

local STEM educators to emulate. These statutory limits, also, unfairly deny deserving educators in the insular areas the national recognition and professional development opportunities we provide to STEM educators elsewhere in our nation.

My bill provides a more equitable process by requiring awards to at least one teacher from each of the four areas. By ensuring teachers from all parts of America are represented, more students and schools will benefit from the expert-led training programs and collaboration opportunities available to awardees during their visit to our nation's capital.

The gentlewoman from American Samoa, Mrs. RADEWAGEN and the gentleman from Guam, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, are original cosponsors of the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

MAJOR JAMES CAPERS, JR.

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor one of the greatest heroes our country has ever seen in combat—my constituent, and Lee County's very own, Major James Capers, Jr.

Many may not know who Major Capers Jr. is, but he became the first black Marine officer nominated for the Medal of Honor and ultimately received the Silver Star.

He is not only a hero in the Marine Corps, but also for his unwavering service in the Special Operations community, as well. Born in Bishopville, South Carolina, in the era of Jim Crow, Major Capers willingly enlisted in the military to serve a nation that did not have his interest at heart. That, in itself, is heroism.

Regardless, after finding a home in the Marine Corps, he became the first African American to get a battlefield commission in the Marine Corps Force Recon and was promoted from Staff Sergeant to Second Lieutenant, giving him control over the unit.

During the Vietnam War, Capers' team, who called themselves "Team Broadminded" conducted covert missions many of which nearly took his life to save his men. Soon after, Major Capers, a trailblazer for African Americans in the Marine Corps, became the face of their recruiting campaign called "Ask a Marine."

Capers lost his wife and son to cancer, both of whom are buried in Arlington National Cemetery, but he still regularly receives visits from his fellow soldiers and other young Marines.

However, he finally got the recognition he rightfully deserved. In 2010, Major James Capers Jr. was one of only 14 members inducted into the inaugural class of U.S. Special Operations Command's Commando Hall of Honor at a ceremony in front of USSOCOM headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base.

Between the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and countless other medals, Major James Capers, Jr. exemplifies what it truly means to be a hero—it is not the medals, but someone who stands face to face with adversity and is willing to sacrifice his own life for those of his brothers in Christ.

It is my hope that every person of future generations can see and hear of his story, and be willing to do what he has done, and that is to be a hero. With that Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize Major James Capers, Jr.

SUPPORTING EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am joined by my colleagues, Representatives LUCAS, BEYER, GARCIA, LIPINSKI, BONAMICI, TONKO, and COHEN, in introducing the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act.

Our nation's research enterprise is reeling from the unprecedented disruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis. To slow the spread of the virus, universities across the country have been forced to cancel in-person classes and shut down campus operations. And today, six months into this crisis and with no relief in sight, universities are once again faced with impossible decisions about the upcoming academic year.

I want to thank universities for their commitment to doing their part to slow the spread of the virus and for their commitment to ensuring the safety of their students, faculty, and staff. In the absence of clear guidance or a national strategy from this Administration, universities have stepped up to donate personal protective equipment, reconfigure laboratory space and equipment for COVID-19 research, institute social distancing measures, transition to remote education, provide for testing and contact tracing, and accommodate the needs of international students.

These actions, while laudable, have come at a cost. The full extent of the financial loss incurred by universities during this crisis is unknowable at this point. Recent surveys of university presidents conducted by the American Council of Education reveal that short- and long-term financial viability are pressing concerns. And, in order to stave off catastrophe, many universities have instituted hiring freezes and cancelled new faculty hires.

I am deeply concerned about the disappearance of STEM job opportunities and the potential long-term consequences for our STEM pipeline. For established researchers, the COVID-19 crisis has severely limited their access to their laboratory space. But for early career researchers, these disruptions come at a critical juncture in their research career, threatening to derail their career path.

Even in normal times, postdoctoral research positions provide little job security, with most postdocs employed on two-year contracts. Now that the research job market has severely contracted, postdocs find themselves in a truly precarious position. Many of them may be forced to abandon their career path altogether in order to support themselves and their families.

The Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act establishes a \$250 million postdoctoral fellowship pilot program at the National Science

Foundation. This program would provide a much-needed bridge to help early career researchers weather this storm and prevent a permanent loss of STEM talent our nation can ill afford. I look forward to moving this bill quickly and working with my colleagues on the Appropriations committee to ensure it is funded.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, our nation is fighting multiple crises at once: the risks of COVID-19 on our health and the health of our friends and neighbors, the dire economic impacts of communities halted to keep us each safe, and the surge of racial justice movements across the United States and the world. During these times of difficulty and change, I find myself turning to the institutions in our communities that have always worked to address each of these crises, individually and as a whole—Community Health Centers.

This week we honor the work of Community Health Centers during National Health Center Week. As we contemplate a path forward of safety, health, prosperity, and equity in our country, our conversations must begin and end with the CHCs that have been stalwart providers of accessible healthcare for every individual who needed it.

Each and every day, CHCs provide care for some of our nation's most vulnerable folks. In 2018 in Colorado, CHCs served over 200,000 children, nearly 32,000 individuals without homes, and over 9,500 veterans. Overall, they served nearly 650,000 patients in my state who might have otherwise been unable to access or afford health care.

CHCs provide irreplaceable healthcare services, but they are also economic drivers during this time of unprecedented financial hardship: For every \$1 in federal investments, CHCs generated \$5.85 in economic activity across Colorado. In total, health centers in Colorado deliver \$1.38 billion in economic activity, economic benefits the likes of which can be found in states across the U.S.

And as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, CHCs have risen to the challenge, innovating constantly to keep providing excellent care to their patients and communities.

I have no doubt that we can and we will overcome the struggles presented to us as Coloradans, and as Americans. To do this, it will take robust support for the tried and true systems of healthcare that efficiently, yet humbly serve our communities every day. That is why I'm so proud to recognize the work of Community Health Centers in my home state and across the United States this week and every week.

I thank the doctors, nurses, dentists, behavioral health specialists, and the countless other workers who ensure the success of CHCs and the health and wellbeing of our communities.

HONORING HOT SPRINGS POLICE
DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR SERV-
ICE DURING COVID-19

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service of the Hot Springs Police Department. In these uncertain times, my hometown department's officers have continued serving and protecting our community.

Now more than ever, we've seen the impact of our communities' first responders and front-line workers, and in the Fourth Congressional District, none are more appreciated than our police. Throughout this pandemic, Hot Springs officers have continued to put their own safety on the line defending our streets, homes and businesses.

I take this time to honor these brave men and women who have stepped up, providing the Fourth District of Arkansas and the rest of the nation with a prime example of what it means to serve the people around you.

RECOGNIZING KENT
CHRISTENSEN'S DISTINGUISHED
CAREER IN THE CONGRESSIONAL
BUDGET OFFICE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Kent Christensen, who retired at the end of July after 34 years of exceptional service to the Congress at the Congressional Budget Office. Kent began his Congressional career in CBO's Budget Analysis Division in 1986 where he worked as a principal analyst in the Defense, International Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs Cost Estimates Unit.

During his time at CBO, Kent was recognized as an exceptionally thoughtful and knowledgeable analyst. As one of the longest tenured members of CBO's Budget Analysis Division, he accrued extensive knowledge of the programs and accounts in his portfolio and a broad understanding of many other federal programs and the federal budget process in general. Kent was a valued colleague, passing along his knowledge to new and experienced analysts alike and encouraging a supportive environment where analysts respect each other and work well together.

Kent has also earned the respect of his counterparts on the staffs of the Armed Services, Budget, and Appropriations committees thanks to his thoroughness, meticulous attention to detail, and incredible memory. He worked closely with the staff of the Armed Services Committees for more than three decades, particularly on annual proposals of the National Defense Authorization Act. His acumen when estimating the budgetary effects of and providing technical feedback on legislative proposals has helped ensure enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act each year.

With his departure, the Congressional Budget Office loses a great asset. Over the past 34

years, CBO—and by extension, the Congress itself—has been fortunate to enjoy the dedication and insight that Kent has brought to his work. I know my colleagues join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to Kent for his service to our nation and our very best wishes for a happy and productive retirement.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Kent Christensen on his well-earned retirement from the Congressional Budget Office and recognize his outstanding work on the National Defense Authorization Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF FAMOUS HAM-
BURGER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Famous Hamburger as it celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. Its years of service to the community are worthy of commendation.

After returning to Beirut, Lebanon from the United States, Phillip Hider and his father developed the idea to start a burger joint in Lebanon. In 1968, they two opened their first restaurant called "Little White Castle," which quickly transformed into a famous local favorite. After relocating to a new spot in Downtown Beirut, the decision was made to change the name to reflect its widespread popularity, resulting in the Famous Hamburger brand being officially established in 1970. Years later, Hider and his family chose to move to the United States to seek a better life and greater opportunity, and soon found themselves in Michigan in 1989. In March of 1997, Hider introduced the first Famous Hamburger in Detroit, and later relocated to a larger location in Dearborn in July of 2005. As in Lebanon, Famous Hamburger quickly became a beloved institution among the metro Detroit community. Today, it has locations spanning the region, such as Dearborn, Canton, and Auburn Hills.

For half a century, Famous Hamburger has been cherished by people across both Lebanon and Michigan. In Dearborn, the restaurant has become a beloved community staple. Its welcoming environment, dedicated staff, and quality meals have drawn our community together, and its burgers are recognized as one of the best across Michigan. Many patrons are regulars who have frequented the restaurant for years, and even newcomers are made to feel like life-long friends. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the fiftieth anniversary of Famous Hamburgers have given our Dearborn community a reason to celebrate. It has provided a sense of comfort, unity, and normalcy in a time of unprecedented strife. Famous Hamburger's demonstrated commitment to serving Dearborn is immensely appreciated and is something we all should strive to emulate.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Famous Hamburger. We are grateful for its years of dedicated service, and wish the restaurant continued success in the year ahead.

INTRODUCING THE ISRAELI AN-
NEXATION NON-RECOGNITION
ACT TO PROTECT THE PALES-
TINIAN PEOPLE AND PROMOTE
PEACE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, yesterday, with the announcement of the agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates to normalize diplomatic relations, Speaker PELOSI issued a statement regarding the news. An important sentence in the statement was powerful, necessary, and correct: "The House continues to object to steps including unilateral annexation that will undermine future efforts to advance a just, stable, and lasting peace in the Middle East."

I agree.

For years, the centerpiece of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political agenda has been his explicit desire and intent to unilaterally annex as much as 30 percent of Palestinian territory in the West Bank. He calls it a "historic opportunity." Even though annexation is a clear violation of international law and the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, the Trump administration, along with right-wing Jewish groups and extremists in the evangelical Christian community in the U.S., allies of Netanyahu, have championed annexation.

Millions of Palestinians have lived for decades under Israel's military occupation. Now the Palestinian people fear that any hope for self-determination or the opportunity to live with dignity, equality, and justice will be extinguished through the annexation of their land by Israel with the support of an American president.

Today, I am introducing legislation in the U.S. House—the Israeli Annexation Non-Recognition Act—to prohibit appropriated U.S. funds from being directed to any area in the occupied West Bank annexed by Israel. I want Palestinians and Israelis to have their human rights respected, their right to self-determination realized, and a future with peace, security, equality, and justice. Annexation is antithetical to these goals and will fuel conflict, injustice, and an abhorrent system of apartheid. This is an intolerable outcome for Palestinians, Israelis, and Americans.

I reject annexation. I condemn annexation. And, I will work to ensure the U.S. does not support, defend, or legitimize any plan or action by Israel to illegally annex Palestinian lands.

Yesterday's diplomatic agreement between Israel and the UAE changes nothing. Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Trump have taken nothing off the table. Their promises and commitments are worthless. They have both proven time and time again that they cannot be trusted.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz ran a headline today citing comments from the U.S. Ambassador to Israel that makes it clear annexation is still being contemplated by Israeli and U.S. officials at the highest levels. Referring to annexation, the headline read, "Pro-settler Ambassador Friedman argues 'it's not off the table permanently' after historic agreement to normalize relations between Israel and the UAE."