



RYAN MACKENZIE

U.S. CONGRESS

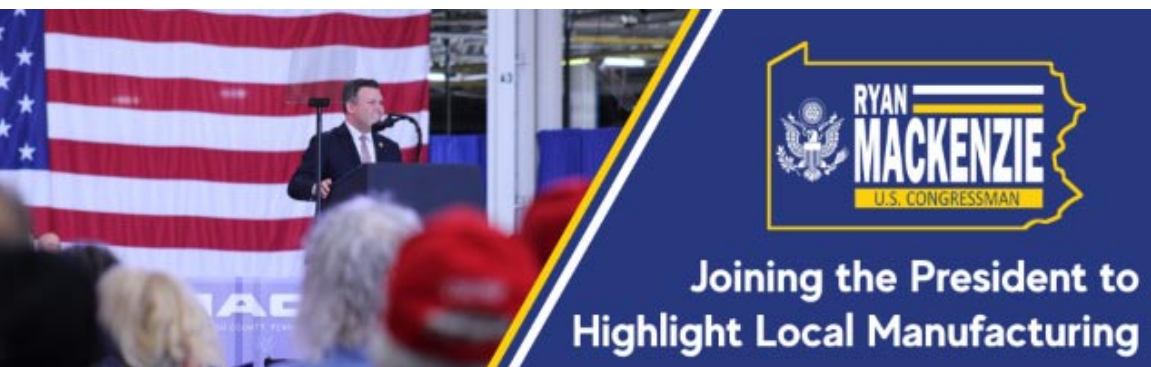


By Congressman Ryan Mackenzie

Last week, firefighters from across the Lehigh Valley responded to a devastating six-alarm fire on Front Street in Allentown that displaced residents and required a coordinated response from departments throughout the region. We're grateful to the members of the Allentown Fire Department, as well as the firefighters and emergency personnel from neighboring communities, who worked through dangerous conditions to protect lives and limit further damage.

Just days before the fire, I had the opportunity to join Allentown Fire Department Engine 6 for a ride-along, where I saw firsthand the professionalism, dedication, and teamwork that they bring to the job every day. The response on Wednesday night demonstrated that same unwavering commitment to keeping our communities safe.

Our first responders deserve our support both on and off the job. That's why I co-sponsored the bipartisan Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act, which establishes a new FHA mortgage insurance program to help eligible first-time homebuyers—including firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMTs, paramedics, and teachers—purchase a home with no down payment.



By Congressman Ryan Mackenzie

Last week, I welcomed President Trump to Mack Trucks in Macungie, where we highlighted the continued strength of manufacturing in the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos and the importance of supporting American workers.

Our region is seeing significant private-sector investment, including hundreds of new manufacturing jobs from companies like Eli Lilly, Nokia, B. Braun, and Mack Trucks. In Congress, I'm working to build on that momentum by reducing barriers to investment, supporting pro-growth policies, and strengthening domestic manufacturing.

That's why I worked to secure a \$47 million appropriation for Mack Defense to support the continued manufacturing of M917A3 Heavy Dump Trucks right here in the Lehigh Valley. This investment helps sustain highly skilled local jobs while ensuring our servicemembers have the equipment they need to support critical military operations.



Congressional Art Competition Winner Ella Chen

By Congressman Ryan Mackenzie

I recently had the opportunity to welcome Ella Chen, the winner of this year's Congressional Art Competition for Pennsylvania's Seventh District, to the U.S. Capitol. Ella's outstanding charcoal piece, Sweet Dreams, will be displayed in the halls of the Capitol alongside winning artwork from congressional districts across the country for the next year.

The Congressional Art Competition is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the incredible talent of young artists from the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos. Congratulations again to Ella and to all of this year's participants for sharing their creativity and hard work.

Clean Team Workforce June Employee of the Month

By Stefanie Appel

ALLENTOWN, PA – The Clean Team Workforce congratulates its Employee of the Month for June, Felix D. Felix was born and raised in Allentown and attended public schools. He grew up in a loving home with both parents, his grandmother, and siblings. Unfortunately, in high school, Felix's life changed, and he started using drugs.

He quit school before graduating and worked various jobs in the restaurant industry for several years before he eventually became homeless and in trouble with the law. In January, Felix came to the Allentown Rescue Mission looking for help. "I knew I needed to make better choices for my life. If I stayed on the path I was on, I could have ended up back on the streets or even back in jail," Felix admitted. After learning about the Mission's eight-week Transformation Program, which provides 120 hours of Bible and life skills classes, Felix knew it was a program he wanted to join.

While in the program, he quickly became a star student. He assisted other men who were struggling with the rigors of the program. He helped them with their studies and acted as a mediator to resolve conflicts among guests, all while working on himself. Felix graduated from the Transformation Program and immediately began working for the Clean Team Workforce. He started working various jobs, such as landscaping and junk removal, and within a short amount of time, he proved to be a capable and hard worker. So, when an intake position became available in the Allentown Rescue Mission's Emergency Shelter, Felix earned the job.

His positive outlook, natural ability for conflict resolution, and welcoming skills have made him a tremendous asset to have in the shelter environment. Felix has set many attainable goals for himself. He would like to get his driver's license and save money for an apartment, but beyond that, he hopes to get his GED, become a certified nursing assistant, and reconnect with his eleven-year-old son. He will continue to strengthen his faith, knowing that God is guiding him through every challenge. "With hope, determination, and God's support, I believe I can build a better future and help others along the way," Felix states.

