Russian Woods" with his father and brother for years before eventually making his way to the United States in 1947.

It is a true honor to recognize Rabbi Lazowski, Ruth Lazowski, and Jesse Lazowski on this special occasion. I am deeply grateful for the friendship of the Lazowski family and for all they have done for the Greater Hartford community, the State of Connecticut, and the United States of America. I look forward to the Torah service and kiddush and wish them very happy birthdays and continued health and prosperity.

### HONORING OFFICER GABRIEL FACIO

### HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2025*

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the tragic loss of Officer Gabriel Facio of the Apache Junction Police Department.

This past Sunday, six days after being fatally shot while responding to a road-rage incident, Officer Facio passed away from his injuries. He was just 47 years old.

Officer Facio lived the American Dream. Born in Mexico, Officer Facio earned his U.S. citizenship and dedicated his life to serving the community that welcomed him with open arms. He began his law enforcement career with the Phoenix Police Department . . . and nearly four years ago, he joined the Apache Junction Police Department.

A devoted father and grandfather, a respected colleague and upstanding American . . . he served Apache Junction with honor, bravery, and compassion. He kept our neighborhoods and streets safe day after day. Tragically, he's the fourth Arizona officer to fall in the line of duty in the past 12 months.

My thoughts are with his wife, his family, and his many friends and colleagues. I hope his memory brings comfort and strength in difficult days ahead.

Officer Facio's ultimate sacrifice, his courage, and his selflessness, will never be forgotten. Godspeed, Officer Facio.

### RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF COREY ROSE

### HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2025*

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Corey Rose for her fif-

teen years of unwavering dedication and service through her Wishes & Heroes Benefit Concert. This event has not only been a beacon of hope but a critical fundraiser for two outstanding organizations: the Colorado Professional Firefighter Foundation and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

For the past fifteen years, Corey has poured her heart and soul into organizing this annual concert, driven by a deep desire to give back to her community and support those in need. Her tireless efforts have brought together artists, volunteers, and supporters from across Colorado, all united in a common cause.

The Colorado Professional Firefighter Foundation provides vital support to firefighters and their families, offering assistance in times of crisis and honoring the sacrifices of these brave men and women. The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses, bringing joy and hope to families facing immense challenges. Through the Wishes & Heroes Benefit Concert, Corey has made a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals served by these two organizations.

The fifteenth and final Wishes & Heroes Benefit Concert marks the culmination of an incredible journey. Corey's dedication, passion, and commitment have left an indelible mark on our community. She has inspired others to give back and has demonstrated the power of music to heal, uplift, and unite.

On behalf of the Sixth Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my gratitude to Corey Rose for her fifteen years of service and her extraordinary contributions to the Colorado Professional Firefighter Foundation and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Her work has made a profound and lasting impact, and she exemplifies the true spirit of community and compassion.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Corey Rose and her Wishes & Heroes Benefit Concert for their outstanding contributions and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

### HONORING STAFF MEMBER MARIA MARTIROSYAN ISSAKHANIAN

### HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2025*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Martirosyan Issakhanian, a dedicated member of my team for the last five years. Since November 2019, Maria has loyally served the constituents of Minnesota's 5th Congressional District.

Maria arrived in the United States at the age of six, growing up in the Little Armenia neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. After graduating from Bravo Medical Magnet High School, Maria went on to the University of California, Berkeley where she was a double major in Political Science and Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies. Maria's background in politics and passion for public service inspired her to come to Capitol Hill, where she flourished as a U.S. House of Representatives intern on the prestigious Ways and Means Committee, a staffer at the office of JIMMY GOMEZ (D-Los Angeles), and later, a staffer at my office.