

loophole" in the Fur Products Labeling Act of 1951, which allows manufacturers of fur and faux-fur garments under \$150.00 to sell these products without a label or with a label that fails to list all of the types of fur included in the product. In the market today, exporters use this loophole to deceptively sell products made from cat and dog fur as though they were made from faux fur or the fur of other animals, although it is illegal to import, export, sell or advertise domestic dog or cat fur in the U.S.

China exports about half of all the imported fur garments sold on the U.S. market. In Chinese factories, many domestic dogs and cats are brutally killed and sometimes even skinned alive for their fur. A Humane Society investigation found in the 1990s that the death toll of domestic dogs and cats in China reached 2 million animals every year; the same investigation revealed that some of the resulting dog fur was being sold in the U.S. After this scandal broke, Congress passed the Dog and Cat Protection Act of 2000, which banned the trade in dog and cat fur. Unfortunately, the "fur loophole" has created a way for dishonest exporters to continue profiting from sales of dog and cat fur to American consumers. Manufacturers also use the loophole to market real fur as faux fur, tricking Americans with humane shopping policies into supporting an industry they oppose.

Part of my objection to the current, deficient, language of the Fur Products Labeling Act lies in the fact that its loophole only applies to products of "relatively small quantity or value." A garment of \$150, the upper limit of that category, can contain multiple animal pelts. Clearly, new legislation is necessary to allow customers to be confident in the type of fur they are buying, regardless of how much money they spend.

I urge my colleagues to also support this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GEORGE B. VASHON

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize George B. Vashon, a distinguished 19th century figure in American history and the notable event that occurred recently to help remedy a past injustice. This gifted writer, orator, educator, abolitionist and lawyer, who was a leader in Syracuse's anti-slavery efforts for a period of time, was posthumously admitted to the Pennsylvania bar this spring after twice being denied because of his race. His life work helped improve the lives of countless African Americans, while his individual career achievements clearly proved the merits of his being granted this distinction 163 years later.

George B. Vashon was born and raised in Pennsylvania and moved to New York, where he resided in Syracuse for some years. In his early years, he was exposed to many leading figures in the abolitionist movement through his father John B. Vashon's role as a leader of Pittsburgh's black community. One of the Vashons' close associates was New York philanthropist Gerrit Smith, a financier and activist of the anti-slavery movement. For a short pe-

riod of time, he also represented central New York in the House of Representatives. William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass were also among the central figures in the abolitionist crusade who worked closely with John and George Vashon throughout their lives.

With George B. Vashon's gifted scholarly abilities—he was fluent in several languages as a teenager and went on to become the first African American to graduate from Oberlin College—he chose to study law and pursue a legal career after college. Under the tutelage of Judge Walter Forward, who would later become Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, Vashon sought to practice law in his home state of Pennsylvania and applied for admission in 1847. His application was denied because of his "negro descent." He was so distraught at this denial that he left Pennsylvania to live and teach in Haiti for a few years, but not before he applied for and passed the New York bar and became the first black lawyer in the state.

Upon his return to the U.S., George B. Vashon moved to New York, where he opened a legal practice at the corner of Water and Warren streets in downtown Syracuse. Because of its proximity to Ohio and Canada, Syracuse had become a growing hotbed of activity along the Underground Railroad and Vashon was a central player at this time. With passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, Vashon's legal services were needed to assist runaway slaves gain their freedom. With the support of his friend Gerrit Smith, Vashon later went on to become the first black man to run for Attorney General in New York on the Liberty Party ticket. He also contributed to Frederick Douglass' newspaper, *The North Star*, and became one of the first black college professors in this country when he served on the faculty of New York Central College in McGrawville, New York. Years later, George would help found Howard University, where he would be the university's first black professor. He was later admitted to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In an effort to remedy the discrimination he faced when he initially pursued a legal career in Pennsylvania, two of Vashon's descendants petitioned the Supreme Court of Western Pennsylvania. Nolan Atkinson, Vashon's great-grandson, and Paul Thornell, Vashon's great-great-grandson were successful. On May 4, 2010, the Court righted a wrong in the history books. In doing so, they issued the following order: "In acknowledgement of Mr. Vashon's credentials and achievements, this Court hereby admits George B. Vashon to the practice of law in the Courts of this Commonwealth posthumously."

I am pleased to commend this important acknowledgement of this notable figure in American history. Syracuse is privileged to claim George B. Vashon as a key figure in our city's proud history of antislavery activism.

SALUTING THE 2010 TECH TITANS FINALISTS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the finalists for the 2010 Tech Titans Awards presented by

Metroplex Technology Business Council, the largest technology trade association in Texas. At the 10th annual Tech Titans gala this August, the 2010 winners will be announced in categories designed to showcase the most cutting-edge technologies and the brightest talent emerging from the North Texas region. The event will also reveal the rankings of the 2010 Titan Fast Tech, which lists the fastest-growing DFW technology companies based on percentage of revenue growth over the last year and the last 5 years.

Founded in 1994, the Metroplex Technology Business Council, MTBC, is a non-profit organization composed of approximately 300 members that include technology businesses and providers from across the DFW Metroplex. The MTBC produces numerous events, including the Management in High-Tech Luncheon Series, the Technical Luncheon Series, Tech Week in Austin and the Tech Titans and Fast Tech Awards.

The MTBC is a shining example of the face of the future for Texas. Make no mistake, the MTBC is making great things happen for the Lone Star State—and the world.

In addition to the MTBC, supporters of the Tech Titans Awards and Fast Tech event include PricewaterhouseCoopers, TechAmerica, Deloitte, Dallas Business Journal, BKD, LLP, Time Warner Cable Business Class, GSCS Inc., Farstar Inc., and AVMG.

Congratulations to all finalists. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to excellence. I salute you.

The 2010 Tech Titans Finalists' names and categories follow:

Corporate CEO Award: Valerie Freeman, BravoTECH, Dallas, TX; Suri Gurvenda, Optimal Solutions Integration, Inc., Irving, TX; Dale Sohn, Samsung Telecommunications America, Richardson, TX; Charlie Vogt, Genband, Plano, TX.

Emerging Company CEO Award: Andres Ruzo, Link America, Inc., Rowlett, TX; Devender Aerrabolu, American Unit, Frisco, TX; Bettina Bennett, WhichBox Media, LLC, Dallas, TX; Shama Kabani, The Marketing Zen Group, Carrollton, TX.

Corporate Horizon Award: D4D Technologies, Richardson, TX; Entrust, Dallas, TX; Fujitsu Network Communications, Inc., Richardson, TX; Genband, Plano, TX.

Emerging Company Horizon Award: GlobeRanger Corporation, Richardson, TX; HealthPoints, Inc., Dallas, TX; MicroTransponder, Inc., Dallas, TX; Revere Security, Dallas, TX.

Technology Innovator Award: Drs. Cadeddu, Scott, Fernandez, & Bergs, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Arlington, TX; Yves Chabal, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX; Will Rosellini, MicroTransponder, Inc., Dallas, TX; Steve Wallach, Convey Computer, Richardson, TX.

Technology Advocate Award: Matt Blanton, StarTech Early Ventures, Richardson, TX; Gabriella Draney, Tech Wildcatters, Dallas, TX; Robert Scott, Scott & Scott, Dallas, TX; North Texas RCIC, Dallas, TX.

Technology Adopter Award: City of Richardson Animal Shelter, Richardson, TX; Dallas Cowboys Football Club, Irving, TX; The Heart Hospital at Baylor Plano, Plano, TX; Top Golf, Dallas, TX.

Community Hero Award: Wanda Gass, Texas Instruments, Dallas, TX; Suri Gurvendra, Optimal Solutions Integration, Inc.,

Irving, TX; Lin O'Neill, Futures Consulting, Dallas, TX; Nina Vaca-Humrichouse, Pinnacle Technical Resources, Inc., Dallas, TX.

Tech Titan of the Future—University Level: Caruth Institute for Engineering Education, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX; Geo Jeffrey NanoExplorers Program, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX; UT Dallas Innovation Opportunity Camp, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX; UNT Summer Robocamp for Girls, University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

Tech Titan of the Future—High School Level: Joanne Blast, Lake Highlands High School, Richardson ISD; Kevin Cieszkowski, Richardson Berkner STEM Academy, Richardson ISD; Aaron Hampshire, Parish Episcopal School, Addison, TX; Alisa Salvans, Richardson High School, Richardson ISD.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FULL SELF-GOVERNMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 29, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the District of Columbia Full Self-Government Act. The bill would grant the District of Columbia almost complete home rule. It would mark the most significant advancement in the District's local autonomy since Congress first created the District government's structure and operating rules in the Home Rule Act of 1973. The bill would eliminate almost all of the requirements and limitations imposed on the District by Congress in the Home Rule Act, so that the District could structure its operations and provide services in any manner that it chooses. Aside from a statehood or voting rights bill, no bill would do more to grant the federal taxpaying citizens of the District of Columbia their equal citizenship rights.

Under the bill, the District's government would be able to operate similarly to how most state and local governments operate. For example, the District, like every state, would be able to set its own fiscal year. Under the Home Rule Act, the District's general government fiscal year must begin in October, while its fiscal year for schools must begin in July. In contrast, almost every state and local government's fiscal year for all operations begins in July, enabling these jurisdictions to better plan and coordinate their operations and services.

In addition, the District would no longer have to come to Congress before it could make changes to its operations. For example, the District's major change in school governance structure that eliminated the school board and placed responsibility for schools in the mayor was held up for weeks because it had to be enacted by Congress, which caused serious problems for the opening of schools. Recently, I had to introduce a bill to reduce the waiting period for holding special elections to fill vacancies on the D.C. City Council from 114 days to 70 days. Previously, Ward 4 and Ward 7 were left without representation because the council could not reduce the period to fill vacancies.

The bill would accomplish what I have been fighting for since I entered Congress: legisla-

tive and budget autonomy for the District. The bill, like my stand-alone budget and legislative autonomy bills, would eliminate the requirement that the city's laws layover in Congress for 30 or 60 days before they take effect, and would eliminate the requirement that the city's local budget be affirmatively approved by Congress before it takes effect.

The bill would not only remove Congress from the District's legislative process, it would free the District to operate and provide services as it sees fit. The bill would eliminate all of the budget, financial management, audit and borrowing requirements imposed on the city by the Home Rule Act, and would permit the city to set the powers, organization, and procedures of the Office of the Mayor and the city council. It is important to note that the bill would have no effect on existing contractual or other financial obligations incurred by the District, on any elected or appointed District official or other District employee, or on any pending legal actions or proceedings.

Even with this bill, however, there would be two important limitations on the District's autonomy. First, Congress would retain its ultimate legislative authority over the District under the U.S. Constitution. The only way to completely eliminate congressional authority would be to amend the Constitution or to make the District a state. Second, like the Home Rule Act, the bill specifically precludes the city council from legislating over certain matters, such as height limitations on buildings.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH OUTCOMES, PLANNING AND EDUCATION ACT (HOPE) FOR ALZHEIMER'S

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Health Outcomes, Planning and Education (HOPE) for Alzheimer's Act. I would like to thank my colleague and fellow co-chair of the bipartisan Alzheimer's Task Force, Mr. CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, for partnering with me on this important legislation.

An estimated 5.3 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, and 1 in 10 individuals has a family member with the disease. Unless science finds a way to prevent or cure it, nearly 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by the year 2050.

The HOPE Act aims to increase detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and provide access, information, and support for newly diagnosed patients and their families. The bill would provide for Medicare coverage of comprehensive Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diagnoses and services in order to improve care and outcomes for Americans living with the disease.

At present, most people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias have not been diagnosed. This only contributes to the difficulty surrounding this disease. Data from a recent study in the Journal of General Internal Medicine conducted from 2002 to 2003 show that only 19 percent of people age 65 with de-

mentia had a diagnosis of the condition in their primary care medical record. In addition, ethnic and racial populations at higher risk for Alzheimer's are less likely than whites to have a diagnosis of the condition.

Delays in diagnosis have various negative consequences for patients and their families. One such serious consequence is that if individuals do not receive treatments early, when available medications are more likely to be effective, then families have less opportunity to make legal, financial and care plans while the person living with Alzheimer's or dementia is still capable.

While America works towards investing more in research for Alzheimer's to move towards a cure for this devastating disease, we must also help the many affected families to plan for the care of the patients. This bipartisan legislation is a good step in ensuring these important steps are taken.

The Alzheimer's Association has endorsed our legislation, which will increase the likelihood that Alzheimer's will be diagnosed sooner and help individuals plan for the required care associated with Alzheimer's. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this important issue throughout the legislative process.

HONORING ALICIA CLAYPOOL FOR HER WORK ON THE IOWA SAFE SCHOOLS ACT

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Alicia Claypool, Chair of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission on her work protecting Iowa's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students from bullying and harassment in schools and communities. All students need a safe, supportive environment in which to learn, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. There is extensive evidence that LGBT students are disproportionately targets for harassment and discrimination in schools. The climate of fear experienced by LGBT students frequently results in increased absenteeism, decreased academic performance and increased risk of suicide and other high-risk behaviors.

On September 1, 2010, Iowa Safe Schools will recognize Alicia, State Representative Roger Wendt, and State Senator Mike Connolly for all their work protecting Iowa's LGBT students and all other students from bullying and harassment. This date will mark the 3rd year anniversary of the Iowa Safe Schools Law going into effect. This legislation protects Iowa's 500,000 students from bullying and harassment in our schools on the basis of 17 categories which include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Without the efforts of Alicia, this law would not have passed, and Iowa Safe Schools, an organization committed to protecting Iowa's students would not exist. Iowans can never thank Alicia enough for all her efforts in creating and fighting for those without a voice.