

STEM education. Unfortunately, instead of simply reauthorizing this bipartisan program, this bill undermines critical investments in science, technology, and research.

I would have voted against H.R. 880, the American Research and Competitiveness Act. While I am a strong supporter of making the Research and Development tax credit permanent, I do not support this legislation because this unpaid-for tax measure would add an estimated \$181.6 billion to the deficit over 10 years.

I would have voted against H.R. 2262, the SPACE Act of 2015. While I support the development of the commercial space industry, this legislation does not strike the appropriate balance between the needs of the industry and overall safety of the programs for the general public and future customers.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CAPTAIN JOHN J. LEVULIS

##### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Captain John J. Levulis. Captain Levulis proudly served our nation since 2012 in the U.S. Army, including one tour in Afghanistan. Nicknamed by his fellow soldiers as "Captain America," Captain Levulis epitomized the leadership, courage, and nobility of a true American hero.

Captain Levulis was commissioned into the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant in 2012, following his graduation from the Niagara University ROTC program. He completed the Infantry Basic Officer course at Fort Benning, Georgia. Following basic training, Captain Levulis was reassigned to the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment at Fort Drum in New York, where he served as a heavy weapons platoon leader. He was deployed to Afghanistan in May of 2013 as a platoon leader and returned in 2014. After returning from Afghanistan, Captain Levulis was again stationed at Fort Drum.

Captain Levulis received numerous awards including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Overseas Service Medal, NATO Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

On May 1st, Captain Levulis tragically lost his life in a motor vehicle accident while on duty in New Jersey. He leaves behind his loving wife, Julianne, mother, Barbara, father, Gary, and younger brother, James. My condolences go out to Captain Levulis' entire family and friends. New York State and our nation has lost a valiant soldier, honorable citizen, and first-rate man in Captain John J. Levulis.

#### TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT WILLIE C. JONES

##### HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Staff

Sergeant Willie C. Jones of the U.S. Army Reserves, who was awarded the Purple Heart for his sacrifice for our country.

After being born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and growing up in Hawaii, Staff Sergeant Jones entered the Army in February 1994. He served in combat arms units on active duty for seven years before transferring to the Army Reserves. His first assignment in the Army Reserves was in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, the only infantry unit in the Army Reserves.

Staff Sergeant Jones served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from November 2008 to August 2009. In October 2012, he deployed to FOB Ghazni in Afghanistan as a Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Liaison NCO.

While serving at FOB Ghazni, Staff Sergeant Jones sustained significant injuries as a result of explosions due to enemy fire on June 18, 2013.

In addition to the Purple Heart, Staff Sergeant Jones has received the Combat Action Badge, 6 Army Commendation Medals, 7 Good Conduct Medals, 2 NATO Medals, 8 Overseas Bars, Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals, the Gold Recruiter Badge with three sapphires, and the Army Recruiting Ring.

Staff Sergeant Jones currently resides in Decatur, Illinois, and works as a Movements Supervisor with the 236th Inland Cargo Transfer Company. I'm proud to honor him for receiving the Purple Heart, and am humbled by his bravery, service and sacrifice for our nation.

#### CONGRESSIONAL MOLDOVA CAUCUS STATEMENT ON THE RIGA SUMMIT

##### HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, the Honorable DAVID E. PRICE, and the Congressional Moldova Caucus, the Republic of Moldova is a friend of the United States of America, and a partner country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Like Ukraine and Georgia, Moldova is part of a strategically significant segment of Eastern Europe that looks toward Europe for a promising and prosperous future.

The full integration of Moldova into the European Union is also in the strategic interest of the United States. As has been the case with other Eastern European nations that fully integrated into the European Union, integration will help Moldova develop new economic opportunities and contribute to the overall security and stability of the region.

The Republic of Moldova signed an Association Agreement with the European Union in 2014 and is currently implementing its ambitious Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA). Moldova also reached a visa liberalization agreement with the EU.

As the EU Summit in Riga convenes, we call on our allies in Europe to fully engage the Republic of Moldova and to chart out its bid for accession into the Union under the terms of the Lisbon Treaty. A failure to fully recognize the aspirations and legal rights of the Republic of Moldova in its application only stands

to promote the false narrative that Moldova, along with Ukraine and Georgia, falls into an 'exclusive sphere of Russian interests in Europe', and runs counter to the democratic values of the United States and Europe.

Congress and the Obama Administration should continue to support the Republic of Moldova in its statecraft, economic and security capabilities. Progress demonstrated by the Republic of Moldova on a sustained path towards Western integration should be recognized. For example, despite Moldova's entering into an Association Agreement with the European Union, the Russian Federation continues to ban imports of Moldovan products, exert pressure on the Moldovan people, and disseminate propaganda to the Moldovan people. The Russian Federation continues to maintain a substantial military presence in Transnistria, in violation the Russian Federation's commitments at the Istanbul Summit. The Russian Federation continues to use this military presence—along with its fuel exports and intelligence assets within Moldovan territory—to continually destabilize the region.

Smaller and more fragile states across the globe face increasing pressure, destabilization and aggression from larger, totalitarian governments. These states are susceptible to falling into 'regional spheres of influence' without sustained, consolidated efforts of support by the world's democracies. Last Congress, the House and Senate both passed resolutions calling on the Obama Administration to support the Republic of Moldova's capabilities in reforming its judicial sector, fighting corruption, and reforming economic markets. In addition to continuing in these important reforms, we urge the Obama Administration to work in bilateral and multilateral forums to monitor human rights abuses in the region and help advance U.S. investment in Moldova's energy markets to lessen its dependence on Russian sources. We are struck by the Moldovan people's demonstrated commitments to free markets, democracy, and the rule of law. The United States must continue to serve as a leader in the community of Western nations by supporting the people of Moldova in their commitment toward integration.

#### HIGHLIGHTING SUMMER MEAL PARTNERS INAUGURAL EVENT ON MAY 30, 2015

##### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring much-needed attention to summer meal programs for food insecure families. A new collaboration of community organizations in Lucas County, Ohio called Summer Meal Partners is working to raise awareness and increase participation in summer meal programs in that county. This group can be a model for similar collaborative efforts supporting underserved communities around the country. Summer Meal Partners will hold their official kickoff event on May 30th of this year.

Today in Lucas County just eight percent of the 54,135 children that are eligible for free or reduced price school meals participate in readily-available summer meal support. This support could make a real difference in the

lives of tens of thousands more families but a lack of awareness, transportation and enrichment programming have limited participation.

Families without reliable access to sufficient affordable nutritious food face increased health, mental and behavioral issues.

Hunger undermines a child's ability to learn. Malnutrition and vitamin deficiencies also put children at risk for serious and permanent problems with attention, cognition and behavior. They undermine natural growth and development and lead to compromised immune systems.

With most primary school students on break, the summer can be a challenging time for working parents. Relief is available in the form of summer meals but only a small fraction of eligible families take advantage of this important initiative.

I congratulate Summer Meal Partners for their important work and for their upcoming kickoff on May 30, 2015.

HONORING DR. ALLEN CHAN

**HON. SCOTT H. PETERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2015*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, every May we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, a time to commemorate the significant contributions of the AAPI communities to our country.

This year, I am honored to recognize one of San Diego's community leaders, Dr. Allen Chan.

Dr. Chan was born in Hong Kong, and immigrated to the United States more than 40 years ago.

He was a charter president of the San Diego United Lions Club, is an accomplished chiropractor, and is the owner of the renowned local institution Jasmine Seafood Restaurant, which has served as a cultural heart in San Diego's Asian American community.

Dr. Chan was recently awarded the prestigious, and highly selective, Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his legacy of community service centered around preserving history, traditions, and values, and paying homage to the immigrant experience as an integral part of American culture.

I want to congratulate Dr. Chan, and thank him for his leadership in the AAPI community and for helping make San Diego a better place to live.

CONGRATULATING THE SARCOXIE ARCHERY TEAMS ON THEIR STATE AND NATIONAL TITLES

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sarcoxie High School Archery Team on another Missouri state championship. This victory marks the Bears' third straight state title.

The Bears competed against 88 other schools from across Missouri with nearly 1,400 contestants. The team took the high

school division title with a total of 3,367 points. Sarcoxie's archery program also added to their success this year with the middle school team placing 3rd in the middle school division. Sarcoxie competed against schools of all sizes, from the tiny and rural to the massive and urban. This small southwest Missouri school has proven again that size does not matter when it comes to talent, dedication and perseverance.

Individually, Sarcoxie's Zane White took second place in the state high school division with 293 points and Gavin Currey finished a close fourth with 290 points. Annika Johnson, Jordyn Kirby and Elizabeth Workman all finished in the top 15, further helping shoot Sarcoxie to first place.

Coaches Kaycia and David Woolsey deserve praise for successfully aiming the team toward their bullseye—a first place finish. Much effort goes into teaching skills to go the distance. That shows especially this year, as many on the Sarcoxie team were first-year competing archers. Only five were on the previous championship team.

In addition, Sarcoxie had their first national archery champion this year at the National NASP IBO 3D Challenge. Fifth grader, Max Wangler was the national champion from among 483 elementary boys. Max's teammate, Drake Acheson, placed third.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Sarcoxie High School Archery Team on a job well done. I look forward to seeing their continued success.

HONORING LIBRARIAN DIANE CHRISTIAN OF AURORA, ILLINOIS

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2015*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Diane Christian as she prepares for retirement after more than 40 years of service to the Aurora Public Library in Aurora, Illinois.

Diane Christian is a cherished figure in the City of Aurora, who has fostered a love of books and learning for many generations of young people. Starting as a part-time librarian in 1974, Diane later became the library's Children's Department Coordinator where she has played a critical role in the intellectual development of children throughout the community. In 2002, Diane launched the Welcome to America program that offers family literacy services to refugees from around the world and has served over 850 parents and children.

Diane is also an active volunteer in our community; she currently is a member of the Child Welfare Society and the Aurora Township Youth Commission. During her retirement, Diane intends to continue volunteering for the Aurora Public Library and helping with the transition to its new location.

I would like to thank Diane for her decades of commitment to the Aurora Public Library and wish her the best in her retirement.

HONORING LEO FINNEGAN

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2015*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a champion and leader from the State of Washington, Leo Finnegan.

Whether it's serving on community advisory boards, helping a parent navigate bureaucratic difficulties or organizing recreational activities for those with special needs, Leo Finnegan has been, and will continue to be, a deliberate and enthusiastic voice for the developmental disability community.

Leo and his wife Rose first moved to Washington State in 1975 with their five children, one of whom has special needs, Tim. When his son was unable to participate in Soap Box Derby Races with his other children, Leo took it upon himself to construct a two passenger car so the entire family could share in the fun together. This act sparked an idea to organize races for other children with special needs. He now organizes and oversees races every summer throughout Washington State in Issaquah, Sammamish, Snoqualmie, Richland, Spokane, and Oak Harbor. My godson Kyle and I were able to participate in one race several years ago, which is one of the many times I've had the opportunity to see firsthand Leo's work in our community. Leo also coaches the Special Olympics Basketball team in Washington. Through his work, Leo has touched thousands of lives, giving individuals with special needs recreational opportunities that enrich lives and strengthen families.

Mr. Speaker, Leo's actions embody the heart of a servant. I thank Leo for his passionate commitment to serving those with special needs.

AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1806) to provide for technological innovation through the prioritization of Federal investment in basic research, fundamental scientific discovery, and development to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, in 2007, following reports that the United States could lose its competitive edge in the global economy, Congress came together on a bipartisan basis to boost federal research, spur American innovation, and maintain our strength in scientific and technological discovery. We reauthorized that bill, again on a bipartisan basis, in 2010.

Unfortunately, today we have a bill on the floor that abandons those bipartisan efforts, shortchanges critical research, and unacceptably interferes in decision-making at our scientific institutions. It makes particularly egregious cuts to climate change research and efforts to develop new energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies for a cleaner energy future. Climate change is real and we are