

Dear Friends,

First of all, with Yom Kippur beginning this evening, I would like to wish those observing G'mar Chatima Tova. May you have an easy fast.

Saturday, I had the honor of attending 9/11 ceremonies throughout my district, as well as the County ceremony at The Rising at Kensico Dam in Valhalla. People coming together, 20 years after 9/11, to remember the victims, celebrate the heroes, and to comfort each other on a day whose pain is still fresh for so many. I personally found so much solace being with friends and fellow New Yorkers on this day of sadness and hope.

For those of us who lived through September 11, 2001... where we were, what we were doing, and what we saw... are indelibly etched in our minds. I was working in mid-town Manhattan. My company's offices were on a high floor with a superb view of lower Manhattan, right down to the Twin Towers. It was a beautiful, crystal clear morning.

After the first plane hit the North Tower, we rushed to the windows, seeing smoke rising high and listening to the initial reports that a small plane had veered off course and crashed into the building. When the second plane hit the South Tower, it was clear that this was not an accident but an attack on our country. We watched in horror and disbelief as the buildings collapsed. We heard the sirens of hundreds of ambulances, fire trucks, and other rescue vehicles rushing down the East Side Highway.

Later would come the plane crash at the Pentagon, and the crash of Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The searing images from that day will haunt me forever.

On Saturday, we remembered and honored those who perished that day. **Never will we forget the victims, the heroic first responders (many of whom lost their lives that day), and the pain of the families who lost their loved ones.** 20 years later, our nation continues to grieve for them. Let us also honor and remember today the thousands of first responders and survivors who have lost their lives in years since, as the result of 9/11-related illnesses.

Following 9/11, we came together as a nation sharing – as we do now – the fierce determination to stand together to protect our democracy and our freedoms. And just as there are now, we had strong differences of opinion back then. As we reflect on our loss 20 years later, let us use this opportunity to remember that there will always be more that brings us together as a country than tears us apart.



Thank you to my Chief of Staff, Heather Lackey, who attended some of the ceremonies I could not (some of those images are here as well). I truly wish I could have been at them all.

Resources for Those Struggling After Ida

Although my district was not as critically impacted by Hurricane Ida as some of the surrounding areas, there were some whose lives have been completely turned upside down. I visited people in Harrison whose homes were severely damaged, including some that are not habitable at this time. There was even a harrowing account of a father having to carry his small children out of the house over his head because the water surrounding them was up to his chest and rising.

Sunday, I visited the **FEMA Disaster Recovery Center located at 169 Mt. Pleasant Avenue in the Village of Mamaroneck**, which serves anyone in need. With people displaced from their homes (some living in tents and their cars), I discussed with staff the urgent need for additional FEMA resources. I'll be working with my colleagues to pursue what's needed.

If you have damages and need help, please reach out to our office. We also have this <u>information packet</u> that might be of help. I would also suggest reviewing <u>FEMA's publication on</u> <u>Help After a Disaster</u> (also available <u>En Español</u>).

It may take a long time for people, houses and businesses to recover from this and we'd like to help as much a possible.



Nominations Open - Businesses that Excel in Providing Opportunities to People with Disabilities

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. As Chair of the Subcommittee for Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities, I especially would like to highlight this month.

Since taking office in January, I have met with many advocates, parents of children with disabilities, and people with disabilities themselves. There are many barriers and obstacles for this community and one of the largest ones is employment opportunities. There are so many people that want to work but are unable to find employment. We have also met with some companies that made it their mission to hire people with disabilities, even creating jobs for this sole purpose.

I would like to recognize these businesses and shine a spotlight on them to bring awareness to this issue, and to also encourage others to follow in their footsteps. Please help me by <u>nominating</u> <u>businesses</u> within the 93rd Assembly District that you feel excel in hiring and nurturing people with disabilities. The towns of the 93rd District are Bedford, Harrison, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, Mount Kisco, North Salem, and approximately half of White Plains (please reach out to us and we can confirm the business's district).

<u>Please click here to download the application</u>. The due date is Monday, October 4th. We will announce the winners at the end of October.

Internship Opportunity!

We are seeking dedicated and proactive interns for our district office, to provide assistance (under direct supervision) with administrative projects and legislative research. Our district office is located in Mount Kisco.

Currently, we have staff AND interns in the office, but we also have staff and interns working entirely remotely, although in-office interns are preferable. We practice social distancing and wear masks in the office, and we keep the number of people in the office at one time limited. The hours are flexible, especially for remote work.

Our office has a small staff, so other tasks and duties may arise in addition to the ones listed below.

Main Responsibilities

In the office: Data entry, email organization, answering phones, research, making phone calls, and assorted other office duties and tasks

Remotely: Research (on bills, issues, the district, etc.), making phone calls

Please note that this internship is unpaid; however, if an intern's school will allow for school credit, we are happy to work with them to obtain it. Please send resumes and cover letters to my Chief of Staff, Heather Lackey, at Lackeyh@nyassembly.gov or call her at 914-244-4450 with any questions.

Reminder! Summer Reading Program Materials Submission



A reminder that if your child participated in the Assembly's Annual Summer Reading Challenge, please send in the materials to <u>burdickc@nyassembly.gov</u>. I will send your child an Assembly Excellence in Reading certificate, to recognize their efforts and dedication.

Thank you to all who participated!

As always, if there are any issues that you would like to see covered in a future newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at <u>burdickc@nyassembly.gov</u> (or simply reply to this email). **Please also follow me on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u> for the most up-to-date information.**

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can find them here.

Sincerely yours,

Chis Burdick

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