Dear Friends:

I want to start by welcoming back our many students and teachers who are back to school today! Welcome back to your classrooms of learning. To the teachers, school leaders, and the many staff who invest in our students, you are changing lives through education as you equip children to achieve success. Thank you!
More Floridians Are Back to Work

On Friday, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity announced that 223,000 Floridians were entering the workforce in July. Additionally, Florida businesses added 74,100 private-sector jobs over the month. This is encouraging news as Florida continues its Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step plan for reopening.

Thanks to steps taken by President Trump’s administration over the last 3 years to get government off the backs of hardworking Americans, I’m confident we can once again have the greatest economy in history.

USPS Conspiracy Theories

I spent Saturday in Washington because of the fear and misinformation the Democrats and media are spreading about the state of the United States Postal Service and its ability to deliver mail.

I am a strong supporter of the Post Office. Earlier this month, I sent a letter with my colleagues in Congress to the U.S. Postmaster General regarding some operational changes being made without proper Congressional oversight. These issues are not what Speaker Pelosi brought us back to deal with, nor are they the basis for the recent conspiracy theories being spread.

The Facts:

- The USPS has $14 billion cash on hand and, since April, has not requested any financial assistance to continue its operations. It also has access to the $10 billion loan provided for in the CARES Act.
- The USPS routinely moves mailboxes that receive little use. More than 14,000 mailboxes were removed under President Obama.
- Earlier this summer, USPS warned states that their mail-in voting cut-offs are
too close to Election Day to ensure timely delivery in accordance with USPS delivery standards. This is a state issue, not a Postal Service issue. The good news for Floridians is we have a mail-in-ballot system that has been tested and follows specific timelines, for more about Florida’s process read my recent op-ed: https://bit.ly/FLElex

- The USPS is an independent agency, not controlled by the President. The Postmaster General is not appointed by the President, he or she is selected by the bipartisan Postal Service Board of Governors.

This morning the Florida Department of Health reported 2,258 new positive COVID-19 cases, with a positivity rate of 5.2%. There are 4,658 current hospitalizations with a primary diagnosis of COVID-19, according to the Agency for Healthcare Administration’s hospitalization dashboard. The number of new positive cases reported in counties in my district as of 9:25 a.m. are:

- 3 new, positive cases in Citrus County, with a positivity rate 2%.
- 6 new, positive cases in Hernando County with a positivity rate of 3.75%.
- 41 new, positive cases in Lake County with a positivity rate of 4.04%.
- 39 new, positive cases in Marion County with a positivity rate of 8.33%.
- 2 new, positive cases in Sumter County with a positivity rate of 2.06%.

Florida has tested 4,453,929 individuals to date, with a total of 602,829 positive cases and 10,397 deaths related to COVID-19.

Protecting Our Communities

Last week, Attorney General William Barr announced that since the launch of
Operation Legend in early July, there have been more than 1,000 arrests and nearly 400 firearms seized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. These are the results of a systematic and coordinated law enforcement effort across all federal agencies working with state and local law enforcement to fight the surge in violent crime. Operation Legend is named after four-year-old LeGend Taliferro, who was shot and killed while sleeping in Kansas City. This and other similar deaths are a tragic reminder that violent crime cannot be allowed to run rampant, it must be met with the full force of the law in order to protect our communities. President Trump has made it clear that the federal government stands ready to assist state and local law enforcement in response to violent crime.

LeGend Taliferro, a four-year-old boy who was shot and killed on June 29th in Kansas City, MO.

(Photo courtesy of the Department of Justice)

Census Reminder

The 2020 Census is still underway! Sumter County in my district is ranked first in the state for its self-response rate of 69%! If you haven’t completed a census yet, please go online to my2020census.gov today. Also, a Census taker might visit your home. Check out the below information to accurately identify a census worker.
On Tuesday, I visited Lake County Fire Rescue and saw the work they are doing to help protect our first responders. Researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst found that N95 masks sterilized with vaporous hydrogen peroxide blocked infectious particles as effectively as new masks. In a partnership with the Florida Department of Health, the Lake County Office of EMS, Medical Director, and the Lake County Office of Public Safety Support have been sterilizing N95 masks to be used by Lake County’s first responders. This process ensures that Lake County’s front-line workers always have access to N95 masks. Please note that specialized equipment is required to conduct this process. Liquid hydrogen peroxide will not sterilize a mask and attempting to vaporize hydrogen peroxide at home can lead to serious illness or death. Solutions used in typical VHP decontamination processes contains more than 30 percent hydrogen peroxide, or at least 10 times more than the type you may buy at a store.

Read more about Lake County Fire Rescues mask sterilization program [here](#).
Last week, I participated in the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Circuit 5 Advisory Board meeting with Chairman, Pastor Chuck Padgett; Vice Chairman, Jimmie Smith; and Secretary, Ryan Dorenbush. The DJJ Circuit 5 includes the five counties that I serve in my Congressional District. It was a pleasure to be a part of the meeting where law enforcement, schools, and counties came together to make a difference in our young people’s lives.

Recently, I participated in a Zoom meeting with the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Organization. This Byway will take you on a beautiful 62-mile drive of different roadways through Sumter County. I was able to experience the drive myself in 2018, and I am thankful for this organization and their efforts.

On Tuesday, I joined the Central Florida Leads Group in a virtual Zoom meeting. In the meeting, I was joined by 28 small business owners who live in The Villages and surrounding areas. We talked about issues impacting small businesses, updates on what is happening in Congress, and the work my office is doing, and how we can help during this pandemic.

As a small business owner, I know the challenges that come with owning a business, and supporting small businesses is a top priority. If you are a small business owner, visit my website for resources on how my office can help.
I am excited to announce that my office will be participating in the 2020 Congressional App Challenge for middle and high school students who reside or attend school in Congressional District 11.

Officially launched in 2015, the Congressional App Challenge is a nationwide event intended to engage students’ creativity and encourage their participation in STEM fields. This competition allows students to compete with peers in their own district by creating and exhibiting their software application for web, PC, tablet, mobile devices and other platforms of their choice.

For additional information please visit my website at: https://webster.house.gov/appchallenge
A veteran contacted my office after having trouble with his Army retirement pay. My office worked with the two federal agencies involved, as this dealt with both retirement pay and compensation benefits. It was determined that his benefit had been reduced because a form confirming dependency had not been received. Once this was corrected, an audit was requested to determine if a restorative payment was in order. After completion of the audit, a retroactive payment was issued to correct the veteran’s account.

Constituent services is a critical element of our congressional office. The federal government is a massive operation, and my office is available if you ever need assistance in navigating the bureaucracy or cutting through red tape. We are here to
District Update

Last week I met with Teresa Chambers of Shepherd’s Lighthouse to personally donate backpacks for students as they prepare to go back to school. Shepards Lighthouse is somewhere where homeless single parents with children can be sheltered and learn productive skills that help them raise their families.

Pam Jones, my Community Relations Representative for Lake County, attended the Tavares Avalon Park Groundbreaking Ceremony, where families will be able to live, learn, work, and play. The City of Tavares is excited about the new residential community through Avalon Park Group with founder and CEO Beat Kahli.
Survey

Did you, or do you plan to watch the Presidential National Conventions?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

submit your response

Results of last week’s survey which asked... “Do you prefer to vote-by-mail or vote in person at your local polling station?” Vote-By-Mail - 35%, In Person - 61%

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