

H.R. 6429, THE STEM JOBS ACT OF 2012

## HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues this week are attempting to make a case for the importance of education, yet their budget this year slashed funding for education and for basic and applied research, creating barriers for traditional students, returning students and worker training. This is not the approach to ensure our students have the skills they need to match the jobs that are available. And this is not the approach to capitalize on the American ingenuity that will lead to economic growth.

We know that students trained in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), are acquiring the skills to fill and succeed at the jobs of the future. In order to increase American competitiveness, create good paying jobs, and ensure our position on the global stage, we have to invest in education, worker training and research in STEM studies. For years in my position as Co-Chair of the Innovation, Competitiveness and Tax Reform Task Force of the New Democratic Coalition I have called for exactly that—a renewed focus on STEM skills in the workforce.

And not just in our own students, but we must also remove the barriers to success for international students training in STEM studies at U.S. institutions. Instead of sending these highly-skilled international students back to their native countries, where they contribute to the foreign economies we are competing against, let's provide them with visas and let the American economy take advantage of these skills.

There is a real opportunity for these highly trained international students to achieve the American dream and contribute talent, creativity and innovative skills that will help ensure our place in a competitive global economy. And there is an actual opportunity to get something signed into law but we know the real work will have to come next Congress, as there are few days left to get much done this fall.

America's future as a global competitor depends on our ability to come together as leaders and make the hard decisions and smart investments as well as enact the policies that put us on a long-term path to prosperity. We cannot let America's future get bogged down by politics. There is too much at stake.

TRIBUTE TO THREE OLYMPIC MEDALISTS KESHIA BAKER, NATALIE COUGHLIN AND HEATHER PETRI

## HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three local heroes from the 10th District of California, Keshia Baker, Nat-

alie Coughlin and Heather Petri. At the 2012 London Olympic Games Keshia won the gold medal in the Women's 4x400m relay, Natalie won the Bronze in the Women's 4x100m freestyle swimming relay and Heather won gold as part of the Women's Water Polo team. These three inspiring women having assured places on the storied list of Olympians from our district, and have become role models of our community.

Keshia was a first time Olympian in London but you wouldn't know by the way she carried herself. Keshia graduated from Fairfield High in 2006 whereupon she attended the University of Oregon. In between setting athletic records at Oregon, Keisha started her own non-profit supporting young disadvantaged student athletes as well as graduating with Honors in Psychology.

Natalie is an Olympic veteran and a national household name who has performed at an amazing level as a member of the US Women's swimming team since 2004. Winning her 12th medal at the London games, Natalie has tied two others as the most highly decorated female Olympians in American history. As a lifelong resident of Vallejo and a graduate of my alma mater CAL, Natalie is and will continue to be an inspiration within our community.

Heather, a four-time Olympic veteran, has competed at a winning level for the past 12 years. Due in no small part to her excellent leadership and tenacity, the US Women's Water Polo Team earned gold in London. This was her fourth Olympic medal. Even at a young age Heather was an exceptional athlete; a founding member of her high school team, and a highly decorated college athlete from CAL, her success has been no surprise to our community.

Olympians are more than just exceptional athletes, they are exceptional Americans. Their ability to hurdle any obstacle, to apply hard work, dedication and perseverance to their goals embodies the best of the American spirit and the American people; they are role models to us all and ambassadors for America and we thank them.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 332

## HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my fellow Congress members ANNA ESHOO and MIKE HONDA to honor the 100th Anniversary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 332.

For over a century, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 332 has worked to ensure the safety and well-being of its members.

Established on August 25, 1912, with only fourteen members, it has grown today to include 2,700 men and women striving for the highest level of excellence in their trade. Their concern for safety, and pursuit for high quality

education, led to the creation of one of the top electrical training facilities in the United States.

In fact, these skilled workers have been instrumental in building Silicon Valley into the globally renowned location it is today. Members of the Local 332 have participated in nearly every major construction project in Santa Clara County in the last 100 years; from field-pumps and canneries of the early 20th century, to the high tech companies that drive Silicon Valley's economy today.

Just as these tradesmen helped build our homes, schools, hospitals, and civic facilities, they also have helped shape our community and grow our economy.

Indeed, Local 332's members contributions extend beyond the workplace to building a better community. Its members are active volunteers and generous supporters of numerous community and non-profit organizations.

Their civic work has improved the opportunities and lives of not only their own members, but also countless people in Santa Clara County.

Along with myself, Representatives ANNA ESHOO and MIKE HONDA also wish to congratulate the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on its 100 year anniversary, and commend them for their work on behalf of workers' rights, craftsmanship, and their commitment to community in Silicon Valley.

IN HONOR OF CLEVELAND CITY COUNCILWOMAN PHYLLIS CLEVELAND

## HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cleveland City Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland, who has been serving the Ward 5 community since being elected to the Cleveland City Council in 2005.

Councilwoman Cleveland has been a longtime resident of the community which she now represents, which includes the Central, North Broadway and Kinsman Union neighborhoods. The Councilwoman has spent her life in public and community service, working for the Cleveland Tenants Organization advocating for fair and affordable housing for Cuyahoga County residents. In 2009, Councilwoman Cleveland was chosen by Council President Martin J. Sweeney to serve as Majority Leader in the City Council.

Councilwoman Cleveland's goal for Ward 5 has always been to build a strong connection between residents and the community by keeping the neighborhood safe, clean, and affordable. To do this, she has supported programs to clear the city of vacant and abandoned housing, replacing it with new houses and businesses. She has continued the community and economic development started by Mayor Frank G. Jackson when he was the Ward 5 Councilman.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the accomplishments of Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GREEK AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL WOMEN AND ITS WOMAN OF THE YEAR, LOULA LOI ALAFOYIANNIS

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2012*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Association of Greek American Professional Women. In March 2011, it honored my good friend, Loula Loi Alafoyiannis, as its Woman of the Year at an awards ceremony held on International Women's Day. In a fitting tribute, it is presenting a scholarship to an outstanding female student of Hellenic descent in Loula's name.

Founded in New York, the Association of Greek American Professional Women (AGAPW) is an independent non-profit organization that provides a forum for American women of Hellenic descent working in various professions and businesses. It is a clearinghouse for information, resources, support and networking opportunities, and helps to expand career opportunities and advance Greek-American professional women by forging partnerships and establishing symbiotic relationships with other organizations within and outside the Greek-American community. In so doing, AGAPW plays an important supportive role for Hellenic American women who seek to work and improve their quality of life in the U.S., Greece, Cyprus, and around the world.

Loula Loi Alafoyiannis is a remarkable leader whom I am proud to call my friend. She is the Founder, Global President, and Chief Executive Officer of the Euro-American Women's Council (EAWC), which since 1996 has helped forge ties between entrepreneurs in Europe and America and advance women's rights and opportunities in the worlds of business and education.

Loula Loi Alafoyiannis is widely admired in the world of business and government for her strategic acumen and wise counsel. She provided training to prospective start-up business proprietors in Azerbaijan and was honored with IBM's prestigious Crown Award for women entrepreneurs. She served as a trusted advisor to me and to many distinguished public servants, including former Congressman Joseph Kennedy of Massachusetts, former New York Governor Mario Cuomo, U.S. Senators Hillary Clinton and Paul Sarbanes, and others. In addition, she is a noted public speaker who has delivered lectures before the National Foundation for Women Legislators and other distinguished audiences in both the public and private sectors.

Prior to founding the Euro-American Women's Council, Loula served as Vice President of the United States Hellenic American National Council, which she co-founded with her husband, John. It helps to build bridges between Greek and American entrepreneurs and to advance women's opportunities in business and education.

Loula is also a dedicated philanthropist and humanitarian who has devoted herself to serving others through many worthwhile causes. She sits on the Human Rights Advisory Council of New York, volunteers with the Daughters of Roumeli and the Hermes Athletic Club in New York, and was named Woman of the

Year by the Boys Club of Queens. For her tireless humanitarian efforts, she was honored by the Asociacion Mexicana de Mujeres Jefas de Empresa. In particular, Loula has devoted herself throughout her life to assisting those affected by cancer and other serious illnesses, especially low-income children from Greece.

Despite her busy career, Loula has remained focused on her beloved family. She is deeply devoted to her husband John, their daughter Rania, son Konstantine, daughter-in-law Nina, son John-Nicholas, Jr., daughter-in-law Nadia, and her "crown jewels", her grandchildren Aristotle, Konstantine John, and Isabella-Rania.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my esteemed colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Association of Greek American Professional Women and its 2011 Woman of the Year, Loula Loi Alafoyiannis.

### HONOR FLIGHT COLORADO'S EIGHTH FLIGHT

### HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2012*

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the occasion of Honor Flight Northern Colorado's eighth flight to Washington, D.C. bringing Veterans of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam to see their memorials. On behalf of a grateful delegation, state, and country, we welcome these heroes.

The 122 Veterans on this flight include 48 from the Korean conflict, and 8 Purple Heart recipients from the Vietnam War. The Honor Flight program, founded in 2005, was intended to first honor all WWII Veterans that could make the trips, but then to afford the same to those from the Korea and Vietnam eras. We are, this day, honoring those Veterans from Korea (the Forgotten War) and Vietnam, our longest conflict in modern times, as they get to see their memorials. These trips are provided to our Veterans at no cost to them or their families.

The fact that these soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen would uproot themselves from their homes and families and put themselves in harm's way for our country is very humbling. The sacrifices they—and the families they left behind—made are truly incredible. The debt of gratitude we owe them can never be repaid, for without their honor, courage, commitment, and above all—sacrifice we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Please join me in thanking Charles Agnew, Lewis Ashcraft, Robert Barnard, Eugene Bonkiewicz, Carson Bright, Frank Brown, Wayne Bullock, William Castor, Lowell Dart, Donald Draxler, Robert Duntsch, Jose Duran, Joseph Edwards, George Emerick, Jack Endacott, Marvin Fowler, Robert Gillham, Warren Garst, Joseph Graham, William Hampton, Walter Hayward, Roland Kaiser, Willis Kramer, Victor Lazar, David Leon, Verne Lewellen, Harry Livingston, Mary Livingston, Gilbert Lopez, Russell Mam, W. Dennis McHenry, Raymond Mega, Gerald Monroe, Donald Morrison, Bernard Nettesheim, Reynolds Olson, Homer Phillips Jr., Richard Porter, Marion Raines, James Rauenbuehler, Frederick Reck, Gilbert Rohde, Walter Sapp, Henry Schmitt

Jr., John Shedd, Alan Schultes, Bill Shupe, Waldo Smith, Charles Smoot, Fredrick Stein, William Stromberg Sr., Gene Thorson, Clyde Treadway, Theodore Wahler, Arthur Wartburg, Crowell Werner, James White, Robert Williams, Evans Woodhouse, Darryl Anderson, Raymond Anderson, Donald Armagost, James Ball, Eugene Ball, Harry Ball, Leslie Brumley, Orlis Charboneau, Dale Crist, Robert Cupp, Timothy Daley, Bobbie Desmond, Edward Eson, Clarence Ehrlich, Alvin Eurich, Francis Fleming Jr., James Flynn, Leslie Fraley Jr., George Frysinger III, Richard Gero, John Goad, Virgil Hanson, Roman Hermann, John Hess, Billy Hettinger, Donald Hoffner, Marguerite Ingram, Robert Kramer, Robert Kruger, Lindy Leifheit, Chester McCoy, Chester McGuire, William Miller, Raymond Nuss, James Ochsner, Louis Peterson, Marshall Petring, Arnold Piel, Wayne Pimple, Richard Reagan, Gerald Rice, Harry Rieger, Edward Roebuck, Gerald Ross, Alan Seaman, Dick Sears, Joseph Sellers, William Shirey, Norris Slechts, Robert Stanley, Elizabeth Strahan, Clarence Strahan Jr., William Striffler, Darrell Viegut, Sam Warner, Doyle Biggs, Paul Delgado, Edward Fast, Dennis Henneberg, Donald Hess, Daniel Menzies, Jack Roberts, Steven White, Irvin Tregoning, Jimmie Tregoning and Merrill Tregoning for their dedication, commitment, and service to this great nation.

### JOY PINNIGER'S RETIREMENT

### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2012*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to recognize Jennifer Joy Pinniger on the occasion of her retirement as President and CEO of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA). Ever since Joy joined the National Stone Association sixteen years ago, she has been an advocate of the 107,800 men and women in the aggregates industry workforce.

She has focused NSSGA's advocacy on those issues with the most potential impact on the industry, always aware that the most effective advocates are those members of NSSGA who work every day to produce the construction materials essential to the built environment.

She has dedicated herself to educating Members of Congress and the public alike about the importance of the aggregates—or the stone, sand and gravel industry—not only to the Country as a whole, but to our individual lives.

About 10 tons of aggregates per person are used annually in America—everything from glass to cleaning products to pharmaceuticals, toothpaste, and so much more. Every mile of interstate contains 38,000 tons of aggregates and about 400 tons of aggregates are used in construction of the average home.

Joy led NSSGA's advocacy for the successful passage of the last two surface transportation authorization bills—SAFETEA-LU and MAP-21.

She worked closely with coalition partners in the Transportation Construction Coalition and the Americans for Transportation Mobility. She realized early on that involvement of the public—those affected by the need to get to and