

**Minnesota's
2nd Congressional District**

**John
Kline's**

2015

**Year in
Review**



John Kline's **2015** Year in Review

JOHN KLINE
2ND DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2430 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2277

350 WEST BURNSVILLE PARKWAY
SUITE 139
BURNSVILLE, MN 55337
(952) 806-1213

KLINE.HOUSE.GOV

In case you missed it, I announced in September I will not seek re-election this coming November. Serving our great nation 25 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and 13 years in Congress has been an honor and a privilege.

Not surprisingly, my seventh term in Congress is going by fast, but I want you - my constituents - to know I remain committed to working hard for you and advancing an ambitious agenda.

Before we close the book on 2015, I want to share with you some highlights from representing you. Whether it was restoring local control in our classrooms, fighting the bureaucracy that hinders dilapidated Native American schools, or ensuring our troops, veterans, and their families receive the benefits they were promised, I did my best in 2015 to deliver for you.

I hope you enjoy reviewing my "2015 Year in Review" and find it helpful. Please remember, I am never more than a click away at <http://kline.house.gov>.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE
Member of Congress

Replacing No Child Left Behind, Restoring Local Control



Every Child in Every School Should Receive an Excellent Education

I was pleased to champion a bipartisan law to replace No Child Left Behind with a new approach that ensures every child in every school receives an excellent education.

No Child Left Behind was based on good intentions, but it was also based on the flawed premise that Washington knew what students need to excel in school. The new Every Student Succeeds Act is based on three important principles: reducing the federal role in education, restoring local control, and empowering parents.

We turned the page on the failed status-quo and gave parents, teachers, and local school leaders the certainty and flexibility they need to deliver a quality education for our children.



Read more about the
Every Student Succeeds Act [here](#)

“We owe it to these kids. It’s time now for it to be *all* of our responsibility.”

John Kline, after visiting the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in northern Minnesota in April



Breaking Through the Bureaucracy to Help Indian Schools

Leading Congressional Hearing to ‘Get to the Bottom of This’

I visited the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in northern Minnesota in April. At the school, thin metal walls are all that separate students from harsh winters and blankets hang over the doors in a desperate attempt to keep out the cold air.

When winds reach a certain strength at the “Bug School,” students are forced to evacuate the building – often in below-zero temperatures. On many cold and windy winter days, to save time during evacuation, Bug School students keep their winter jackets on all day.

This is unacceptable. These children deserve much better.



It’s incumbent on the Administration and Congress to get to the bottom of this.

While additional resources are certainly important, they are only part of what is needed in a long-term solution.

We must work together in a nonpartisan manner to untangle the maze of bureaucracy that continues to plague tribal schools and students. Vulnerable children have waited long enough for the federal government to live up to its promises for all our children.

To view video of hearing, click [here](#)



VA Accountability

This summer I learned the Veterans Administration (VA) discovered unbilled co-pay amounts several years old and was planning to bill our veterans to immediately assess co-pays, after it had erred in not charging veterans at the time of care. In some cases, the bills would have been for thousands of dollars.

In an effort to fix the problem I worked with Sen. Amy Klobuchar and introduced a bill which gives the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to waive a required co-payment if the VA erred in not sending the bill in a timely manner.

To read more about the VA Billing Accountability Act, click [here](#)



Promises Made, Promises Kept

As a retired Marine whose son has served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, I was pleased to play an important role in drafting the annual budget blueprint for the Pentagon.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which the President signed into law in November, included numerous provisions I championed to benefit our troops, veterans, and their families.

The NDAA included my bill to provide military retirees the option to re-enroll in TRICARE Prime after losing access due to a Pentagon policy change. Also included was my legislation to not restrict service members from keeping and using weapons during an evacuation of U.S. citizens abroad.

To read more about the NDAA, click [here](#)

Honoring the 'Greatest Generation'

As a fellow veteran, it was an honor in May to present Cannon Falls resident Arnold Hjermstad, 96, with the Legion of Merit award he earned while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II.

In 1944, Hjermstad was nominated to receive the award, but due to bureaucratic errors he never received it. Since the 1970s, Hjermstad's sons had been trying to secure the award. I was pleased to ensure it happened.

To watch a WCCO-TV report on this, click [here](#)



John Kline's **2015** Year in Review



Helping Job Seekers Find Work

Each year, I provide an opportunity for job seekers in Minnesota's 2nd District as they navigate a highly competitive job market. In June, I hosted my Career & Jobs Fair attended by several hundred Minnesota job seekers. I take great pride in providing outstanding constituent services and jobs fairs are one way I can directly assist residents of the 2nd District.

To view my Jobs Fair Toolkit, click [here](#)

Minnesotans are 'Stars of the North'

I continue to be amazed by countless Minnesotans who selflessly go above and beyond in their service to their communities. Each year, I host a "Star of the North" ceremony to honor constituents who have exhibited acts of generosity. These "Star of the North" honorees graciously and generously give their time and talents to make life better for others in their neighborhoods and around the world. In February,



I was pleased to recognize hundreds of constituents who went above and beyond in service to their communities.

Their legacies inspire each of us to follow their lead.

To read more, click [here](#)

Serving Minnesota's Seniors

Aging Minnesotans and their loved ones face numerous decisions about health care, living arrangements, and other issues. In September, I was pleased to host an Aging & Wellness Expo in Lakeville to help connect seniors, their families, and caretakers with a variety of resources and services in our community.

To read more about my efforts to help seniors, click [here](#)





Click [here](#) to view video from hearing.

Providing Needed Congressional Oversight over Administration

One of my roles in Congress is to provide oversight of the Administration's federal agencies. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I receive testimony from Secretary of State John Kerry, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford and other military leaders.

In a hearing in March, I pressed Gen. Dunford for an explanation why senior Administration officials ordered U.S. Marines protecting the U.S. Ambassador to Yemen and other personnel to destroy their weapons and equipment prior to boarding a commercial aircraft during their evacuation.

As I told the General, I hope senior leaders do everything in their power to see that doesn't happen again.

I also introduced legislation toward that end, which was included in the national defense bill.

Click [here](#) to view video from hearing.

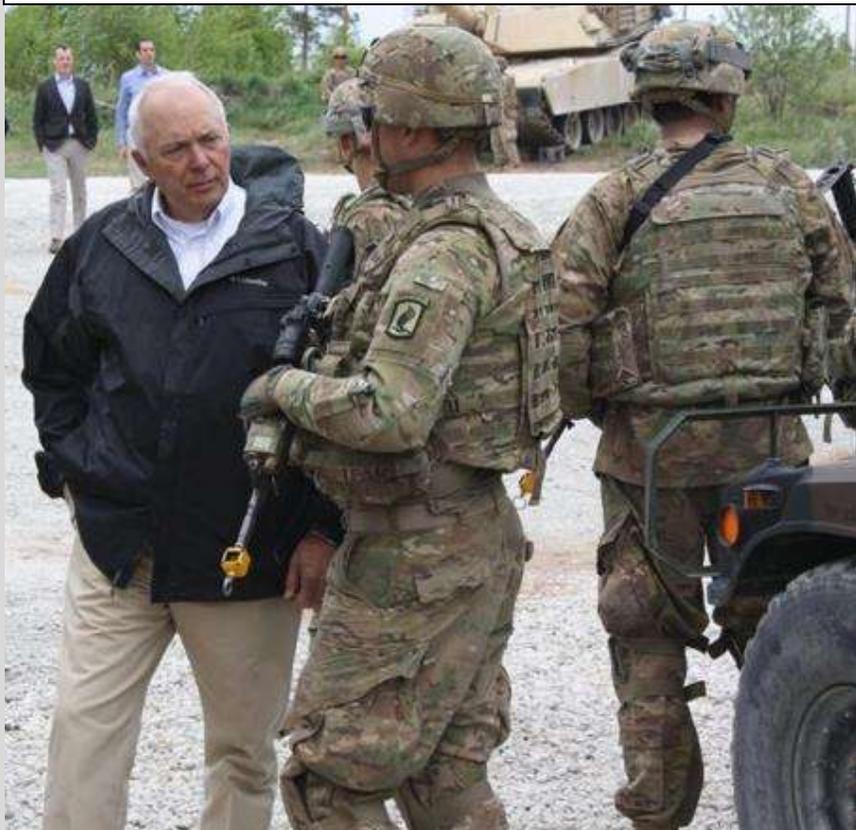
Reinforcing Need for Strong Leadership in the World

As a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, it remains one of my top priorities in Congress to ensure the men and women of the armed forces receive the best equipment, weapons systems, and training so they can accomplish their mission.

We face a determined enemy and must maintain a strong commitment to those who defend our nation.

This year, I visited Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and other countries on a fact-finding mission to meet with leaders from many of our allies in the Middle East and Europe. From the spread of ISIS to the possibility of a nuclear Iran, the threats our nation face in the region are many, and I was honored to join a congressional delegation to reinforce the need for strong leadership in the world, including an overarching strategy to defeat the terrorist threat.

Click [here](#) to listen to an interview on my meetings overseas.





Historic Visit from the Pope

It was an honor to witness Pope Francis' historic address to a joint meeting of Congress in September.

The Holy Father's message of opportunity and embracing the American spirit is an inspiration to us all.

Click [here](#) to view the Holy Father's remarks.

2016 Will Be My Final Year Serving You in the U.S. Congress

As we turn the page to 2016 – my final year serving you in U.S. Congress – I want to once again thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Next year, I will fight every day to get Congress focused on what matters most and produce the results Minnesotans need.

Many of you share with me a sense of unbending



optimism – an unwavering belief – that we are blessed to live in the greatest nation in the world. Despite the serious challenges facing America, we are blessed to call it home.

As you know, there is much more work to be done on your behalf. It's time to end the gridlock, overcome the tough challenges we face, and move our country in a new direction. It has been and will continue to be a privilege serving you, the men and women of Minnesota's 2nd District.

I was honored for my support of the National Guard ([above](#)); and received a congressional leadership award from the Marines ([at left](#)).

John Kline's **2015** Year in Review

99.9% voting record

In 2015, I cast 703 of 704 votes held in the 1st session of the 114th Congress.



116 Flags Flown Over Capitol

Assisted with flying 116 flags over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. for constituents of Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District.

8,014 Followers

Tweeted 419 messages to my Twitter followers in 2014.



130,000 Letters, E-mails & Calls

Received and responded to more than 130,000 pieces of correspondence.



346 U.S. Capitol Tours

Provided tours of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. for 1,335 people.

20 Mobile Office Visits



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



1,300 Attendees

CAREER & JOBS FAIR

More than 1,300 attended my jobs fair, senior expo, and Star of the North events.

Successfully Assisted 238 Cases for Constituents

My caseworkers in the district office assisted and completed almost 240 cases, handling difficulties with federal agencies for constituents. For example, my staff:

- Assisted a veteran with his Social Security Disability check. After being told by the federal government it would take several months, he received a check in 7 days that he needed for health care.
- Secured a replacement passport for a woman in just 3 days so she could still go on her honeymoon.
- Helped a couple receive approval in 11 days from the U.S. Department of Treasury so they could open their small business. They had been waiting for approval for three months.



John Kline's **2016** Preview

My Office Is Here to Help You

For one more year, I have the opportunity to serve the residents of the 2nd Congressional District 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, please [visit my website](#) or call my district office in Burnsville at (952) 808-1213.

Showcasing the Best From Around the 2nd District

Congressional App Challenge

In an effort to showcase the technological talents of students in the 2nd District, I am hosting a Congressional App Challenge for high school students. The deadline is Jan. 21, 2016. Students can learn more about the competition [here](#).



Congressional Art Contest

There were 17 entries in the 2015 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](#).



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 residents in the 2nd District. If you would like to nominate someone, click [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. Students can learn more at my website [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 [Facebook](#).

