

One of the most proud moments I've had in recent memory was a send-off of World War II veterans last Saturday morning. The "Greatest Generation" living in and around Williamsburg had an opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, to our monuments in an Honor flight trip that day. These veterans, who fought for us across the world during that time, are a true example of what it means to selflessly serve our nation and to be recognized as American heroes. I have been proud to support these veterans in my work in Congress, and appreciate events such as these which highlight the importance of honoring their service and sacrifice and remembering what it took to protect the freedoms and liberties we enjoy today.

On Monday, I had the opportunity to host a job fair for individuals with disabilities. What a special event it was for me, and hopefully for the many who attended. Seeing over 300 folks come seeking employment was a solemn reminder of how our economy continues to struggle. Individuals with disabilities are disproportionately affected, and it was a great opportunity for them to meet with employers seeking workers. It was inspiring to hear the story of one young man with cerebral palsy comment that he was pleased to be able to attend a job fair where he wasn't judged by his physical appearance but rather by his intellectual capabilities and his "ambition to work." Some came individually, but we were also joined by bus loads of aspiring job applicants, such as the special education high school students who arrived and had a first-hand opportunity to visit with potential employers, attend and participate in mock interviews, and learn more about how to apply for jobs.

Held at the University of Mary Washington's Stafford Campus, the fair featured over 50 employers, and provided the opportunity to learn more about the employment process, enhance interview skills and receive resume assistance. We will host additional job-focused events next year so stay tuned to my website, [www.wittman.house.gov](http://www.wittman.house.gov).

As we work to help folks locally, I also continue to advocate for policies assisting economic growth at the federal level. Our debt is too high, and the out-of-control spending must stop. The news is filled with numbers, facts and figures, but we don't need facts or figures to demonstrate the uncertainty we feel right here at home. Numbers don't tell the stories that we're too familiar with such as businesses closing their doors or downsizing by laying off workers. We all know that America is a nation of ideas and a nation of innovation, creativity and a great work ethic. I believe there are specific measures that do not include more government spending to encourage our economic growth, and to put Virginians back to work

As Congress returns in November, we must vote to extend all tax cuts. Individuals, families, and

the small businesses that create jobs must keep more of their hard-earned dollars. Second, we must rein in federal spending to a sustainable level and cut off ineffective, bloated expenditures and get our budget on track to being balanced.

Additionally, Members of Congress must set an example for how business is done – by cutting Member pay and preventing automatic pay increases each year. I believe we must lead by example to set the tone. You can read more about my ideas to reform Congress on my website under the issue tab, “Reforming Congress.”

Please continue to reach out to my office with your thoughts, ideas and concerns, by phone at 202-225-4261 or online at [www.wittman.house.gov](http://www.wittman.house.gov) .

*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.*