

News from Representative Randy Hultgren

[HOME](#) [ABOUT RANDY](#) [SERVING YOU](#) [NEWS ROOM](#) [OUR DISTRICT](#) [CONTACT](#)

In this issue of the Hultgren Huddle:

- [Remembering Our Veterans](#)
- [Trouble in the Skies](#)
- [Success: House Passes Two of My Bills](#)
- [Key Legislative Action: Freezing Congressional Pay, Protecting Unborn, Ending NSA Data Collection, Defending Religious Liberty and More](#)
- [Small Business Week Highlights](#)
- [Student Essay Contest](#)
- [Randy in the News](#)

## Remembering Our Veterans

This weekend we remember those brave men and women who have served our country and sacrificed much for our freedoms. Our war memorials are an important physical reminder that our freedoms are not free. Sadly, veterans of the Korean War in particular are many times overlooked or forgotten.

I have cosponsored **H.R. 1475, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act**, to permit a privately funded addition of a Wall of Remembrance to the Korean War Veterans Memorial. It would list the names of all members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were killed in action

during the war and list the number of all American POWs and MIAs.



(Korean War Veterans Memorial)

I urge the House to take action on this bill to remember the courage and sacrifice of all of those who served in the Korean War.

Two additional highlights:

- Service Academy Day was a complete success for prospective students and their parents to get information about our nation's service academies. Read this news story, also available in the Randy in the News section below, for more: ["Service Academy Day offers teens, parents insight into application process"](#) (Kane County Chronicle).
- At another forum I hosted, veterans and their families had a great opportunity to hear from leadership at the Illinois VA about ongoing efforts to reform care, and to get their questions answered. Read this news story, also available in the Randy in the News section below, for

more: [“Forum addresses Veterans Affairs Department reforms”](#) (Kane County Chronicle)

## Trouble in the Skies

As you may know, I have been concerned for many months now about the FAA’s new hiring practices which have caused the agency to pass over the most qualified air traffic controller candidates, such as experienced veterans, and have raised concerns of air travel safety.

This week, I was featured in a [six month investigation](#) which, among other things, uncovered allegations that the newest air traffic control recruits had access to answers on a key test that helped them gain jobs with the FAA.



[Click the picture to watch my latest interview](#)

As a former member of the House Subcommittee on Aviation, I have renewed my call [begun in December for FAA officials to appear before Congress](#) to explain their actions.

The latest report elevates the need to dig deeper to find out what the FAA is hiding. The American people must know if the FAA has put the safety

and security of our skies first, before any other aims they may have in their hiring processes.

- Did the FAA know someone on the inside was helping people cheat, and did they cover it up?
- Was it a tactic with a purpose: to ensure targeted populations would pass the test
- Who wrote the personality test (a.k.a. the Biographical Questionnaire), and who validated it (if anyone)?
- What happens to those who have now aged out of the hiring process for which they spent countless personal resources?

I also am also urging the House to act on my legislation, [H.R. 1964, the Air Traffic Controllers Hiring Act of 2015](#) (a.k.a. the SAFE TOWERS Act), to reverse the effects of the FAA's policies.

### Success: House Passes Two of My Bills

Our national labs like Illinois' Fermilab and Argonne are the hubs of technology and manufacturing innovation. I was thrilled the House took up and passed two of my bills to help push their research and development out into the marketplace, and put America at the forefront of technological advancement and job creation:

- **H.R. 874, the American Super Computing Leadership Act of 2015**, would jumpstart research into high-performance computing technologies to ensure continued American leadership in advanced computing. The legislation passed the House last year but died in the Senate. This year, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) introduced similar legislation.
- **H.R.1158, the Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2015**, would bring the United States' national lab system into the 21st century and promote the easy transfer of federal research into the

private sector to bring to the marketplace. The bill passed the House last year but died in the Senate. This year, Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Chris Coons (D-DE) introduced similar legislation.

With renewed energy in Senate, I look forward to both pieces of legislation becoming law soon.

### Key Legislative Action: Freezing Congressional Pay. Protecting Unborn. Ending NSA Data Collection. Defending Religious Liberty and More

1. Did you know the United States is one of only seven nations to allow abortion on-demand after 20 weeks, placing us in the company of human-rights violators such as China and North Korea? Regardless of one's views on abortion, majorities of Americans agree that the gruesome killing of unborn children at five months—who can feel pain—should be barred. [I supported House passage](#) of a bill I cosponsored to do just that.
2. I have consistently opposed the NSA's overreach and have voted in the past to end or defund the agency's bulk data collection program. [I supported House passage](#) of **H.R. 2048, the USA FREEDOM Act**, which protects civil liberties, ends bulk data collection, and includes key national security provisions.
3. Religious minorities like Yazidis, Shabaks, Christians and others have suffered tremendously at the hands of ISIS. Many times, these victims fleeing their homelands in a hurry are without official documents—making it almost impossible to enter a neighboring country. [I cosponsored H.R. 1568, the Protecting Religious Minorities Persecuted by ISIS Act of 2015](#), to provide direct relief to displaced religious minorities.
4. Repeatedly Iran has shown a clear intention to impose its extremist views upon all Iranians, regardless of their faith. [I urged senior congressional leaders to reauthorize](#) the **Lautenberg Amendment**

that preserves a secure pathway to asylum for these persecuted religious groups.

5. Since I entered office in 2011, the House has worked hard to practice our own fiscal responsibility as a legislative body. [I supported the passage](#) of **H.R. 2250, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act**, which maintains the pay freeze for Members of Congress since 2011, among other provisions.
6. Through “cooperative federalism,” states like Illinois can use public-private partnerships to develop hubs of innovation that will ultimately create manufacturing and other jobs, and grow the local economy. [I helped secure the inclusion](#) of **local technology-driven manufacturing and economic development program** in an appropriations bill which would support regional innovation ecosystems across the country, including in Illinois.
7. Illinois businesses are burdened enough by unnecessary and duplicative paperwork. Consistent standards across our nation’s financial regulatory agencies would ensure modernized communications among regulators, and between regulators and financial institutions and businesses. [I cosponsored](#) **H.R. 2477, the Financial Transparency Act of 2015**, to ensure regulators like the SEC adopt open, searchable and consistent data reporting standards.
8. The commercial space industry represents hundreds of billions in economic investment and thousands of jobs nationwide. Illinois’ own Cain Tubular and Scot Forge create parts for rocket engines and launch systems. [I supported House passage](#) of a bill I cosponsored, **H.R. 2262, the Spurring Private Aerospace Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship (SPACE) Act**, which will support the growth of the commercial space sector while also providing a smart regulatory environment to protect national security and public safety.
9. Municipal bonds are a lifeline to Illinois communities looking to expand a high school or repair their infrastructure. [I cosponsored](#) **H.R. 2229, the Municipal Bond Market Support Act**, to expand this Main Street financing tool.

10. Two of my bills introduced were passed out of the Financial Services Committee with bipartisan support: H.R. 1975, the Securities and Exchange Commission Overpayment Credit Act (passed 57-0) and H.R. 1675, the Encouraging Employee Ownership Act (passed 45-15).

### Small Business Week Highlights

During National Small Business Week, I stopped by successful small businesses throughout the 14th District. Here's just one highlighted on my Facebook page: [Acres Group, a family-owned business in Wauconda](#), which has been in business since 1983. Be sure to highlight your own favorite #IL14 small businesses on social media.

### Student Essay Contest

The U.S. Capitol Historical Society sponsors the annual Making Democracy Work Student Essay Contest, open to all students grades 6-12. The 2015 subject focuses on the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which is 50 years old this year.

Prizes include cash and a trip to Washington, D.C. for the first place winner. The deadline for entry is June 5. More info at: [www.uschs.org](http://www.uschs.org).

If you haven't already, be sure to like my [Facebook page](#), follow me on Twitter ([@RepHultgren](#)), or check out my [YouTube page](#) to stay informed on everything I'm doing on your behalf in Washington and in Illinois.

As always, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you.

In Your Service,



*Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress  
14th District, Illinois*

## Randy in the News

- [12 Noteworthy Tweets about Christians in the Middle East](#) (Newsmax)
- [200 Members of Congress Vow to Block “Any New Radio Taxes”](#) (Digital Music News)
- [America Faces an Acute Shortage of Air Traffic Controllers Known as 'Guardians of the Sky'](#) (Fox Business Network)
- [Bipartisanship studied in the age of gridlock](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)
- [Forum addresses Veterans Affairs Department reforms](#) (Kane County Chronicle)
- [Fox Business Network Report Causes FAA Probe](#) (TV Newser)
- [Hultgren bills would boost Fermi, Argonne labs](#) (Crain's Chicago Business)
- [Hultgren helps get tech-development program into funding bill](#) (DuPage Policy Journal)
- [Hultgren Outraged with FAA Hiring Practices for Air Traffic Controllers](#) (Illinois Review)
- [Hultgren passes bills designed to promote technological innovation](#) (Kane County Chronicle)
- [Hultgren pushes legislation beneficial to suburban labs](#) (Daily Herald)
- [Hultgren: SPACE Act Facilitates Pro-Growth Environment for Commercial Space Sector](#) (SpaceRef)
- [Nearly every House member voted for this anti-human trafficking bill](#)

(EWTN News)

- [Op-ed: Moving Your Nest Egg to a Bed of Red Tape](#) (Wall Street Journal)
- [Our View: Veterans deserve more](#) (Kane County Chronicle)
- [Pro-Commercial Space Bills Approved in Committee](#) (SpaceRef)
- [Service Academy Day offers teens, parents insight into application process](#) (Kane County Chronicle)
- [US House Passes 20-Week Late-Term Abortion Ban by Vote of 242-184](#) (Christian Post)
- [US Must Protect Minorities from 'Unjust Iran Regime'](#) (CBN News)
- [Why Congress Is Endorsing Research For Machines With Human Intelligence](#) (DC Inno)

**Washington, DC Office**

2455 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-2976  
Fax: 202-225-0697

**14th District Office**

40W310 Lafox Road, Suite F2  
Campton Hills, IL 60175  
Phone: 630-584-2734  
Fax: 630-584-2746

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)