

News from Representative Randy Hultgren

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Dear Friend,

During my travels throughout the 14th District, I've had the great opportunity to meet with small business owners, see the hunger in the eyes of students considering a career military service, and learn from employees about the challenges they face—but also their hopes and dreams.

Even from spending a morning working in the Starbucks drive-thru and talking with Baristas, I am hopeful about the possibilities for Illinois residents, even amid uncertainty at the state and national level. Take a look at the news story on my day there, and highlights from around the district.

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

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[Survey Results: Veterans Priorities](#)

Here's how you all responded to the survey question in the last Hultgren Huddle: **What do you think is the most pressing issue facing veterans today?**



Serving our veterans continues to be one of my top priorities. Here's a snapshot of how I'm tackling your top concerns:

Transitioning into civilian workforce after service:

- **Co-sponsored: H.R. 2221, Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act**, which improves the business development and federal contracting opportunities available to veterans who are small business owners.
- **Supported and passed House: H.R. 1382, Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment (BRAVE) Act**. Authorizes the VA to give preference in awarding contracts to businesses with higher percentages of full-time employees who are veterans.
- **Supported and passed House: H.R. 1313, Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act**. Treats the surviving spouse of a service-disabled veteran who acquires the ownership interest in a small business as their spouse for purposes of eligibility for VA service-disabled small business contracting goals and preferences.
- **Co-sponsored and passed House: H.J.Res. 61, Hire More Heroes Act**. [Encourages small businesses to hire veterans by providing relief from the Affordable Care Act's burdensome employer mandate.](#)

Inadequate access to mental health care:

- **Supported, passed House and became law: H.R. 203, Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act**. Requires the Secretary of the VA to hold an independent third party evaluation each fiscal year of the VA's mental health care and suicide prevention programs and submit to Congress. Also requires the VA to maintain updated website serving as a centralized source to provide veterans with resources and VA's mental health care services.
- [Held a forum in Geneva with local veterans representatives and officials from Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital and Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, among others, to work on solutions](#)

[to reforming VA health care \(including mental health care\).](#)

Additional action:

- I supported House passage of H.R. 1994, VA Accountability Act of 2015, which provides for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct.
- I supported House passage of H.R. 3230, Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act, which became law. Allows veterans to seek private care if they live more than 40 miles from the closest VA facility or are unable to receive an appointment within 30 days.
- I have [demanded action for mistreated veterans by the VA](#), and have kept watch on local VA hospitals' progress.
- I [joined the opening of a new Community Based Outpatient Center in McHenry](#) for veterans.
- I cosponsored H.R. 969, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015. Enables eligible veterans of the Vietnam War to receive VA health benefits from diseases linked to Agent Orange.
- I [hosted a forum on fraud protection for veterans and their families](#).

To learn more, [visit my Veterans issues page on my website here](#).

District Round-Up



Fantastic turnout for our **Service Academy Day in St. Charles** to give students and parents the information they need to determine whether to

pursue a career of military service at our nation's top educational institutions.



Meeting with Lake County State's Attorney Mike Nerheim at the **Lake County Children's Advocacy Center** which is committed to providing a safe environment for child victims of abuse. The Center investigates and helps prosecute offenders of child abuse with the goal of not causing further trauma to the child victim.



Talking with students, teachers and administrators at **Huntley High School**. I toured their new facilities (Field House, Hub, cafeteria/commons, and the new West Wing) and learn about the innovative programs that are changing the way students learn. Classes visited: American Government, (Blended) American History ([featured on CNN!](#)), and Biomedical Innovations. I saw the hands-on projects students have been working on to

solve real-world medical issues.

In addition, I visited the great work students at **Hampshire High School's manufacturing lab** are doing. The class provides students with cutting-edge, hands on laboratory experience in manufacturing technology. Students have the ability to complete the Advanced Manufacturing Pathway sequence where they can gain industry certifications to become a valuable candidate for an entry-level job upon graduation.



Welcoming students to the **4-H Dogbot Robotics Competition at Abbott Middle School in Elgin**, a fantastic opportunity for them to have fun while learning valuable skills they can use in future STEM careers. [Click here for more photos from University of Illinois extension.](#)



Visiting **Aid for Women of Northern Lake County**, an all-volunteer, non-profit center providing education, assistance and resources for women who are pregnant, plan to become pregnant or have recently had children. All services are free and confidential.



Visited **Charter Dura-Bar in Woodstock**, the only manufacturer of continuous cast iron bar stock in North America, and the largest producer in the world.

I also saw **Thelen Sand and Gravel in Lake County** in action as they continue to supply construction products since 1947. This three-generation family business is an example of what we must encourage and promote in Illinois.



Saw where **Producers Chemical in Sugar Grove** produces and distributes everything from products related to paints and coatings, printing and printing inks, metal treatment, water treatment, electronics, recreation, agricultural and municipal industries.

I also toured **Seeler Industries in Joliet** which distributes a wide variety of industrial chemicals.



Seeing how the real sausage is made at **Ream's Meat Market in Elburn**, a family-owned business. We discussed what policies would be best for Ream's to continue to expand and hire more workers. Fun fact: Elburn Mayor Dave Anderson worked for Randy Ream's father in 1958.



Thrilled to accept the Spirit of Enterprise Award from members of the **Aurora Chamber**. It's given by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for leadership and efforts to promote pro-jobs and pro-growth policies.

Barista for a Day



(Photo credit: Eric Miller, Kendall County Record)

[Click here to read the full story of my day at the Yorkville Starbucks, via Kendall County Record.](#)

Upcoming Events

Here's what events are coming up near you. As always, my office is available as your resource—[don't hesitate to contact me](#).

- My **Traveling Help Desk will be Yorkville on Friday, April 29**. Staff experts will be available to address any issues you may have with federal agencies, listen your concerns and deliver those concerns directly to me. [Click here for details and to learn more about what types of assistance are available](#).

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.

In Your Service,



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

Randy in the News

- [ACU to Honor Hultgren for Conservative Voting Record](#) (Illinois Review)
- [Congressman Hultgren Visits Huntley High School](#) (Huntley School District)
- [Gurnee hoping South Korea deals with local tech firm](#) (Daily Herald)
- [Hultgren Calls for 14th CD Youth to Set Goals, Demonstrate Service Leadership](#) (Illinois Review)
- [Hultgren gets a taste of work, coffee at local Starbucks gathering](#) (Kendall County Record)
- [MCC awarded grant for project on veterans](#) (Daily Herald)

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