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# West's Weekly Wrap-Up



Dear Patriot,

Greetings to our constituents, fellow Floridians, and all Americans, it is time for my recap of the final week of the summer constituent work period. If you all have been following our weekly updates, you can easily determine this was not a “recess” for us. This final week has proven to truly set the stage for our return to Capitol Hill and get us back focused on rectifying the horrific economic situation in which we find our America.

Friday, we received the news that there was not one new net job created in the United States of America. In other words, we have stagnated the investment, innovation, and ingenuity of the entrepreneurial spirit that has made our nation a leader in free market and private sector growth.

Somehow in three short years, we have taken a bad situation and exacerbated it to epic proportions. It is not just the debt and deficits which have grown to astronomical proportions in these years, but now we face something which is a complete anathema to our principles- an attitude towards business which is completely anti-growth.

Previously, we have discussed the over-regulatory environment emanating from Washington and this Obama Administration. It has been evidenced in the nearly 600 new regulations issued in the month of July, with an estimated compliance cost of \$10 billion.

We have heard enough about “investing” in green energy jobs. This is evidenced in a green energy company, Solyndra, praised a year ago by President Obama as a model green energy company in California, just announcing bankruptcy. Solyndra was a recipient of stimulus funding, one of the top 5 “green energy” companies.

We even have the Obama administration now attempting to “manage expectations” by hinting that unemployment may not be down below 9% within the year. The difference here is that we have a President who is unwilling to admit his economic policies have failed, and it is time to pivot in a completely different direction...a lesson he could learn from former President Bill Clinton.

## Clip of the Week



**8/30 WPLG-TV Ch. 10**

**Miami**

***Rep. West discusses the CBC, jobs and the President...***

## Article of the Week



**8/25 The Jerusalem Post**

***West says: "Israel owes Turkey no apology"***

## Service and Sacrifice

Therefore, what is the purpose of the speech next week on the grand jobs plan which we have been waiting for with baited breath since the Big Black Bus tour? We have sat and counted the days and hours until the speech while the President relaxed in Martha's Vineyard, truly a place representative of America.

What will be the purpose of this address, since the President wants all of Congress to sit attentively? Will we finally receive a written plan, or must we again seek to "score" or evaluate another speech? One thing that has already been declared is that after the speech on Thursday, the President will be heading back to the White House to begin working to resolve this situation. Actually, no, he will go back out on the campaign trail Friday.

The question is, will he take the taxpayer-funded private jet or the Big Black Bus?

It seems my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus have been reading Saul Alinsky's book, *Rules for Radicals*, and are seeking to apply his Rule #13 tactic. This baseless attack upon the constitutional conservative grassroots movement called the TEA (Taxed Enough Already) Party has reached a new low of unreasonable desperation.

What person would not agree with the principles of efficient and constitutional limited government, fiscal responsibility, national security, and free market/free enterprise? It appears Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Frederica Wilson along with Congressman Andre Carson do not.

Perhaps my colleagues, who were out this past month across America conducting "job fairs," should closely examine failed economic, monetary, tax, and regulatory policies emanating from this current Obama Administration, rather than point fingers.

And oh, by the way, while the CBC was out conducting these "job fairs" the unemployment rate for black Americans rose from 15.9% to 16.7%.

That is why, as the only Conservative member of the CBC, I will meet with Chairman Cleaver to compare lessons learned on what small business owners, corporate leaders, and chambers of commerce members told me about revitalizing our economic and job growth. The objective solutions I was given from my constituents after visiting dozens of small businesses and their employees this month are far superior and results-oriented.

In conclusion, I wish you all had a wonderful Labor Day weekend and my thoughts, prayers, and condolences to those who have had to contend with the flooding in North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont, as well as across the Gulf States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Steadfast and Loyal,



### **Major Sam Griffith**

**Billet – Detachment:** India, Officer in Charge, 4th ANGLICO Marine Reserve Unit, West Palm Beach

**Hometown:**  
Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina

**Florida Connection:**  
Family moved to Jupiter in 1992

**Military Background:**  
Joined NROTC in college at Penn State, Aug 24, 1994, commissioned May 17, 1997

**What do you enjoy the most about being a Marine?**  
*Simply being a Marine. The heritage, history, tradition.*

**Greatest / most satisfying experience as a Marine:**  
*The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those who need it. Leading Marines. Flying fighters was pretty cool too.*

**Why did you join the Marines?**  
*Camaraderie. I joined the NROTC unit at Penn State wanting to become a fighter pilot in the Navy, and started hanging out with the Marines in the unit. I saw a difference between the Marines and the Sailors and how they interacted, in particular the camaraderie, and I wanted to be a part of that.*

Allen



## Legislative Lowdown

\*House is not in session and therefore there is no legislative update.



## District/DC Highlights

- **Tuesday, 30 August**, met with 15 mayors and municipal representatives of the Broward County League of Cities to discuss their critical issues and solutions. Attended a reception for new Israeli Consul General, Chaim Shacham, along with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister, Danny Ayalon. Conducted our 16<sup>th</sup> town hall meeting in Palm Beach Gardens, special thanks to the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department. The meeting was recorded live by CSPAN, click [here](#) for video:

- **Wednesday, 31 August**, met with Ben Baldanza, CEO of Spirit Airlines, which is headquartered in South Florida. We discussed market-based solutions to improving the Ft. Lauderdale airline industry and how we can set the conditions to create economic and job growth here in South Florida. Visited with a great group of seniors at the Senior Corps Volunteer program, where seniors volunteer to support seniors. Spoke to the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce on the recent trip to Israel and the need to improve our joint commitment to sharing innovation and technological growth and exchange with businesses between America and Israel. Spoke to at-risk youth at the Ft. Lauderdale AMIKids alternative school, about "Choices and Consequences." Ended the day with a steak dinner night at VFW Post 4141 in Delray Beach. Good chow!

## Small Business Spotlight



**Century Pool Service**

**Location:**

201 SE 10th Ave  
Boynton Beach, FL 33435  
561-737-8605

**Owners:** Geoff and Kerry Thornton

**Since:** 1983

**Staff:** 10 employees

**Surviving the Recession:**

*"We took a good look at ways that we could cut back our expenses. We moved the business to a different location and were able to save on the rent. We decided to do away with our Yellow Page advertising.*

*We also found that many of our customers are looking for someone reliable to watch their home when they are away so we have added that to our services." Kerry Thornton*

## Photo Highlights



Click [here](#) for all of Congressman West's photos from August

## Did you miss it?

Click below to watch my entire August 30th town hall aired on CSPAN:

- **Thursday, 1 September**, Addressed the Deerfield Beach Chamber of Commerce breakfast. Visited with Slavik 401K and PEO (Professional Employment Organization) Executives to discuss how they provide administrative services for small businesses --and the tax and regulatory issues they are encountering. Also addressed the employees. For the third straight year, addressed the Lifelong Learning Education Institute at Nova Southeastern University providing a Washington update and sharing of insights and perspectives of my first eight months in elected office. Closed the evening with a presentation to the Jewish Community Center of Boca Raton on my week-long trip to Israel.

- **Friday, 2 September**, Participated in the dedication ceremony of the Women's, African-American, and 442nd Regimental Combat Team Memorials at the Boynton Beach Veterans Centennial Park. The event was attended by the Consul Generals of France and Japan, and it was held on the anniversary of V-J Day. There were several French Legion of Honor Medals presented to local World War II heroes. Met with Andrea Plescia at the Palm Beach Gardens 9-11 Memorial to discuss the loss of her firefighter cousin, Frank Anthony Palumbo, 10 years ago.

- **Saturday, 3 September**, celebrated the return of the "most wonderful time of the year" -- the beginning of college football season. I wish the best to all of you out there and your teams as we again renew the tradition that is truly American --football season!

- **Sunday, 4 September**, rode my motorcycle as the Grand Marshall for the "Death with Dignity" veterans support group, which ensures all veterans who pass here in our local area receive a proper military burial, with honors.



## Upcoming Events



**Rep. West hosts screening**  
*Sacrificed Survivors: The Untold Story of the Ground Zero Mega Mosque:*  
 Sept. 7th

**Rep. West Tele-Town Hall:** Sept. 21st

**"Blacks in the Military":**  
 Rep. West hosts CBC Discussion,  
 Washington, DC:  
 Sept. 22nd

**District town halls:**  
 Sept. 27th and 28th

### Rep. West talks to at risk teens about "Consequences and Choices"



**(Fort Lauderdale)**----- Representative West spoke to more than two dozen children at AMIKids Greater Fort Lauderdale, Wednesday, August 31st, giving them encouragement and speaking of his own childhood growing up in inner city Atlanta.

"I wasn't perfect as a child," West said. "We all make mistakes, and

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growing up in the rough neighborhoods of Atlanta, I know the pressures out there. You have your whole life ahead of you. It's up to you what to do from this point forward."

Many of the teenagers in the audience have struggled with youth crime, violence, substance abuse and poor academic performance. They take part in the AMIkids program for three months so they can work on their GED or re-entry into the traditional school setting.

"We all have choices that have consequences," West told the children. "Don't let anyone ever tell you there is a limit to what you can achieve. Never forget you live in the greatest country the world has ever known."

AMIkids GFL, formerly known as FOSI American Maritime Institute, originally taught maritime skills to youth in the Broward County Community. AMIkids GFL is now part of the Juvenile Justice Education Program; and, while it is a private school, it is aligned with the Broward County School System.

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