

State of the Nation addressed by Davidson By Susan Hartley

The Early Bird
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Susan Hartley- The Early Bird

Congressman Warren Davidson, 3rd from left, presents Tony Roberts, chairman of the Darke County Board of Directors with a letter of appreciation. Also pictured are Jeff Kniese, chairman of chamber's legislative committee and Sharon Deschambeau, chamber president.

DARKE COUNTY – Ohio Eighth District Congressman Warren Davidson was the guest speaker during the Darke County Chamber of Commerce State of the Nation legislative luncheon held Friday, Sept. 22 at the Brethren Retirement Community.

Davidson spoke to 100 guests, including local business and organizational leaders, high school students and state officials invited to attend.

Before answering questions from the audience, Davidson gave a few remarks, saying he was grateful to “be your voice. It’s pretty surreal, very humbling.”

Davidson explained how he had spent the morning in Darke County, attending a Coalition for a Healthy Darke County Board of Directors meeting at Wayne HealthCare and visiting the Council on Rural Services ACES program, where he became informed about challenges facing the county, including the drug abuse problem and issues facing youth in need of alternative schooling.

Several individuals posed questions to Davidson about issues facing Congress, including the volatile situation with North Korea.

Davidson encouraged attendees to take the time to watch President Donald Trump’s recent address to the United Nations, if they hadn’t already.

“North Korea is basically rejecting every path that’s out there,” he said. “The failure to act is not really an option.”

Another topic Davidson addressed included changes being discussed on tax reform – he’s for simplifying – and shared he believes changes should be “big, bold and permanent.”

Davidson also shared some of his beliefs on border security and DACA – Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals – stating he is in favor of “working on ways for people to be here legally, make it easier” for those who legally qualify for U.S. citizenship.

He also would like to explore changing the United State’s policy on birthright citizenship – babies born in this country to parents of non-citizens.

Taking a look at the number and length of student visas also should be a top priority, said Davidson. “Over half of the PhD students (attending U.S. colleges and universities) are not Americans,” he said noting a figure of 40 percent of student visa holders are overstaying their allotted time in the U.S.

As for the drug trafficking issues between Mexico and the U.S., Davidson said Mexico “looks at the United States as the drug problem because there is a demand from us for drugs.”

Following the State of the Nation, Davidson presented a letter of appreciation to Anthony Robert, chairman of the chamber’s board of directors.

In part, the letter states: “I would like to express my appreciation for the Darke County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber’s emphasis on advocacy is to be commended. In the year and a half since my election to Congress, the Chamber has kept my office up-to-date on the challenges and solutions faced by businesses through a variety of opportunities including legislative committee meetings, HR council meetings, roundtable discussions and conferences.

“Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to answer questions and update your members on my work in Washington.”

The State of the Nation event was sponsored by Premier Health and Wall Brothers.

PHOTO CAPTION: Congressman Warren Davidson, 3rd from left, presents Tony Roberts, chairman of the Darke County Board of Directors with a letter of appreciation. Also pictured are Jeff Kniese, chairman of chamber’s legislative committee and Sharon Deschambeau, chamber president. (Susan Hartley photo)