

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. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email 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 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