

CONGRESSWOMAN ELAINE LURIA



*This picture was taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. *

FIRST TERM IN OFFICE ACHIEVEMENTS & UPDATES



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edmunds', written in a cursive style.

Be Good, Do Good Work

"Be good, do good work." This simple philosophy guided me in the Navy when I commanded a combat-ready unit of 400 sailors. While I am no longer serving in the Navy, this same philosophy continues to impact how my team and I operate.

As your Congresswoman, I will always strive to "be good" by leading with integrity and treating everyone with respect. I have made difficult decisions to better serve my fellow Coastal Virginians. You have my word that I will treat everyone with empathy, regardless of whether we agree on every issue. This means maintaining an active presence in the community and meeting with those who hold different beliefs. We all have an interest in upholding our nation's and community's values.

Every day, my team and I wake up determined to "do good work" on behalf of the hardworking people of Coastal Virginia. Whether I am crafting bills to help our military veterans, my team is assisting constituents with issues pertaining to federal agencies, or I am sending you newsletters to keep you updated on the latest happenings in our community, we are striving to be the best resource for you!

Over the past two years, my team and I have achieved tangible results for Coastal Virginians. I passed ten bills, recovered over \$4 million in funds owed to constituents from government agencies, and more! This booklet will provide an overview of how my team and I are continuing to serve you!

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BILLS INTRODUCED



As your member of Congress, I am working across party lines to successfully advocate for the needs of our community. Over the last two years, I championed and led bills to protect our environment, assist our veterans, and support small business owners.

10
BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW



579
BILLS COSPONSORED



85%
OF MY BILLS ARE BIPARTISAN

ACHIEVING RESULTS FOR COASTAL VIRGINIANS

790

CASES WITH
FEDERAL AGENCIES
RESOLVED

\$461,901,500

IN GRANT FUNDING
SECURED



Coastal Virginians deserve to have their concerns addressed in a timely and empathetic manner. My team and I are determined to solve problems and ensure our government works for Coastal Virginians.



\$4,373,787

RECOVERED FOR
CONSTITUENTS

57

TOWN HALLS,
ROUNDTABLES, AND
OPEN HOUSES



84,636

CONSTITUENT
RESPONSE LETTERS
SENT



THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT

The Chesapeake Bay is our nation's largest estuary and provides over \$100 billion in economic value every year. One of my top priorities is keeping our Chesapeake Bay clean and thriving for future generations of Coastal Virginians.

In 2019, I introduced the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act to fully fund the Chesapeake Bay Program at a level of \$455 million over the next five years. The Chesapeake Bay Program gives states the resources they need to restore and clean the Bay.

My Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act passed the House in February 2020 and finally became law as part of the America's Conservation Enhancement Act in November 2020. This new law will help us ensure a prosperous future for our community.

Throughout my first term, I have been a staunch advocate for our Chesapeake Bay. In 2020, I fought to secure \$87.5 million for the Chesapeake Bay Program in 2021. This builds on my legislative successes from 2019, in which I secured \$85 million for the program.

THE VETERANS COMPENSATION COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT

During my first term, I introduced the Veterans Compensation Cost of Living Act in 2019 and 2020. Both bills became law and implement cost-of-living increases for wartime disability compensation, compensation for dependents, clothing allowance, dependency and indemnity compensation to surviving spouses, and dependency and indemnity compensation to children. This is a necessary step to ensure that many veterans and their families can maintain the value of their benefits and quality of life.



THE GOLD STAR FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT

An unintended consequence of the 2017 Republican tax law caused Gold Star families to experience drastic tax increases. This was because of the way the law changed the taxation of children's assets. Gold Star families already paid the ultimate price, and it broke my heart when a surviving spouse from Coastal Virginia alerted me to this injustice.

In 2019, I introduced the Gold Star Families Tax Relief Act to repeal this shameful tax increase. My bill eventually passed the House as part of the SECURE Act and became law as part of a larger appropriations package. It was an honor to champion the cause of our most heroic families and deliver much-needed relief.





HONORING THE LIFE OF KEITH COX, A LOCAL HERO

On May 31, 2019, tragedy struck our Coastal Virginia community when a gunman opened fire and killed twelve innocent people at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center. During our community's darkest hour, Keith Cox made us proud when he sacrificed his own life to protect his coworkers. During the shooting, Keith refused to take refuge, stating, "I've got to see if anyone needs help!" He courageously stood watch and checked on his colleagues, voluntarily exposing himself to a deadly line of fire. In our community's darkest hour, Keith prioritized the safety of his colleagues over his own.

In 2019, I was proud to introduce a bill to name a local post office after Keith. This bill eventually became law, and the post office at 2509 George Mason Drive in Virginia Beach was dedicated to Keith last January.

This post office serves as a physical reminder of Keith's sacrifice and the lives he saved on that dark day. I thank the Virginia delegation for supporting this bipartisan bill, which honors Keith's legacy and his immeasurable impact on Virginia Beach.

THE VA WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY ACT

Our servicemembers put themselves in harm's way to protect American freedom. It is only right that Congress uphold its end of the promise by giving disabled veterans the care they earned.

In 2019, I introduced the VA Website Accessibility Act to ensure that veterans affected by blindness or hearing loss can still take advantage of everything the VA has to offer online.

Recently, this overdue legislation finally became law. This new law requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study of all VA websites to determine whether the websites are accessible to individuals with disabilities. It also directs the Secretary to submit a report on which aspects of VA websites are not accessible and how VA will bring them into compliance.



THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I secured key National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) priorities that position Coastal Virginia to continue its critical role in securing America

I was pleased to support the Fiscal Year 2021 NDAA, which will ensure the safety of all Americans, give our troops a pay raise, and help veterans receive the benefits they earned.

Included in the NDAA are:

- **My Military Pilots Cancer Incidence Study Act**, to study the incidence of cancer diagnoses and mortality among military aviators and aviation support personnel;

- **A three percent pay raise for our troops;**
- **\$1.4 billion to protect military communities from PFAS;**
- **Funding for military construction in Hampton Roads**, including projects at Naval Station Norfolk, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Wallops Island, and Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Story;
- **My amendment requiring the Secretary of Defense to establish a small space launch policy.** This will bolster launch sites like NASA Wallops' Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport; and,
- **The TRICARE ECHO Improvement Act**, which I co-introduced to help military families that depend on Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers.



HIGHLIGHTED BILLS

The Equality Act

I was proud to cosponsor this bipartisan bill, which would amend existing civil rights law to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected characteristics. The Equality Act would also prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in public spaces and services and federally funded programs. Just over a year ago, I joined my colleagues in the House of Representatives in voting to pass this overdue legislation.



The George Floyd Justice In Policing Act

Last summer I voted for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which creates an effective and comprehensive plan to mend the relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

This bill implements overdue changes, such as banning chokeholds and no-knock warrant, prohibiting racial profiling, establishing a National Police Misconduct Registry to prevent officers who are fired from moving to another jurisdiction without any accountability, and many others.

The Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act

This bill will give Medicare the power to negotiate directly with drug companies to lower drug prices for Coastal Virginians covered by private insurance and Medicare. My amendment to strengthen this provision was incorporated into the House-passed bill. The amendment would ensure that federal employees benefit from the lower drug prices that Medicare negotiates. This would help 30,000 federal workers in Virginia's Second Congressional District benefit from the newly lowered drug prices.



HIGHLIGHTED BILLS

The Protecting Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions Act

I was pleased to vote for this bill, which would safeguard current protections for Americans living with pre-existing conditions. All Americans deserve access to affordable health care, and that most certainly includes people living with pre-existing conditions



The Defend Our Coast Act

Offshore drilling has the potential to hurt our environment, our military, and our economy. The Defend Our Coast Act was one of the first bills I cosponsored. It would prohibit the Department of Interior from issuing leases for the exploration, development, or production of oil or gas off the coasts of Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and Delaware.

The RESTAURANTS Act

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented challenges for local foodservice businesses. That is why I championed the RESTAURANTS Act. This bipartisan bill would establish a \$120 billion grant fund to distribute forgivable loans to foodservice, dining establishments, and caterers.



HIGHLIGHTED BILLS



THE FEMA EMPOWERING ESSENTIAL DELIVERIES (FEED) ACT

This bipartisan bill would authorize FEMA to allow states to proactively distribute meals to people in need and provide relief for struggling restaurants. It would empower FEMA to cover 100 percent of emergency and disaster-related costs to states and localities. This will help states partner with restaurants and nonprofits to prepare nutritious meals for vulnerable Americans. These steps strive to reduce food waste while providing much-needed assistance to families throughout our communities.

THE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE INTERNET FOR ALL ACT

Reliable internet access is no longer a luxury, but a crucial piece of infrastructure that people depend on for their jobs and students use to learn. By making reliable internet more accessible, we can open new work and educational opportunities for Coastal Virginians. I cosponsored the Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act, which would invest \$100 billion to construct high-speed broadband infrastructure in underserved communities to close the digital divide.



THE COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY ACT

A quality education is invaluable, and we must provide all students the resources and tools they need to compete in our global economy, including making college more affordable. That is why I cosponsored the College Affordability Act, which is a comprehensive legislative package that addresses issues like reforming federal student loan programs, creating a federal-state partnership to make attending college more affordable, improving campus safety, and much more.



Casework

Whether you need your passport expedited, have not received your VA benefits, or are seeking Social Security assistance, my team is ready to serve you!

Over the past two years, my team and I have helped recover over \$4 million owed to Coastal Virginians from government agencies. During the Coronavirus pandemic, we have also helped local businesses receive over \$500,000 in Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

My office can assist you with matters, such as IRS issues, federal grants and loans, and veterans' benefits and services. Please feel free to reach out to my office, my team will be glad to assist!



DELIVERING RESULTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

As a former small business owner, I understand the frustrations that many small business owners are feeling during this difficult time. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, my team and I are continuing to provide our business community with timely assistance.

Every day we work with federal agencies to ensure that small business owners can receive the support they need. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we helped small business owners secure over \$500,000 in PPP and EIDL loans. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and we remain committed to helping them during this challenging time.



ASSISTING OUR MILITARY VETERANS

As a 20-year Navy veteran, I am working in Congress to provide our servicemembers, military veterans, and their families with the resources, benefits, and care they need to succeed. In addition to passing legislation like the Veterans Compensation Cost of Living Act and the VA Website Accessibility Act, my team and I work with federal agencies like the VA to ensure veterans receive the benefits they earned.

Over the past two years, my team and I have helped countless veterans navigate the VA's bureaucracy, receive past due benefit payments, and more! In total, we helped recover over \$700,000 in benefits owed to constituents. If you are a veteran in need of assistance with a government agency, please contact my office. My team and I stand ready and eager to help you!

[**Click here to submit a request for help!**](#)

CONSTITUENT TESTIMONIALS



JENNIFER LEE
BALONEK OF
VIRGINIA
BEACH

"You got my overseas birth certificate from the Dept. of State overnighted to me just in time for me to start my new job! The result is I will start work at a new job with hours that are more conducive to raising my son and will be eligible for benefits in short order. Thank you for helping me on my journey towards a sustainable career for myself and my son."



JEFFREY
PHILLIPS OF
YORKTOWN

"Congresswoman Luria's office helped me with a pay benefits issue I had pending with the VA. Her Peninsula caseworker was awesome! Twice I had an email waiting for me, updating me on my issue, before I asked. I wish ANY other part of our government worked that well!"



ROBERT
REDDING
OF VIRGINIA
BEACH

"Your office worked with several agencies to help direct me to the appropriate offices to help secure health coverage for my wife. Your staff did an excellent job of helping me with my case. Everything went well."

CONSTITUENT TESTIMONIALS



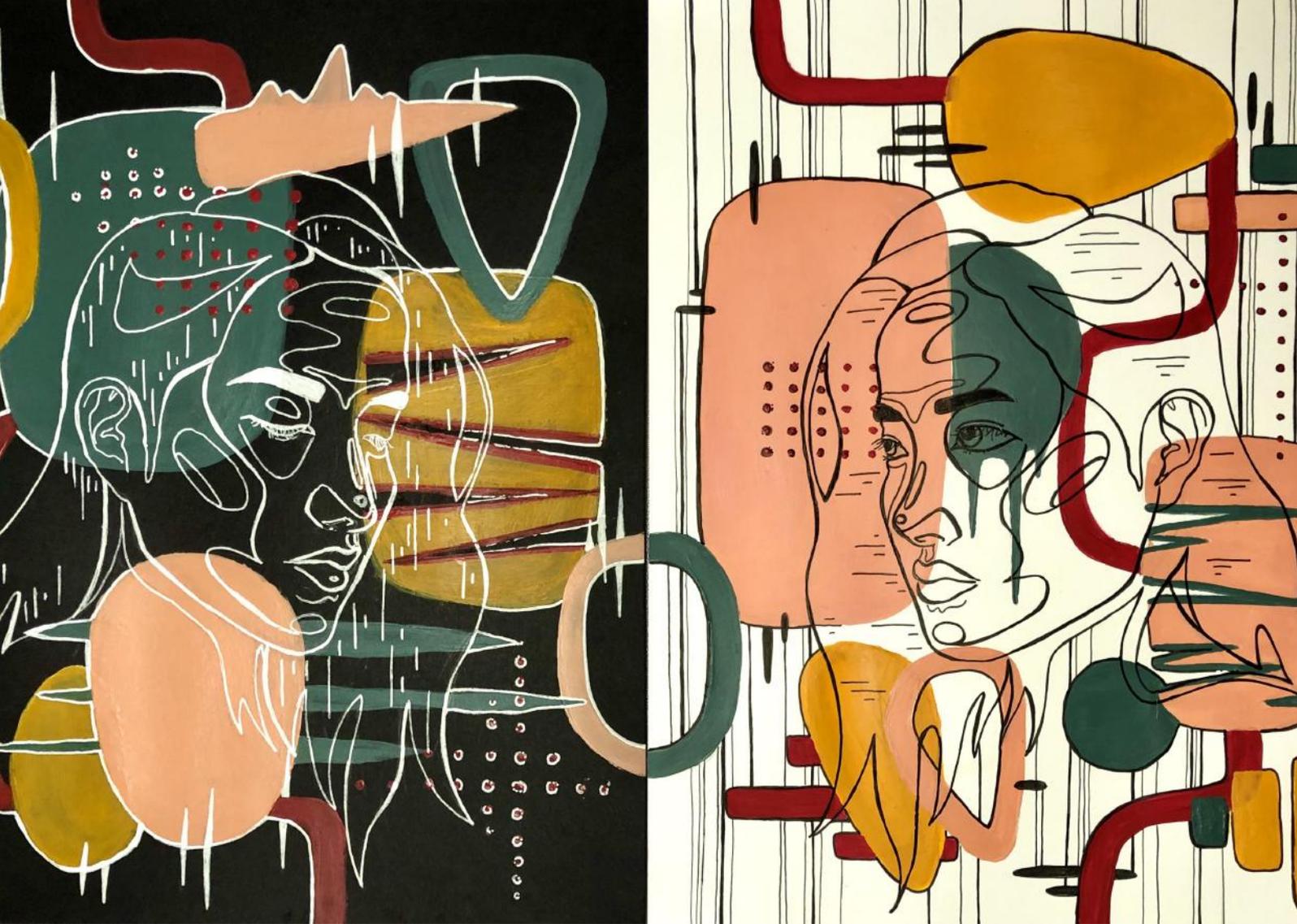
CANDI ALVIN OF VIRGINIA BEACH

"Ms. [Juanita] Williams along with Caleb [Smith] have done an amazing job with assisting our residents at River Pointe Nursing and Rehab to get their Social Security benefits reinstated. They have been a great help as some of the patients have been without benefits for months. [With] one patient, they were able to get her over \$15,000 in benefits which helped pay for the cost of her care and have some money left over."



OTIS TAYLOR OF HAMPTON

"I filed an appeal with the VA in 2008 and still had not heard anything about the status of my claim. Your office got me the answers and the back pay I was due in less than three months. Your office's willingness to listen to my complaint and follow up with different agencies made the difference."



THE CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

Every year, my team and I hold an annual art competition to showcase the talents and gifts of Coastal Virginia's high school students. We have a panel of local artists, art professors, and art professionals critique the submissions and determine the winners. They choose an overall winner whose artwork is displayed in the U.S. Capitol and regional winners whose artwork is displayed in our district offices.

Our winning submission for 2020 was a painting entitled "Distorted by Disease" by Christina Liu, a senior from Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach. The artwork, which is above, is a response to the racism toward Asian-Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. Christina created this painting to portray her identity as a Chinese American during this challenging time. She stated, "As you find your identity, you can't choose how you are viewed."

THE CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

As a naval officer who operated nuclear reactors, I know how important it is to keep Coastal Virginian students engaged and interested in STEM-related coursework and activities. Over the past two years, my office and I hosted the Congressional App Challenge, a non-partisan competition, in which students create original applications.

This year's winning submission is an application called Wellvoyage, which Swara Chokshi of Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach designed to educate travelers about medical information and resources when they are abroad. I extend my gratitude to the judges and applicants for the time they spent to make these competitions successful!





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