

House GOP taxwriter Jackie Walorski killed in car accident

Capitol Hill is mourning the sudden loss of House Ways and Means Committee member Jackie Walorski, R-Ind., who was killed in a car accident in her home state on August 3. The congresswoman, first elected in 2012, had served on Ways and Means since 2017 and was the top Republican on that panel's Worker and Family Support Subcommittee. She was also the ranking Republican on the House Ethics Committee and a member of the GOP whip team.

On her House website, Walorski described her work on the taxwriting committee as "helping small businesses and manufacturers grow, expanding opportunities for American workers to succeed, and empowering individuals and families to thrive." She was also a strong advocate for the agriculture and medical device industries.

She began her career as a television reporter in South Bend, Ind., spent four years doing nonprofit and missionary work in Romania with her husband, and came to Congress after serving three terms in the Indiana House of Representatives.

Walorski's communications director, Emma Thomson, and her district director, Zachery Potts, were also killed in this week's accident, as was the driver of the other car involved.

In a statement following the announcement of Walorski's death, Ways and Means ranking Republican Kevin Brady of Texas described her as "a happy Hoosier who would light up the room with her joy, passion, brilliance, and love of life."

"Her midwestern values of hard work, fairness, and kindness were a model for members. There was nothing she couldn't do: She was a tough, fearless advocate for her district, and she was a champion of vulnerable children and families as leader of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support," Brady said.

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