

The Webster Wire

Listening to Floridians

Dear Friends:

Federal, state and local officials are continuing to monitor the global spread of the novel Coronavirus, called COVID-19. As of this morning, there are 2 confirmed cases in Florida. Governor DeSantis has directed FL Surgeon General Scott Rivkees to declare a public health emergency, in part to help unlock additional resources. The Trump Administration has taken this virus outbreak seriously, assembling a government-wide team of experts and using the tools at hand to respond and protect Americans. Last month, President Trump signed a proclamation barring foreign nationals who had traveled to China from entering the United States and this weekend it was expanded to include anyone with recent travel to Iran.

Here are practical prevention steps you can take to help prevent spread of germs.



Medical professionals have said that if you are in good health, even if you contract COVID-19, it is unlikely you will suffer serious complications. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) does not recommend people in good health wear a respirator or surgical mask when going about everyday life. The primary users of these masks at this time are healthcare professionals who come into direct contact with sick patients and by individuals who show symptoms of the virus to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The CDC has put together guidance for small business owners to assist them in preparing and, if necessary, responding to the virus in the workplace. That information is available on their website at this link.

Federal agencies have had emergency funds available for instances like this and have been using those monies to respond to date. Last week, the President notified Congress they are requesting additional funds to ensure the robust federal response can continue. I anticipate we will vote on a supplemental funding bill this week and I am committed to ensuring our response agencies have the resources needed.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or by calling my office at 352-241-9220.

It was good to see representatives from the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) and the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) last week. Many of my constituents depend on local municipal and rural cooperatives for their power supply. We discussed various issues affecting Florida's public utilities, including ongoing hurricane reimbursements.



Last week, the League of Southeastern Credit Unions were in town for their annual DC fly in. I met with representatives from credit unions across the district, including Suncoast and Fairwinds Credit Unions. We discussed data and privacy security concerns. In this era of hacks and data breaches, I am committed to ensuring our credit unions and banks have access to the tools and information they need to keep your accounts and information safe.



Thursday, I met with David Green, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA). I often say that Florida's tourism economy requires us to efficiently and effectively move people and goods. We discussed their priority projects, and how they will

serve regional transportation needs all way up to my district in Hernando County and beyond. I continue to advocate for Congress to pass an infrastructure bill this year. Unfortunately since, the announcement of their infrastructure plan outline, House Democrats haven't moved forward with hearings to discuss legislation, but I remain hopeful the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will develop and pass a bipartisan bill.

It is always great to see and chat with Florida's Secretary of Transportation Kevin Thibault! He is doing great work in Florida. We discussed the upcoming re-authorization of the FAST Act.



On Friday, Victoria from my local office attended a reception at Crystal River High School for their new Phil Royal EMT Program in a partnership with the College of Central Florida. This is part of their Health Careers Program at Crystal River High School. The program is in memory of Phil Royal, the Citrus County Sheriff's Retired Captain who dedicated his life to serving Citrus County.



Cindy Brown, my Community Relations Representative for The Villages, the City of Wildwood, and South Marion, visited the 20th annual Greek Festival Celebration in Belleview, FL. The festival was held at St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church in Belleview and celebrated the rich Hellenic culture and history with residents of Central Florida. In attendance was Mayor of Belleview, Christine Dobkowski, and Mary Mesmer, a Villager and member of the St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church.



Your servant,



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

Constituent Corner

A couple from The Villages contacted our office after applying for their passports. The

constituents had travel arrangements to leave the country shortly after applying and wanted to ensure that their passports were received in time for their trip. Our office contacted the passport agency, and the constituents received their passports several days later. The constituents sent our office an email, “We received our passports today. We were simply astonished how quickly we received them. We are so very grateful for the assistance with this matter. Thank you so very much!"

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 serve you.

District Update

Pam Jones from my Lake County office attended the Lake County Board of County Commissioners Meeting where a ceremony was held in honor of Pastor Felix Ramirez and Lou Buigas, the first Hispanics to be elected to serve on the Mascotte and Tavares City Councils. Lake County Commissioner Wendy Breeden read proclamations presented by the Lake County Board of County Commissioners for Ramirez and Buigas. Pam Jones presented them with congratulatory and special recognition letters on my behalf for their service.



(Pam Jones with Pastor Felix Ramirez and Commisioner Wendy Breeden)



(Pam Jones with Lou Buigas and Commisioner Wendy Breeden)

Legislative Update

Last week, with my support the House passed H.R. 4852, the GI and Veterans Education Empowerment Act. This bill requires additional information about postsecondary education institutes to be available to veterans. The VA already provides a database of higher education institutions to veterans, but this bill will improve the database by including colleges that are gender-specific, minority-serving, and/or religiously affiliated. This new information must be presented in an easily searchable format. It is important that we help those who selflessly chose to serve our nation transition into civilian life as smoothly as possible. Providing them robust educational information is a good step toward ensuring they can find all of the opportunities available to them once they return home.

Survey

Are you concerned about coronavirus (COVID-19)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

submit your response

Results of last week's survey which asked... "Do you plan on taking advantage of the Gulf Red Snapper fishing season that Governor DeSantis announced last week?"

Yes - 10%

No - 78%

Unsure - 12%

unsubscribe