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**Congressional
Update**



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Dear Friend,

With more than one-half of the 2002 legislative session now completed, I am pleased to update you on key actions of Congress thus far. If you have any questions regarding the items discussed in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me. The addresses and phone numbers for each of my offices are found above, along with my official web-site address and toll-free phone number for constituents not within a local calling area of any of the district offices.

Be sure to clip and save the Town Meeting schedule included inside. Your attendance at one of the meetings is greatly welcomed. Regular feedback from constituents such as yourself is critical to my representation of you and all residents of the 19th District. Please note that the results of the constituent survey printed in the February newsletter are also included inside. More than 14,000 individuals took the time to participate in the survey. Thank you to all who responded.

On a final note, although we have enjoyed relative peace here at home during the eleven months since the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, it is critically important for all of us to remember that the war on terrorism is far from over. Having had the privilege of visiting our troops on the front lines of the war in Afghanistan, I can personally attest to the patriotic spirit and dedication to duty of our men and women in uniform. Please join me in continuing to keep our Nation's military personnel and their families in our thoughts and prayers. As our Korean War veterans so well state, "Freedom is Not Free." God bless you, and God bless America!

**Don't miss the
Town Meeting
schedule inside!**

Sincerely,

Todd Russell Platts

House Seeks to Ensure Honesty and Integrity in Corporate Boardrooms

It seems like everyday revelations of accounting irregularities involving some of America's largest corporations are in the headlines. I strongly support President Bush's proposals to vigorously prosecute corporate wrongdoers. **Honesty and integrity must be regarded as the cornerstones of a free market economy.**

On April 11, the House passed the **Pension Protection Act (H.R. 3762)** by a vote of 255-163. H.R. 3762 would help safeguard workers' 401(k) plans by permitting employees to sell company stock contributed by their employer three years after it was contributed. H.R. 3762 would also require a 30-day advanced notice of any limitation of more than three days on an employee's right to sell stock in his or her account and prohibit company "insiders" from selling their own company stock during such "black outs." Had Enron employees been entitled to such rights, their 401(k) plan losses may have been avoided.

On April 24, months before WorldCom disclosed that it had hidden \$3.9 billion in expenses and Merck acknowledged reporting more than \$12 billion in income for co-payments never received, the House passed the **Corporate and Auditing Accountability, Responsibility, and Transparency Act (H.R. 3763, or "CARTA")** by a 334-90 vote. This bill would establish a new accounting oversight board under the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), prohibit conflicts-of-interest such as accounting firms offering consulting services to companies they are also auditing, and require the disclosure of the sort of "off-balance sheet transactions" made famous by Enron.

Most recently, the House passed the **Corporate Fraud Accountability Act (H.R. 5118)** by a vote of 391-28 on July 16. H.R. 5118 provides up to 20 years of jail time for corporate crooks who defraud the public, shred documents to obstruct justice, or knowingly file false SEC reports. This legislation also increases fines for filing false reports with the SEC to \$25 million for corporations and \$5 million for individuals. H.R. 5118 requires top executives to personally certify that the financial statements of their companies fairly and accurately represent their financial condition. Additionally, H.R. 5118 authorizes the SEC to seek a court order freezing "extraordinary" payments to executives while their firm is subject to a SEC investigation.

To restore investor confidence and strengthen the economy, CEOs who commit crimes must be held accountable. Hopefully, the House and Senate will work together to enact the above-referenced reforms into law. For more information regarding H.R. 3762, 3763, and 5118, please visit the House website at www.house.gov.



Battery F Returns Home Safely – The soldiers of Battery F, 109th Field Artillery of the PA National Guard returned home in May from their six-month peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. In March, I was honored to join State Representative Ron Miller in visiting the Battery F soldiers in the field to get a first-hand view of their dedicated service.

President Proposes Department of Homeland Security

In response to the September 11th terrorist attacks, the U.S. Congress and President George Bush have taken numerous actions to better detect, deter, and protect against such attacks on our citizens in the future. One of the important lessons learned from the aftermath of September 11th is that too many federal agencies bear some level of responsibility for homeland security and too little communication between these agencies has occurred. Responsibility for homeland security is currently dispersed among more than 100 different government organizations.



Visiting the Troops—In April, I traveled as part of a Congressional Delegation visiting our courageous military personnel involved in the war on terrorism in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Turkey. The Marines pictured above are guarding the American Embassy in the Afghanistan capitol of Kabul.

To remedy this weakness in our homeland security infrastructure, President Bush has proposed the creation of a **Department of Homeland Security**. The President's proposal will give America a single, unified homeland security structure that will improve protection against today's threats and be flexible enough to help meet the unknown threats of the future.

In response to the President's proposal, the House of Representatives created a select committee to help expedite the President's request by working cooperatively with the various standing committees of the House to craft a final, comprehensive bill, the **"Homeland Security Act of 2002"** (H.R. 5005). Two of the committees on which I serve, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the House Committee on Government Reform, are directly involved in the review and passage of H.R. 5005.

Under H.R. 5005, as proposed by the President, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will be comprised of four divisions:

1 Border and Transportation Security

Preventing future terrorist attacks will be the DHS's number one priority. Complete control over whom and what enters the United States is critical to fulfilling this mission. The Border and Transportation Security Division will unify authority over major federal security operations related to borders, territorial waters, and transportation systems. The Coast Guard, Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Border Patrol, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and newly-formed Transportation Security Administration will be transferred to this Division.

2 Emergency Preparedness and Response

Although DHS's top priority will be to prevent future attacks, we cannot assume that we will always succeed. Therefore, we must prepare to recover as quickly as possible from

attacks that do occur. The Emergency Preparedness and Response Division will build upon the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in assuming authority over federal grant programs for local first responders such as firefighters, police, and emergency medical personnel and in managing critical response assets such as the Nuclear Emergency Search Team and the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile.

3 Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Countermeasures

The war against terrorism is also a war against the most deadly weapons known to mankind – chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons. This division of the DHS will be responsible for implementing a national strategy to prepare for and respond to the full range of terrorist threats involving weapons of mass destruction. It will establish guidelines for state and local governments to plan for the unthinkable and direct exercises and drills for federal, state, and local weapons of mass destruction response teams. The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Countermeasures Division will also establish priorities for national research and development and the procurement of new technology and equipment.

4 Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection

Preventing future terrorist attacks requires good information in advance. The Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Division will be responsible for fusing intelligence and other information pertaining to threats to homeland security from multiple sources, including the Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and National Security Agency. This division will also coordinate a national effort to secure America's critical infrastructure sectors, including banking, finance, energy, telecommunications, and transportation. Protecting our Nation's cyber infrastructure will be an especially important priority of this division. Cyber security activities performed by the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office at the Department of Commerce, the National Infrastructure Protection Center at the FBI, and related offices will be consolidated under this division of the DHS.



Afghanistan President—As part of our trip to Afghanistan, my colleagues and I met with various Afghan government leaders, including **Interim Chairman Hamid Karzai**, who was elected the new President of Afghanistan in June. During our meeting with President Karzai, he conveyed the sincere gratitude of the Afghan people for America liberating them first from Soviet oppression in the 1980's and now from the Taliban regime.

As of when this newsletter went to print, H.R. 5005 was scheduled for a vote before the full House of Representatives prior to the August recess. For more information regarding H.R. 5005, please go to **House Majority Leader Dick Army's** web site at <http://freedom.house.gov>.



Interns –Six local college students are spending their summer as interns with my Congressional office. The 19th District Internship Association program includes six weeks working on constituent issues in my three district offices and six weeks working in the Washington office. This experience offers the students an opportunity to learn about Congressional operations and to serve 19th District residents. Pictured above are (left to right): **Nathaniel Sloan**, a recent graduate of the College of William and Mary and the son of Samuel and Linda Sloan; **Kate Klunk**, a sophomore at Dickinson College and the daughter of Warren and Jane Klunk; **Sara Gwiazdowski**, a junior at Gettysburg College and the daughter of Joseph and Margaret Gwiazdowski; **Stephanie Austin**, a sophomore at the University of Virginia and the daughter of Steve and Donna Austin; **Andrew Herrold**, a junior at Dickinson College and the son of John and Jan Herrold; and **Kevin Skjoldal**, a recent graduate of York College of Pennsylvania and the son of Ken and Kathy Skjoldal.

Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Passes House

On June 28th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the “**Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002**” (H.R. 4954). As a member of the Prescription Drug Task Force, I was pleased to help shape this legislation designed to strengthen and improve Medicare and provide America’s seniors with an affordable and permanent prescription drug benefit.

H.R. 4954 provides for a **voluntary, comprehensive prescription drug benefit** and also makes important improvements to Medicare to ensure that beneficiaries will continue to have access to high quality health care. While all Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for this new plan, seniors who are already participating in a prescription drug plan that they like have the right to remain with said plans. Importantly, employers are encouraged to continue to offer retiree drug coverage by the provision of funding assistance to such private plans under H.R. 4954. If passed by the Senate, this legislation will allow seniors to spend less money on prescription drugs and less time filling out complicated forms.

Specifically, H.R. 4954 includes:

- **An affordable and permanent prescription drug benefit for all seniors for approximately \$35 a month.** This is a voluntary program that guarantees all seniors the ability to choose among plans to find what works best for their prescription needs. The monthly premium and cost-sharing requirements would be totally waived for low-income seniors (up to 150% of poverty level).

- **A standard benefit that begins with a \$250 deductible and pays 80% of spending up to the first \$1,000 and 50% up to \$2,000.** Seniors who meet the low-income criteria (50% of seniors currently without coverage) will pay less than \$5 per prescription, up to coverage limits. **All participants are protected against catastrophic costs**, with prescription costs exceeding \$3,700 per year covered 100%.

- **Immediate savings to seniors through an interim discount card program**, accepted by local pharmacies, including non-participating pharmacies, through a point-of-service requirement.

- **Increased incentives for providers to serve patients in rural areas and communities**, which are essential to ensure that people everywhere have access not only to the prescription medicines they need, but also the best medical care possible.

- **Increased payments to community, rural and small urban hospitals.** Provisions also will allow for faster integration of new technologies into hospital treatment regimens.

- **A return to a level of certainty for physician payments** to increase the quality of care available to seniors. The net effect — as with measures to strengthen and increase ability to deliver quality care for patients at hospitals — is that

physicians will see a substantial increase in Medicare payment adjustment rates and seniors can be more assured that they’ll have doctors to see when they need to see them.

- **Eased paperwork burdens and improved Medicare responsiveness to beneficiaries and health care providers** by addressing concerns regarding regulatory cost and delay under Medicare (problems repeatedly expressed by beneficiaries, physicians and other providers). This will allow more time for physicians to spend caring for their patients rather than filling out burdensome paperwork.

Hopefully the U.S. Senate will act quickly on H.R. 4954 or similar legislation so that the House and Senate can conference on a comprehensive Medicare prescription drug benefit plan to send to President Bush for his signature. For more information on H.R. 4954, please log on to the House Energy and Commerce Committee web site at <http://energycommerce.house.gov>.

While Congress continues to work on a Medicare prescription drug benefit plan, please remember that my office can help to connect you with pharmaceutical companies that offer assistance programs for individuals having trouble paying for necessary medications. If you are experiencing financial hardship due to the costs of your prescription medications, please call my office at **1-877-902-1919 (toll-free)** for assistance.

Honoring Veterans



Purple Heart Recipient – One of the highest privileges I have as a Member of Congress is to recognize veterans for their patriotic service to our great Nation. **Roland “Dutch” Gallagher** of Cumberland County was awarded a Purple Heart for being wounded in combat during his service in the Korean War. Unfortunately, many veterans, such as Mr. Gallagher, do not receive their service medals for many years or decades after their time of service.

Protecting America's Borders

In light of the tragic attacks on September 11th, the integrity of our borders must be aggressively protected. Accordingly, I joined a majority of my colleagues in the House of Representatives in voting to pass two bills targeting this national security need.

The **Barbara Jordan Immigration Reform and Accountability Act (H.R. 3231)** would abolish the INS and replace it with two separate bureaus within the Department of Justice - one charged with immigration services and one with immigration enforcement. The bureaus would be under the supervision of an associate attorney

general, thereby elevating immigration matters within the Justice Department's organizational structure. This fundamental restructuring of the INS is essential to cleaning up its internal bureaucracy and better prioritizing its critically important duty of enforcing our immigration laws. The need for such an overhaul was highlighted by the incredible story of a Florida flight school receiving student visa approval for two of the terrorists involved in the September 11th attacks—six months after the attacks occurred. H.R. 3231 is currently pending in the Senate. For more information regarding H.R. 3231, please visit the **House Committee on the Judiciary** web site at <http://www.house.gov/judiciary/>.

The **Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act (H.R. 3525)** would tighten the student visa system, which was abused by at least one of the terrorists responsible for the September 11th attacks. H.R. 3525 would also require foreign passports and visas to contain fingerprints or other "biometric information" as well as require aircraft and ships traveling from foreign nations to make their passenger lists available to American law enforcement officials. H.R. 3525 was signed into law by President Bush on May 14. For more information pertaining to H.R. 3525, please visit the House of Representatives web site at www.house.gov.



Promoting Quality Education - As an Education and the Workforce Committee member, I regularly speak in classrooms throughout the 19th District, such as Mrs. Corsa's Stony Brook Elementary School class pictured above, about government and the importance of working hard in school. (Photo courtesy of Central York School District.)



Army War College Hits Century Mark - As a National Security, Veteran's Affairs and International Relations Subcommittee member, I was honored to present Major General Robert Ivany, Commandant of the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, a copy of the Congressional Record recognizing the War College's 100 years of service to our Nation's security. The War College is the 2nd oldest military institution in the Nation.

House Acts to Reauthorize and Strengthen Historic Welfare Reform Legislation

After the U.S. Congress replaced traditional welfare with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program in 1996, I was pleased to work with Governor Ridge in my role as a state legislator to reform Pennsylvania's welfare system. On May 16 of this year, I had the opportunity—now as a member of Congress and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce—to vote for the reauthorization of TANF and to further strengthen it. This legislation, the **Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act (H.R. 4737)**, passed the full House of Representatives by a vote of 229-197.

The historic reform of the welfare system that occurred in 1996—by requiring work, giving greater flexibility to states, and establishing time limits on how long someone may receive aid—reduced welfare caseloads by more than 50% and reduced child poverty by 30%. I believe

that the welfare reform legislation passed by the House this year will build on and further improve these reforms.

H.R. 4737 would increase from 30 to 40 the number of hours each week that welfare recipients must work, increase the percentage of families in a state receiving TANF assistance who must engage in work or work-related activities from its current level of 50% to 70%, and provide \$100 million for innovative programs that encourage and promote marriage. Furthermore, the measure provides a \$1.2 billion increase in annual spending on child care, increases the required amount states must spend on improving the quality of child care, increases the amount of TANF funds that states may transfer to child care programs from 30% to 50%, and encourages states to address the cognitive needs of young children so that they are developmentally prepared to enter school.

The primary objection raised against H.R. 4737 was that it keeps TANF funding flat,

rather than increasing spending to adjust for inflation. However, I believe that—in light of the tremendous success states and the federal government have had in reducing welfare rolls and poverty rates since 1996—a flat funding level is sufficient to help those families remaining on welfare break out of poverty. With fewer families needing assistance, more federal dollars are available to the remaining families in need.

As a member of Congress, I am committed to continue working for a welfare system that is compassionate, recognizes the importance of quality childcare, reduces poverty, encourages personal responsibility, and provides flexibility to states. I believe H.R. 4737 reflects these goals. This legislation is now pending in the Senate. For more information regarding H.R. 4737, please visit the **House Committee on Education and the Workforce** web site at <http://edworkforce.house.gov/>.

Constituent Survey Results

As your representative in Congress, it is imperative for me to remain well informed of your views and concerns regarding legislative proposals. Surveys such as the one included in my February newsletter are a valuable means of maintaining a close rapport with you. **More than 14,800 citizens responded** to one or more survey questions. The results are found below. **I am pleased to extend my deepest thanks to all who took the time to share their opinions with me.**

1. Should the U.S. Constitution be amended to ban the desecration of the American flag?
Total responses: 14,724
Yes 8,239 (56%) No 6,485 (44%)
2. Should younger workers be given the option to invest a percentage of their Social Security payroll taxes in private, personal retirement accounts so long as benefits for current retirees and those near retirement are not affected?
Total responses: 14,798
Yes 9,997 (68%) No 4,801 (32%)
3. Should federal funding be provided for medical research involving existing embryonic stem cell lines?
Total responses: 14,566
Yes 8,107 (56%) No 6,459 (44%)
4. Should federal funding be provided for medical research involving new embryonic stem cell lines?
Total responses: 14,474
Yes 6,193 (43%) No 8,281 (57%)
5. Should the cloning of human embryos be prohibited?
Total responses: 14,734
Yes 12,495 (85%) No 2,239 (15%)
6. Should partial-birth abortions be prohibited?
Total responses: 14,802
Yes 10,401 (70%) No 4,401 (30%)
7. Should the U.S. Constitution be amended to prohibit abortions except for cases involving rape, incest, or where the life of the mother is at risk?
Total responses: 14,667
Yes 6,024 (41%) No 8,643 (59%)
8. Should the U.S. Constitution be amended to prohibit all abortions?
Total responses: 14,688
Yes 2,969 (20%) No 11,719 (80%)
9. Should Congress appropriate funding for the military to develop and deploy a defense system to protect against a ballistic missile attack?
Total responses: 14,476
Yes 11,060 (76%) No 3,416 (24%)
10. Should parents be provided taxpayer-funded tuition vouchers to send their children to private schools of their choice?
Total responses: 14,746
Yes 5,578 (38%) No 9,168 (62%)
11. Is decreasing our Nation's dependence on foreign oil and gas an important national security interest?
Total responses: 14,731
Yes 13,582 (92%) No 1,149 (8%)
12. Should the U.S. Senate act favorably on President Bush's National Energy Policy legislation as enacted by the House of Representatives last August?
Total responses: 12,402
Yes 8,727 (70%) No 3,675 (30%)
13. Do you believe that oil and natural gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge can be done in an environmentally sensitive manner?
Total responses: 14,634
Yes 9,806 (67%) No 4,828 (33%)
14. Do you believe political campaign contributions from special interest groups inappropriately influence the passage or defeat of legislation being considered by Congress?
Total responses: 14,823
Yes 13,291 (90%) No 1,532 (10%)
15. Should national political parties be prohibited from receiving unregulated soft money contributions?
Total responses: 14,605
Yes 12,385 (85%) No 2,220 (15%)
16. Should union dues and corporate funds be prohibited from financing radio/television ads that clearly identify a candidate for federal office within 60 days of the general election or 30 days of the primary?
Total responses: 14,584
Yes 10,884 (75%) No 3,700 (25%)
17. Should acts of violence motivated by the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability of the victim ("hate crimes") constitute a separate crime under federal law?
Total responses: 14,438
Yes 6,340 (44%) No 8,098 (56%)



Clip & save!

Town Meetings Scheduled

Feedback from 19th district residents is critical to my effective service in Congress. I am thus pleased to announce the next series of Town Meetings planned throughout the district. I hope you will be able to join me at one of the meetings.

Wednesday, Aug. 28

Adams County
 Gettysburg
 Lutheran Home
 1075 Old Hbg. Rd.
 Gettysburg
 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 29

York County
 South Western
 High School
 200 Bowman Rd.
 Hanover
 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday Sept. 3

Cumberland County
 Union Fire
 Company No. 1
 35 W. Louthur St.
 Carlisle
 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 3

York County
 Red Land
 High School
 560 Fishing Creek Rd.
 Lewisberry
 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

House Proposes Fiscally Responsible 2003 Budget

The House passed a **budget resolution for fiscal year 2003 (H. Con. Res. 353)** on March 21 that reflects the priorities of defense and homeland security in the post-September 11 world while still maintaining fiscal discipline and adequately funding domestic programs of importance to the American people like education, Medicare, and veteran's benefits. Because the Senate has yet to adopt a budget resolution and probably will not this year, the House of Representatives is now proceeding with the annual appropriations process using H. Con. Res. 353 as a guide for setting spending limits.

The House-passed budget calls for a **13% increase in defense spending**, the largest increase in 20 years. This would accommodate the forward deployment of 250,000 troops, greatly enhanced intelligence support, the development and procurement of state-of-the-art weapons and defenses, and a 4.1% military pay increase.

The House-passed budget holds the increase in other non-defense discretionary spending to an average 1%. However, within this broad category, some programs would receive

larger increases while others—to maintain fiscal discipline—would be reduced. Significantly, the resolution calls for a **29% increase in spending on homeland security**. This level would support the following critical programs:

- \$3.5 billion for a new **“first responders”** grant program, to be administered by FEMA, to help local police, fire and rescue agencies prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism;

- \$4.3 billion for a **bioterrorism preparedness** program, to be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, for assistance to hospitals, research and development, stockpiling vaccines, and the creation of a nation-wide network to detect biological threats;

- \$4.5 billion for **aviation security**; and

- Funding to hire an **additional 570 Border Patrol agents** and **1,160 inspection agents** as well as to create a **new visa tracking system**.

Education is another area prioritized in the budget. Program increases include an **additional \$1 billion in both special education funding and Title I grants to low-income school districts**, an additional

\$100 million for the new “Reading First” program that aims to ensure every child can read by Grade 3, and a \$130 million increase in Head Start funds.

H. Con. Res. 353 also sets aside **\$350 billion over 10 years to fund a prescription drug benefit for senior citizens** and make improvements to the Medicare system. Finally, H. Con. Res. 353 provides funds to allow for the so-called “concurrent receipt” of veterans’ retirement and disability benefits.

In July, I joined more than 150 of my House colleagues in signing a letter to the President pledging our support to uphold his veto of any spending bills that will cause the limits of H. Con. Res. 353 to be exceeded. While the horrific tragedy of September 11 has imposed new threats and budgetary demands on the Nation that must be met, Congress cannot simply refuse to adopt a budget resolution for 2003 or otherwise abandon all rules on spending restraint. I strongly believe that Congress must be willing to stick within the spending limits set by H. Con. Res. 353.

Proposal to Arm Pilots Garners House Approval

With the attacks of September 11th still fresh in our memories, the safety of our air transportation system remains a top concern of both the public and Congress. As the federal government hires and trains additional Air Marshals, and as airlines continue with the process of enhancing cockpit security, another proposal that has come to the forefront is allowing commercial airline pilots—many of who have a military background—to be armed.

I fully support measures to allow qualified and fully trained commercial airline pilots to carry firearms in cockpits. On July 10, the House of Representatives passed legislation that I cosponsored, the **Arming Pilots against Terrorism Act (H.R. 4635)**. H.R. 4635 would establish a voluntary program for pilots, in conjunction with the Air Marshal Program, to deputize commercial airline pilots as Federal Flight Deck Officers. The Undersecretary of Transportation would

provide the necessary training, supervision, and equipment for the Federal Flight Deck Officer Program. In addition, H.R. 4635 would require “hands-on” self-defense training of flight attendants. This legislation is now pending consideration in the Senate. For more information regarding H.R. 4635, please visit the **House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure** web site at <http://www.house.gov/transportation>.



Learning the Ropes – During my Career Awareness Day at **Giant Foods** I had the pleasure of learning from **Kyle McClure** as he stocked fruit in the produce department. Kyle is a resident of Etters.

A “Giant” of a Career Awareness Day

A few of the tasks I observed in my recent Congressional Career Awareness Day at a Giant Foods Store in Cumberland County included store associates stocking products, bagging groceries, and pricing merchandise. Working side by side with the store associates on Monday, July 15, I learned some of the challenges and rewards employees of the retail grocery industry face every day on the job.

Congressional Career Awareness Days are an important means of keeping me well grounded in the values of Central PA and provide me invaluable insights into the daily lives of 19th District residents. My “Giant” Career Awareness Day allowed me to interact with several store employees as well as the customers who were grocery shopping that day.