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West's Weekly Wrap-Up

Dear Patriot,



Greetings to our constituents, fellow Floridians, and to all Americans, it is once again time for our weekly update. I hope this newsletter finds you well. In this new format, I'm going to share more information with you, including videos, pictures, my favorite news articles, profiles

of our local men and women in uniform, our small businesses and other notable news from District 22. This will all be in addition to my weekly wrap-up of my work as your Representative.

This was a short D.C. week coming off the 4th of July weekend, which I hope everyone enjoyed. It was the 235th celebration of our Declaration of Independence. I can attest to you that the House Democrat Caucus enjoyed the 4th of July so much that the following day they invited avowed Communist, Van Jones, to address their caucus...now ain't that a doozy!

Even though the legislative business of this week was the FY 2012 Defense Appropriations bill, the debt ceiling issue was really the looming focus. This weekend we are having some "negotiations" about what I believe is the 93rd raising of the debt limit since its inception. Why do we have negotiations or talks when the viable solution is clear? We have to cut federal government spending. This is not about a revenue issue, it is a spending issue. We must also cut the corporate/business tax rate of 35% to 20-22%, eliminate all loopholes and subsidies and allow the free market to work by setting conditions for long-term sustainable growth. We must cap federal government spending as per the GDP between 18-20%, instead of the insane 25% where we find it now....particularly with the looming potential of federal government spending per GDP to rise to 32% by 2017 under Democrat plans. I find it reprehensible that there are liberals who say the stimulus failed because it did not spend enough.

Finally, we must have a balanced budget amendment for the federal government to align revenues with outlays. These are the simple and viable solutions to the pressing debt limit issue; it is about finally creating fiscal discipline in the federal government.

Clip of the Week



**[On the House Floor:
"Rep. West Stands with Israel"](#)**

Article of the Week

**[South Florida's Best and
Brightest
A Profile of Allen West
\(Aventura Business Monthly\)](#)**

(I guarantee you'll learn a few things about me you didn't know before)



Photos of the Week



[Click Here for All of My Week's Photos!](#)

Service and Sacrifice



Sgt. Alfredo Miranda, Jr.
is our soldier of the week

The inane and insidious class warfare rhetoric of raising taxes and "corporate jets" reflects the incompetence of the one professing such. If we were to raise taxes, you are talking about a \$300-\$350B tax burden upon our small businesses. Furthermore, the "corporate jet loophole" only accounts for some \$300M, hardly a major impact. The focus has to be on increasing confidence, providing better access to capital, and returning certainty with sound economic, taxation and regulatory policies.

We should be talking about stimulating the economy by eliminating capital gains, dividends, and estate taxes and you will instill confidence and certainty.

When one considers the abysmal [June jobs report](#) of 9.2% unemployment, 16.2% in the black community, and only 18K new jobs created, we are teetering on a precipice. To grow our economy out of this fragile recovery, we require some 250K jobs/month.

When polled, 70% of small businesses stated they are not projecting hiring for the next year. Unfortunately, we have David Plouffe, President Obama's campaign advisor, stating that unemployment is not an issue in the 2012 election. If this is the position of the campaign advisor, one has to suppose it is the President's position, after all, the President has said the jobs numbers are just a "bump in the road."

This brings me to another observation, the end of the era of American space exploration exceptionalism. We watched the final launch of American manned space exploration, the last Shuttle launch. Now the greatest nation the world has ever known, the country who landed a man on the moon, will be hitching a ride. It is estimated that this foolhardy decision will result in some 23K jobs lost (9K direct, and 14K indirect) to the Florida Space Coast community. Appalling. The one thing which brings me comfort is a quote from Sir Winston Churchill, "Americans seem to always right themselves after they have exhausted all other means."

Truly, "Hope and Change" has turned out to be "Hype and Chaotic Calamity."

In closing, this past week President Obama held a Twitter town hall meeting and made a statement that Republicans are "holding a gun to the heads of Americans keeping them hostage over this debt crisis." Funny, I thought we were supposed to temper this type of incendiary rhetoric after the shooting of our colleague Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. If anything, it has only increased, and from one side.

I suppose liberal activist groups will run ads against the President now that he has stated Social Security and MEDICARE are part of the debt limit negotiations. Will he be seen pushing a senior in a wheelchair off a cliff?

Steadfast and Loyal,

Allen

Legislative Lowdown

Age: 29 years old
Hometown: Port St. Lucie
Family: Married, father of 3
MOS: Military Police Officer/ 724th Army Reserve Unit/ Ft. Lauderdale
Stationed: Gardez, Afghanistan, training Afghan Army police officers
Deployed: March 2011, 15 month tour, sec0nd tour of duty
Fun Facts: Loves to work on cars
Sacrifice: Deployed when son was 4 months old. "He's watching him grow up through webcam and pictures," his wife Kimberly said. "It's a difficult job but somebody has got to do it. I'm so proud of him."

Cut, Cap and Balance

It's as simple as that!

Read more here about a letter I have signed onto that will put forward a serious, robust plan to truly reform the way Washington budgets and spends taxpayer dollars, so that we never again hit the debt ceiling.

http://rsc.jordan.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Cut-Cap-Balance_1-Pager.pdf

Small Business Spotlight



Skin Apeel Day Spa
 Kimberly Knapp, Owner
 Boca Raton, 21301 Powerline Road
 30 employees
 18 years in business
 Minimum advertising, word of mouth

- FY2012 Department of Defense Appropriations – On Friday, July 8, the House approved H.R. 2219, the 2012 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, by a vote of 336-87, I voted Yes. The base budget of the bill would provide \$530.5 billion in discretionary budget authority for defense activities, which is an increase of \$17.2 billion over last year's level. The overseas contingency operations recommendation for emergency spending for Defense activities related to the Global War on Terror is \$118.7 billion, which is \$842 million above the President's FY2012 budget request. Non-emergency DoD budget authority contained in H.R. 2219 would contribute to an overall level of discretionary budget authority of \$1.019 trillion for FY 2012, a reduction of \$30.3 billion below FY 2011.

- During the amendments process, I voted for several cuts to funding Pakistan and also ending funding to combat operations in Libya. The world is a volatile place and we must never forget the federal government's preeminent essential function is to "provide for the common defense." Our men and women in uniform deserve the resources to enable them to be trained and equipped to crush our enemies, and care for their families. It is incumbent upon us as Members of Congress to ensure the right strategic employment criteria and engagement guidance is provided for our force – a mission which I take very seriously.

District/ DC Highlights

- Tuesday 5 July, met with the Senior Executives of CEMEX, based in West Palm Beach, and addressed their employees. Visited the Port of Palm Beach - [pictures here](#)- to discuss facility improvements to enhance the throughput of commodities.

- Wednesday 6 July, gave a one-minute [House floor speech](#) in support of H.R. 268, which reaffirms Congress' support to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process but with stern conditions placed upon the Palestinian leadership. Conducted a one-hour national tele-town hall meeting sponsored by TheTeaParty.net- if you missed it, [listen to it here](#).

- Thursday 7 July, Attended the Congressional Black Caucus National Black Leadership Summit, which focused on the jobs/employment situation. I addressed the group with a proposal to develop a "Tiger Team" which looks at policies which can set conditions for small and corporate business growth, and well as make inner city public school education relevant to the 21st century.

- Friday 8 July, attended a House GOP Armed Services Committee meeting on how debt ceiling talks affect National Security and Defense. After final votes, cleared office work and flew back to the district.

- Saturday 9 July, at my previous request, participated in a Boys and Girls Club event at the Florida Panthers training facility in Coral Springs. Skated with the young kids and played a little hockey with them taking shots on goal....had been nearly 9 years since I was on ice skates, and did not fall once!

- Sunday 10 July, flying into Savannah Georgia this evening, where on Monday I will spend the morning visiting with the men of the 1st

Kimberly's Tips: *"We recently created a rewards program, where our customers earn points for purchases. We also have an email database and email our customers weekly deals. Incentive programs have made all the difference!"*

July Town halls

Congressman West will be taking a new approach to his town halls this month, by holding them via teleconference!

This format in the "new age" allows thousands of constituents to take part and ask questions.

Congressman West will continue to utilize both tele-town halls and in person town halls to reach as many people as possible.

Keep an eye out for more information coming soon!

Tele-Town hall Dates:

July 14, 7 pm

July 27th, 7pm

Visit my website at:

west.house.gov

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Ranger Battalion at Hunter Army Airfield.

My Trip to Afghanistan:



[Read my full report here](#)

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