

## STEM JOBS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6429, an unnecessarily partisan bill to increase the number of visas for foreign students graduating with advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). While I strongly believe we should increase the number of visas for these students, I oppose this bill because it eliminates the Diversity Visa Program. There is broad bipartisan support to increase the number of STEM visas. It is unfortunate that the Republican Leadership brought this bill to the floor. President Obama highlighted his support for increasing the number of STEM visas in his 2012 State of the Union Address, when he stated that it made no sense to train foreign students with advanced STEM degrees and then "send them home to invent new products and create new jobs somewhere else." I wish the Republican Leadership would have brought to the floor a bill introduced by Rep. ZOE LOFGREN to increase the number of STEM visas without eliminating the Diversity Visas Program. I support that legislation.

HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL OF  
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bicentennial of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Lehigh County was established on 6 March 1812, with my hometown of Allentown as its county seat. 1812 was a turbulent time for our nation, which was on the brink of war, but the young county persevered through its initial difficulties. The industrial revolution of the early 19th Century gave rise to the growth of the American railroad industry, creating a massive demand for iron to lay tracks that would eventually span the nation. Lehigh County answered the call and quickly established itself as a national manufacturing powerhouse. In addition to manufacturing, the county also flourished as an agricultural center, with crops and livestock supported by cool waters of the Lehigh River and its many tributaries. Farming has been a staple of the region's economy since its settling, and today remains an important way of life for many Lehigh County families.

Lehigh County is home to several prominent colleges and universities that provide quality education to thousands of students each year. These include Cedar Crest College, DeSales University, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Muhlenberg College and Penn State Lehigh Valley. The county's unique location between the major markets of Philadelphia and New York has also made it an ideal location for commuters looking for a better quality of life.

Much to the delight of its residents—new and old—Lehigh County boasts an abundance of cultural, recreational, and entertainment attractions that keep it bustling with activity. The

county is home to Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom, a popular amusement park known nationally for its famous 1923 wooden roller coaster Thunderhawk. The Lehigh Valley Zoo, located within the scenic 1,100-acre Trexler Nature Preserve, is home to more than 275 animals representing 70 species, as well as one of the most impressive herds of American Bison in the eastern United States. Many residents fondly remember the thrill of fording the Jordan Creek after visiting the zoo as children.

Lehigh County is also home to beautiful Coca-Cola Park, home of the Philadelphia Phillies' AAA affiliate, the Lehigh Valley IronPigs. Residents of the county and neighboring communities are already getting excited for the start of the 2014–15 AHL season, when the Philadelphia Flyers' affiliate, the Phantoms, will begin playing hockey in downtown Allentown. It is, indeed, an exciting time to be living in Lehigh County.

Known for its many traditional festivals that highlight the area's rich history, appreciation for the arts and love for the outdoors, including Das Awkscht Fescht, the Great Allentown Fair, Mayfair and SportsFest, countless Americans visit Lehigh County each year. Music is also an important component of Lehigh County's cultural identity, and while newcomers may wonder what sounds a boomba makes, thousands of visitors flock to Allentown's J. Birney Crum stadium each summer to hear the familiar tunes played by dozens of drum and bugle corps during their annual stop to the Lehigh Valley.

In recognition of its 200th anniversary, the Lehigh County Bicentennial Committee organized four months of activities celebrating the county's people, history, and culture. The festivities included the launch of the Lehigh County Hall of Fame to recognize residents who have achieved greatness in entertainment, sports, business, and other areas. The 24 inductees of the inaugural class included NFL Hall of Famer Chuck Bednarik of Upper Saucon Township, four-time Super Bowl champion Matt Millen of Whitehall Township, actress Amanda Seyfried of Allentown, actress Christine Taylor of Lower Macungie, famed Chrysler CEO Lee Iacocca of Allentown, Brigadier General Anna Mae Hays, the first female general in the U.S. military and an Allentown native, and Golf Channel analyst Rich Lerner of South Whitehall.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the county that my family and I call home on the occasion of its bicentennial. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Lehigh County's 200th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING VALLEY MEDICAL'S  
ALLIANCE WITH UW MEDICINE**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Valley Medical Center, located in Renton, Washington, for being named one of the Best Hospitals in the Puget Sound by U.S. News & World Report. The hospital is also celebrating the one-year anniversary of Valley Medical Center's alliance with University of Washington Medicine. The alliance has increased the availability and quality healthcare to the Puget Sound region.

Since partnering with UW Medicine, Valley Medical Center has increased services and clinical expertise for residents by expanding coverage in neurological and thoracic surgery. Valley Medical Center has also expanded education and training programs. These programs create better access to primary care and other forms of specialized care when needed. The Best Hospitals ranking also honored Valley Medical Center for high performance in orthopedics, diabetes, and endocrinology.

Valley Medical Center hopes to bring more expansion in clinical areas as their alliance with UW Medicine grows. The alliance most importantly hopes to reduce the overall cost of healthcare and make access to care readily available. Since the recent enactment of healthcare reform, Valley Medical Center's clinics and UW Medicine's neighboring clinics have already improved their accessibility by having world class specialists readily available.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the accomplishments of Valley Medical Center and the one-year anniversary of Valley Medical Center's alliance with UW Medicine. I am confident that the alliance will strengthen and continue to provide remarkable care to the community for years to come.

## ALZHEIMER'S ACTION DAY

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 21, 2012, as Alzheimer's Action Day and to offer my support to the Alzheimer's Association for their work to provide care and support for individuals with Alzheimer's and their families.

The Alzheimer's Association, Houston and Southeast Texas Chapter has served Southwest Houston since 1980, when caregivers Harry Walker and Al Malyn created the chapter at a local church to care for their wives. The organization now includes over 300 volunteers who serve 37 countries. With chapters like this, the Alzheimer's Association is able to make a difference. I would like to congratulate this chapter's hard work and accomplishments and thank them for their leadership in our community.

Alzheimer's disease leaves millions of American families in emotional and financial ruin. It affects more than 4 million people nationwide and will affect as many as 14 million by 2050. Additionally, almost 15 million Americans are caring for a person with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia.

My mother-in-law battled this disease, so I appreciate how devastating it can be. During the last Congress, I was a cosponsor of the National Alzheimer's Project Act, introduced by our colleague Representative MARKEY. This important law created the Office of the National Alzheimer's Project and called for a National Alzheimer's Plan. During this Congress, I am pleased Representative MARKEY continues his efforts aimed at combating Alzheimer's by introducing the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act, which I have cosponsored and I believe it deserves consideration by the House.

Making advances in Alzheimer's is a goal in our national interest. We must continue funding programs aimed at education, support and

research. This enjoys bipartisan support and I am proud to work with our colleagues to maintain our Nation's commitment to this effort.

**HONORING THE 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF DEVEREUX**

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Devereux, a nonprofit behavioral health organization based in Pennsylvania, and congratulate the organization on its upcoming 100-year anniversary.

Devereux operates a comprehensive national network of clinical, therapeutic, educational and employment programs and services. Devereux also works on research based prevention initiatives that help to empower children and adolescents. Founded in 1912 Devereux has grown over the last hundred years from helping twelve students to tens of thousands, including students in the 15th District of Pennsylvania in Allentown, PA.

The Allentown School District partnered with Devereux in 2011 to implement the Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies program (PATHS). The program teaches self-control, emotional understanding, self-esteem, relationships, and interpersonal problem solving. PATHS is designed to promote students' social and emotional health which is crucial for academic success. Programs like these can markedly increase academic achievement, address conduct problems, and decrease emotional distress in children. Devereux has provided reports to assist teachers and schools with implementation of the program, collected data, and worked to overcome any challenges the schools face.

Devereux's mission is to change lives and nurture human potential. By continually investing in the community, they have helped to improve outcomes in student's lives and academics. These types of changes can already be seen in Allentown classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Devereux on 100 years of service to countless children, adolescents, adults and their families, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to the Nation.

**A TRIBUTE TO CARMEN  
ARELLANO LEE 2012 SPIRIT OF  
MATER AWARD RECIPIENT**

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carmen Arellano Lee, a 1954 graduate of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Menlo Park, California. Carmen is being honored on October 20, 2012, with the coveted Spirit of Mater Alumni Award, which recognizes alumni who "radiate Mater's spark of divine spirit and who employ life in a manner representative of the Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton Goals and Criteria. Schools of the Sacred Heart commit themselves to educate to a personal and active faith in God, a deep respect for intellectual

values, a social awareness which impels to action, the building of community as a Christian value, and personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom."

Carmen Lee founded the Peninsula Network of Mental Health Clients, an organization composed of clients receiving care provided by public mental health providers and serves as advocates for them. In 1990 Carmen secured funding and began the Stamp Out Stigma (SOS) program to put a human face on mental health patients and issues and dispel the myths and stereotypes surrounding patients and their illnesses. Since 1990 SOS has delivered more than 2,000 public presentations. Carmen is a committee member for the California State Mental Health Planning Council, People in Recovery for the United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association and the Federal Government's Task Force on Suicide Prevention.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this tireless, fearless woman who knows of what she speaks. She has felt the stigma and works to stamp it out. She has experienced the curse of mental illness and works as an advocate for others afflicted by it. If we could clone Carmen Lee, communities across our nation would be better places for those suffering from mental illness.

**RECOGNIZING COOKIE HENREY ON  
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT**

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cookie Henrey, a doorkeeper for the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, who retired in August 2012. She worked there since 1987.

Cookie started to work on Capitol Hill during the summer of her 16th birthday, June 21, 1976. She worked as a counter girl in the House restaurant until she graduated from Fairmont Heights High School in June 1978. After graduation, Cookie married her childhood sweetheart, Michael Henrey. That union produced three sons, Michael, Jr. and twin boys Marcus and Marcell. In 1979, Cookie started to work for the Office of the Doorkeeper. She stayed there until 1986, and then moved on to work for the Capitol Police as a security aide.

So we will all miss that infectious smile. And, we will not have the sidebar and off-line chatter that so many of us shared with her. Cookie made a point of knowing every Member by name, kept us safe, and offered good tidings to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, for those of us who knew her, entering the Chambers of Congress will be less bright because we no longer have Cookie's sunny disposition. I am sure that I speak for all when I say, "thank you, Cookie." Your service is deeply appreciated.

**A TRIBUTE TO SEAN COLE 2012 SACRED HEART PREPARATORY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME AWARD RECIPIENT**

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sean Cole, a 1992 graduate of Sacred Heart Preparatory. The School is proud to offer the Athletic Hall of Fame to honor him for his athletic achievements. The award recognizes contributions of alumni athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators of Sacred Heart Preparatory. Individuals like Sean Cole who are inducted into the Hall of Fame have made significant achievements in his sports of soccer and baseball and exemplified the principles of sportsmanship and Christianity as illustrated in the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sean Cole, an athlete who lives a life which embodies the goals and criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. He lives the five commitments of faith, respect, social awareness, community building and personal growth, and his contributions to his sport have strengthened our community and our country immeasurably.

**VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION  
MONTH**

**HON. DAN BENISHEK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, America has a veteran suicide epidemic. Bearing the stresses of wartime demands, today more of our nation's heroes are taking their own lives than are killed overseas. We must do more to be there for our servicemembers when they return home and help them transition to civilian life. I am pleased that the Department of Veterans Affairs has recognized September as Suicide Prevention Month and will undertake an outreach campaign to raise awareness of the VA mental health services available to veterans. This month and beyond the agency will educate communities, health care providers, friends and family members about recognizing suicide risk and the resources available to help our loved ones.

As a former VA doctor in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and a Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I know that the challenges of military life do not end once our servicemembers retire from active duty. Physical and invisible wounds can last a lifetime, and the mental health and well-being of these brave men and women must remain the highest priority for this country. Community organizations, Veteran Service Organizations, family and friends must continue to familiarize themselves with the signs of a veteran in crisis and learn where to turn for support. Congress and the VA must redouble their efforts to ensure there is always someone on the other end of the line to help a veteran or family member in need. Everyone can help fight this epidemic, and be there for those that were there for us.