

This week, I authored an editorial piece, “ [Getting Virginians Back to Work](#) ,” to present solutions for our struggling economy. As we heard Friday morning, the unemployment rate remains at 9.6 percent. It’s clear that we must focus on measures that will allow for businesses and entrepreneurs to innovate and thrive, and keep Virginians working. In the piece, I make the case that government needs to get out of the way, create incentives, stop the tax hikes that loom on January 1, 2011, and make spending balanced and sustainable into the future. Restoring our economy will remain a top priority of mine, as we await the return of Congress to Washington, DC, in November. You can read the piece on my website here:

http://wittman.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=485&Itemid=100028

One segment of the population also struggling during these tough economic times are individuals with disabilities. On October 18, 2010, over 50 employers will join together at my Individuals with Disabilities Job Fair, providing those with disabilities the opportunity to seek employment, learn more about the employment process, enhance their interview skills and receive resume assistance. The Fair will take place from 10 am until 2 pm at the University of Mary Washington's Stafford Campus, 125 University Boulevard, in Fredericksburg. Hope to see you there!

On Wednesday, I was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss the proposed closure of Joint Forces Command with so many of you that joined my constituent conference call. While I will continue discussions with Defense Department officials to press for information on these decisions, it is important to me that I hear from you on this issue. With the large potential impact on Virginia and the First District, it is vital that you have the opportunity to share your thoughts, concerns and questions on this issue as with all issues. Callers also had an opportunity to simply cast their vote on whether or not they agree or disagree with Secretary Gates’ announcement to close Joint Forces Command, or if they believe it needs more analysis. 54% of you said it needed more analysis, and I couldn’t agree more. As I have said, decision-makers and leaders in this country must be held to a higher standard, especially when the security of this country is at the heart of the issue.

Also on Wednesday, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) hosted its 12th Annual Angels in Adoption Gala in Washington, DC. The event highlights the work of celebrities and individuals across the country working tirelessly on behalf of children in U.S. foster care and orphans around the world. I was honored to have the opportunity to attend the event again this year, and present an award to my “Angel in Adoption” nominee, Natalie Newton of Fredericksburg. As a Senior Social Worker at the Fredericksburg Department of Social

Services, she dedicates her time and service to provide children in need with loving adoptive homes and foster families. Natalie is a loyal public servant and brings a home and happiness to many children. I am amazed and deeply appreciative of her hard work as I see the lives she touches. I'm personally thankful for Natalie and other social workers like her. I was adopted, and if it wasn't for social workers, like Natalie, my life and the lives of many others would be very different. Natalie serves as a child's ally and is committed to the betterment of her community.

Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee where he is the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.