

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.