

ROGERS: Other elected officials spoke at the summit, including Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman

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overdose-reversal drug naloxone, and investments in education, like the Drug Enforcement Agency’s ‘One Pill Can Kill’ fentanyl awareness campaign. When you combine those investments with a secure border, I’m confident that we will continue to see more lives saved in the future.”

The summit featured keynote remarks from U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., the new Director of the National Institutes of Health Dr. Jay Battacharya, and Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Congressman Rogers presented Dr. Volkow with the Beacon of Hope Award for her cutting-edge scientific research on the brain and addiction.

On Wednesday, Congressman Rogers had a fireside chat on stage with U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi, who first attended the conference in 2013 when she was Florida’s Attorney General. Since being named the nation’s Chief Law Enforcement Officer, she has announced a federal drug bust by the U.S. Coast Guard resulting in a half billion dollars of cocaine, as well as the arrests of 29 Mexican cartel members, including a kingpin who had been on the DEA’s top ten list for four decades for killing DEA Agent Kiki Camarena in the 1980s.

“After his father was tortured and killed, his mother gave her son — who is now the judge — her husband’s handcuffs

from DEA. And guess who was hand-cuffed with his father’s hand-cuffs? It may take a while sometimes, but they are getting to see justice,” said Attorney General Bondi. “President Trump gave us a clear directive to make America safe again, so we are getting back to the basics. Chairman Rogers, thank you for what you are doing throughout our country to fight for victims of crime, and all of you here at the summit.”

“Each one of you have been touched by this disease, and my family is no exception. I lost my brother, who was my closest friend, to this disease.” said Sec. Kennedy, who also shared his own journey of recovery, and the loss of other family members to drug-related deaths. “We have an addiction and overdose crisis in this country. We lost double the number of people last year to this crisis than we lost in the Vietnam War. We need to pay more attention to this crisis, which is a national security threat and a threat to everything that we love about our country.”

Congressman Rogers was joined by some of his congressional colleagues on Tuesday for a federal discussion, including Congressmen Brett Guthrie (KY-02), James Comer (KY-01), Tony Gonzales (TX-23), and Andrew Clyde (GA-09). They discussed the importance of securing America’s borders, shutting down dangerous drug cartels, creating more access to effective treatment and recovery options, and improving education

and prevention efforts in every community.

“A one-quarter reduction in overdose deaths is not only a testament to the work of everyone at this summit – it’s a generational transformation taking place on our watch. We lost nearly an entire generation to drug overdose deaths nationwide in the early 2000s, and today, we can celebrate a generation of prevention and recovery,” said Congressman Rogers.

Karen Kelly, Chief of Staff for Congressman Rogers, moderated the event. She was the founding President and CEO of Operation UNITE, a nonprofit organization created by Congressman Rogers in 2003 to first combat the drug abuse crisis in Kentucky’s Appalachian region, establishing the model of success now used at the national level.

Each congressional panelist shared details about challenges in their home districts, successful changes in bipartisan policy and legislation, and the drive behind

their continued life-saving efforts.

“One of the major factors leading to our historic reduction in drug overdose deaths, is the broad access to naloxone. It is a life-saving drug. I know it doesn’t answer all our problems, but it has saved countless lives on the spot during active overdoses in Kentucky and across the country,” said Rep. Guthrie, Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

“We also know that fentanyl substances are being made in China and then trafficked across our borders and into our communities, and that’s why we need to support President Trump’s effective work to secure our borders. We are also working to get the HALT Fentanyl Act across the finish line to permanently extend the Schedule I classification for fentanyl-related substances.”

“Fentanyl is the deadliest drug that we have ever seen in America, so we need to ensure that our law enforcement agencies have the

tools they need to detect drugs at the border and stop them from coming into our communities. President Trump nearly secured our borders overnight, putting drug cartels on the run, so we need to support his efforts at the border,” said Rep. Comer, Chairman of the House Oversight Committee. “We have also learned the value of investing in recovery centers across the country. I would encourage everyone to visit one of the centers and witness how they are overcoming addiction, earning their GEDs and learning new skills to reenter our workforce. It’s incredible to see the transformation taking place in the lives of people in recovery.”

“I represent the largest border district in Congress—stretching more than 800 miles of our southern border. For far too long, cartels have exploited loopholes in our immigration system to peddle drugs into our country. I’ve seen firsthand the toll the drug epidemic has taken on communities

not only in Texas but across the country. That’s why I’ve made bringing local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to the table a top priority. I frequently meet with law enforcement in my district and bring sheriffs, officers, and agents at all levels together for roundtables to share information and best practices for combatting human and drug trafficking,” said Rep. Gonzales. “Thank you to the Dean of the House of Representatives, Hal Rogers, for inviting me to speak on this panel. I look forward to continuing our work on the House Appropriations Committee to responsibly fund programs that curtail crime, invest in mental health services, and strengthen public safety initiatives.”

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Together, we can — and must — build on our progress to combat the opioid crisis, with the ultimate goal of ensuring no one loses another loved one to this epidemic. From targeting precursor chemicals to expanding comprehensive care for our veterans, I remain committed to bolstering prevention and recovery efforts in order to forge significant change and save American lives,” said Rep. Clyde.

Other elected officials spoke at the summit, including U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn from Tennessee and Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman, who presented Congressman Rogers with a challenge coin for his leadership in combatting the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



From left, Cynthia Rogers, Dr. Nora Volkow, Congressman Rogers, and Tom Vicini, President & CEO of Operation UNITE posed for a picture after Congressman Rogers presented Dr. Volkow with the Beacon of Hope Award for her cutting-edge scientific research on the brain and addiction.

stuff
we like

Some pearls of wisdom we compiled today — and a bunch of other stuff you could probably live without.

LIST-MANIA

WORST CITIES FOR ALLERGIES

Each year, more than 100 million people in the U.S. experience allergies, including seasonal pollen allergies. The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America has released its annual report for 2025, ranking the most challenging U.S. cities for those dealing with seasonal allergies. The top 100 U.S. cities were analyzed based on pollen levels, over-the-counter allergy medication use and access to allergists.

1. Wichita, Kan.

2. New Orleans, La.

3. Oklahoma City

4. Tulsa, Okla.

5. Memphis, Tenn.

6. Little Rock, Ark.

7. Raleigh, N.C.

8. Richmond, Va.

9. Greenville, S.C.

10. Greensboro, N.C.

74. Indianapolis

NOW PLAYING

• “THE ACCOUNTANT 2” (R): With the help of his estranged but highly lethal brother, an accountant applies his brilliant mind and less-than-legal methods to piece together an unsolved murder. Starring Ben Affleck and Jon Bernthal.



Driver Everett Slone and passenger Ricky Smith get ready to cruise.



James Frogge stands with his 1988 Zimmer Golden Spirit outside the Pulaski County Courthouse during Saturday’s car show.

SOMERNITES: 568 vehicles turned out this Saturday

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unique vehicles.

According to Somernites Cruise organizers, there were 568 vehicles that showed up, despite the concern that the weekend would be a rainy one.

The car show is not only a great way to get a look at all types of vehicles, but it’s also a way for people to connect with each other – finding common ground while talking about their shared passions.

Such was the case for Livingston, Tenn., resident James Frogge, who brought his unique 1988 Zimmer Golden Spirit, only to find a similar vehicle – a 1988 Tiffany Classic Coupe owned by Barbara and Richard Geyer from Burnside.

On the surface, both cars look eerily similar, with their color schemes, madcap four-pronged air horns, and extremely pronounced front end.

However, the Tiffany, which was made by Classic Motor Carriages in Miami, Fla., was built on a Mercury Cougar chassis, while the Golden Spirit, made by Zimmer Motor Cars in Pompano Beach, Fla., was based on a Ford Mustang.

Still, both vehicles were rare enough that their owners became fast friends.

As Richard Geyer explained, Frogge had initially parked somewhere else at the show, but when Frogge saw the Geyers’ car, he intentionally moved his to parked right next to them.

The Tiffany, noticeably, had a “For Sale” sign on the front. Barbara Geyer explained, “That’s my car. But it’s a little hard to drive because it has a long front end. ... I drove it some, but it kind of makes me nervous to drive it. The long front end is just hard to get used to.”

She said she would be looking for another classic “as soon as I sell this one.” She doesn’t have anything in particular in mind, she said, although she might look into getting a convertible.

Her husband said that there were only 1,500 of the Tiffanys built.

When Frogge was asked what attracted him to his Golden Spirit, he said it was “just something different to have. Everybody’s got Mustangs and Camaros and Chevys. I wanted something different.”

Unlike Barbara Geyer,

Frogge said he didn’t have any trouble driving his vehicle. “I don’t get enough good days to drive it. That’s the problem,” he said.

While classic cars have their own appeal, Somernites celebrates all makes and models, from the 103-year-old Model T that could be found near the Pulaski County Courthouse to the 2025 Corvette 3LT that was brought in by Somersett resident Paula Wells.

Wells said her Corvette was a Valentine’s Day present from her husband.

“I’m liking it. It’s very different from my other Corvette that I have,” she said.

Her other one, a 2018 C7, is a manual, whereas this one is an automatic, although it does have the option to switch to changing gears manually with the steering wheel paddles.

In comparing the two, Wells said the 2025 one drives more smoothly because it is an automatic, but the other one is a little more sporty.

“I do like the aspect of just pushing the button to let the top back (on the new one),” she said. “That makes it easy.”

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