

**Minnesota's  
2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District**

**John  
Kline's**

**2014**

**Year in  
Review**



# John Kline's **2014** Year in Review

JOHN KLINE  
2ND DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES



UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2439 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2271

350 WEST BURNSVILLE PARKWAY  
SUITE 135  
BURNSVILLE, MN 55337  
(952) 808-1213

KLINE.HOUSE.GOV

Last year, Minnesotans and our nation as a whole faced significant and unique challenges. As your Representative in Congress, I have worked diligently throughout the year to ensure your voice was heard in Washington.

I am honored to continue to serve you in the U.S. House of Representatives, and remain committed to ensuring you are informed on my work in Washington and here at home.

I hope you enjoy reviewing my "2014 Year in Review" and find this information helpful. Accordingly, I humbly serve you in Congress. Please let me know your views and share with me your thoughts on issues important to you. I am never more than a click away at <http://kline.house.gov>

The 114th Congress provides us a new opportunity to address the challenges facing our country and I look forward to continuing to serve as your advocate in Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kline".

JOHN KLINE  
Member of Congress

## **'Stars of the North': Recognizing Random Acts of Kindness and Generosity**

One of my greatest honors is the chance to recognize the generosity by many of Minnesota's selfless individuals who are willing to step up to address the needs they see in our communities.

In February, I hosted my seventh annual "Star of the North" ceremony to honor constituents who stepped forward to make life better for someone beyond themselves – volunteering, offering a helping hand, reaching out to a neighbor to ask, 'what can I do for you?'

These 'Stars of the North' have given far more than they have received, and I am honored to recognize these selfless Minnesotans.



## **Renewing Our Commitment to America's Students With Disabilities**



In March, I visited the Northfield High School to tour special education classrooms and meet with educators to discuss the federal government's role in funding special education. After the meeting, I urged Appropriators to increase funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and was pleased to support legislation that increased funding by \$25 million.

In December, I was pleased to support the ABLE Act, now law, which provides disabled

individuals and their families with some peace of mind toward health and independence by creating tax-free savings accounts.

## Helping and Assisting Minnesota Seniors



Aging Minnesotans and their loved ones face many decisions about living arrangements, health services, and other issues. Sometimes it's hard to know where to turn for the information you need. In April, I hosted an Aging & Wellness Expo to assist Minnesota's seniors and their loved ones.

Caseworkers from my office and liaisons from state and federal programs were on hand to offer assistance and answer any questions participants had.

I was honored to receive the "Champion of Seniors" award for my efforts to protect health benefits and security of Minnesota's seniors and citizens with disabilities.

## Fact-Finding Mission

To assess the transition of American forces as the country continued its first democratic, peaceful transfer of political authority, I visited Afghanistan in April with Speaker John Boehner. I appreciated meeting some of our brave men and women serving there and was pleased to receive updates directly from Ambassador Cunningham and General Dunford about our national security and Afghanistan's future.



## Promises Made, Promises Kept

As a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, one of my guiding principles in Congress is to ensure promises made to our veterans are promises kept. Whether ensuring our VA system doesn't fail our heroes, opening a new veterans outpatient clinic in Shakopee, and authoring legislation into law that protects victims in the National Guard and Reserve of sexual assault, it was my mission in 2014 to fight for fellow veterans and their families.



## **Career & Jobs Fair Attracts 700 Minnesotans**

I am committed to taking every possible step to spur job creation and get our economy back on track so families can flourish and Americans can do what they do best: create, invent, and lead. In May, I once again hosted a Career & Jobs Fair in Eagan that included more than 70 employers, many which were hiring. More than 700 Minnesotans attended.

Whether listening to constituents at home, helping them navigate bureaucratic red tape and roadblocks created by the federal government, or enacting pro-growth legislation, I am here to help.

## **Championing Bipartisan Jobs Training Bill & Shepherding Into Law**

In the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, I ensured Washington made job training reform a priority. After leading comprehensive workforce training reform to House passage in 2013, I worked in 2014 with our partners in the Senate and put together a bipartisan, bicameral solution that will help train the unemployed for new job opportunities and provide Americans with the tools to succeed in today's workforce.

The job training legislation is based on four key principles: streamlining federal programs and mandates; promoting skills training for available jobs; reducing unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape; and providing accountability for how taxpayer dollars are spent.

This bipartisan agreement will fix a broken job training system, help workers fill in-demand jobs, and protect taxpayers. I was proud to help lead this effort and appreciated all the hard work of my Republican and Democrat colleagues in the House and Senate, and am grateful President Obama signed it into law in July.



## Protecting Our Kids

As a father of two and grandfather of four, it is impossible for me to fathom the pain families of child trafficking victims feel. In July, I led a hearing with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to learn how we can help ensure the safety of our kids and protect our nation's most vulnerable youth. I was pleased to help champion bipartisan legislation into law that helps protect our kids from predators.



## Fighting to Ensure Communities Recover and Rebuild

Days after flooding caused significant damage in Scott and Rice counties, I met with county sheriffs, police chiefs, mayors, and emergency management coordinators from around Minnesota's 2nd District to discuss flood relief planning, and assess damage caused by widespread flooding due to heavy rains.

In order for communities devastated from the flood damage to recover and rebuild, I worked with the Minnesota congressional delegation and Gov. Dayton to ensure President Obama issue a declaration so vital federal programs could begin aiding Minnesotans and the state could be a full partner in their recovery efforts.



## Protecting Workers' Retirement Security

In December, I was proud to champion bipartisan legislation that will help avert a looming pension crisis threatening millions of workers, employers, and retirees.

Our bipartisan agreement – signed into law by President Obama in December – will help prevent the collapse of certain failing pension plans and better protect workers' retirement security.

The law provides critical flexibility and includes reforms to protect taxpayers and provide trustees with new tools to save troubled plans and protect the most vulnerable retirees.

## Working Together to Make Roads Safer for All Minnesota Travelers

In November, I was joined by Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Minnesota Dept. of Transportation Commissioner Charlie Zelle, and many Goodhue County residents at the Urland Lutheran Church near Cannon Falls to celebrate the opening of the Highway 52 and Goodhue County Road 9 interchange.



The year before, as frustrations of nearby communities with one of the state's most dangerous intersections at an all-time high, I organized a meeting

with concerned citizens, stakeholders, and local, state and federal transportation officials. At the meeting, agreement was reached on a new solution – a modified overpass plan for Hwy. 52 and CR 9. Construction started shortly after that meeting and was completed last fall. The 52/9 effort is what can happen when we roll up our sleeves and work together at the local, county, state, and federal levels. It is gratifying to find a commonsense solution Minnesotans deserve and I am pleased Highway 52 and CR 9 is now safer for all travelers.



# John Kline's **2014** Year in Review



## Educating & Equipping Our Students for the Workforce

If there is one thing we learned last November, it's that the American people know we need to do better.

They know we need education reform that empowers parents and places more control in the hands of teachers and local decision-makers. They know we need to work together to help students pursue the dream of an advanced degree without living a nightmare of debt, unemployment, and the reality of working two or three jobs just to get by.

The American people know we need to continue investing in our classrooms, but demand a better return on our investment. These are the priorities most Americans share, and they are my priorities



Click [here](#) to hear my priorities for 2015

in 2015 as well. I look forward to getting to work quickly in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress on replacing No Child Left Behind and strengthening our higher education system in order to best prepare today's students to join tomorrow's workforce.



# John Kline's **2014** Year in Review

## **100 percent**

Perfect attendance record last year, casting 554 votes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.



## **Ninety-Two Flags Flown**

Assisted with flying 92 flags over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. for constituents of Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District.

## **7,091 Followers**

Tweeted 441 messages to my Twitter followers in 2014.



## **70,000**

## **Letters, E-mails & Calls**

Received and responded to more than 70,000 pieces of correspondence.



## **1,345 U.S. Capitol Tours**

Provided tours of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. for 1,345 people.

## **20 Mobile Office Visits**



Mobile congressional office visited communities 20 times in all six counties in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District.



## **700+ Attendees** **CAREER & JOBS FAIR**

More than 700 Minnesotans attended my jobs fair last May in Eagan.

## **Successfully Assisted 288 Cases for Constituents**

My caseworkers in the district office located in Burnsville successfully assisted and completed almost 300 cases, handling difficulties with federal agencies for constituents. For example, my staff:

- Assisted a veteran and his family to obtain TRICARE health insurance they were promised, ultimately saving them

thousands of dollars in medical bills.

- Secured answers for an adoption case from southeast Asia in one day after family had waited for three years.
- Helped family members obtain passports almost immediately after a relative suffered a medical emergency in another country.



## John Kline's **2015** Preview

# My Office Is Here to Help You

I am honored to serve the residents of the 2nd Congressional District of Minnesota and want to serve my constituents in any way I can. Whether you need help with a federal agency like the [IRS](#) or [Department of Veterans Affairs](#), are trying to find out if federal grants are available for your project, or need [passport assistance](#) I am here to help. For full information about how I can assist you and your family, please [visit my website](#) or call my district office at (952) 808-1213.

## Stars of the North & Student Services

**Star of the North Nomination.** The Star of the North Congressional Award was created to recognize the extraordinary acts of service and the random acts of kindness performed by Minnesotans in the 2nd District. Over the years, there have been numerous examples of individuals who gave selflessly for the benefit of others. Past Star of the North recipients featured people and organizations throughout the district who recognized needs in the community and stepped forward to serve. If you know someone you would like to nominate, click [here](#).



## A Click Away

I value your input. If you would like to share your thoughts with me on issues important to you, I am never more than a click away.

You can e-mail me through my website [here](#).

You can also follow me on [Twitter](#) and “Like” my page on [Facebook](#).



**Congressional Art Contest for Students.** There were 40 entries in the 2014 Congressional Art Competition. Each participant receives a certificate of recognition. Each of the five winning participants was invited to attend a photo session with me. The winning entry gets displayed in the U.S. Capitol. Interested students can learn more [here](#).

### Congressional STEM Competition for Students.

In June of 2014, I hosted a Congressional Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Academic Competition, the “House App Contest.” Students can learn more about the competition [here](#).



**Internships.** An internship in my office provides a great opportunity for students to learn first-hand how our government works. Internships are available in my Washington, D.C. and Burnsville offices throughout the year. Students can learn more at my website [here](#).