

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.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY (VCU) FOR ITS VICTORY IN THE COLLEGE BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL (CBI)

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) for its victory in the College Basketball Invitational (CBI) Championship on March 31, 2010.

VCU is located in Richmond, Virginia and is one of the premier institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The University fosters an enrollment 32,436 total students, including 21,149 undergraduates. VCU maintains a Division I athletic program offering 14 varsity sports which includes a men's basketball team that rosters 12 talented young men from around the world. In March of 2010, VCU junior Larry Sanders was named Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Defensive Player of the year and earned first team ALL-CAA honors while teammate Joey Rodriguez earned second team ALL-CAA honors.

On March 31, 2010, the VCU basketball team rallied from a 9 point deficit at halftime to defeat Saint Louis University for the second straight game by a score of 71 to 65 in the best of three championship series, capturing the CBI championship. The VCU basketball team won the CBI championship under the guidance of their first year coach, Shaka Smart. During the final game, Junior Brandon Rozell scored a game high 27 points and his teammate Joey Rodriguez scored 13 points on his way to capturing Tournament MVP honors. The VCU basketball team finished their season with 27 wins, the second most wins in school history.

VCU President Michael Rao and Athletic Director Norwood Teague have done an exemplary job of supporting this successful athletic program and the gifted student-athletes of the Rams basketball team. The VCU athletes and coaching staff have earned the pride and respect of the VCU students, faculty, alumni, all Rams fans and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Rams for their successful 2010 basketball season and their achievement as CBI champions.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CENTRAL KENTUCKY NEWS JOURNAL

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great news source in the Commonwealth of Kentucky—the Central Kentucky News-Journal. This year, the Central Kentucky News-Journal will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

After a series of changes in ownership, Mrs. T. W. Buchanon became the editor-manager of the journal and it was launched as the Central Kentucky News-Journal in January of 1910. The newspaper now, one hundred years

later, is in circulation twice a week, providing unparalleled coverage for the citizens of Taylor County.

As a community paper, the Central Kentucky News Journal plays an important role bringing readers news and articles that directly affect their readers. Campbellsville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky are fortunate to have such an outstanding newspaper with a proven history of providing exceptional news coverage.

I am proud to represent the employees at the Central Kentucky News-Journal and thank them for the countless contributions they have made.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Central Kentucky News-Journal and congratulating them on 100 amazing years.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACKS IN KAMPALA, UGANDA

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1538, which condemns the terrorist attacks that took place on July 11, 2010, in Kampala, Uganda. This terrorist behavior is simply unacceptable and our nation must express our disapproval of the responsible parties who committed these horrible attacks.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in East Africa is grave. Unfortunately, the situation isn't getting any better either, given that this is the worst terrorist attack that this region has witnessed since 1998. The responsible party for these horrifying terrorist attacks is the hard-line Somali militant group, al-Shabab. Even more frightening is the fact that this group has threatened further attacks, if Uganda and Burundi continue to supply troops to an African Union peacekeeping force in Somalia. This continued threat of terrorist attacks is not only a dire concern in this area of East Africa, but also for our nation. Uganda, a key U.S. ally, is also a training ground for soldiers for Somalia's transitional government, the government which al-Shabab is seeking to overthrow. Both the United States and the United Kingdom support this mission. Consequently, we have responsibility to support and protect the peacekeeping forces that are working to provide stability in Somalia. In order for strength to be restored in the failing state of Somalia and the surrounding countries like Uganda, we must also find a way to remove the terrorist group al-Shabab from its destabilizing role.

Mr. Speaker, as the trend in globalization continues to increase, the connections among nations become more and more intertwined. Therefore, as Representatives of Congress, we must pass this resolution to call on our administration to work with the international community to address the security threat emanating from Somalia. This will hopefully ensure that this violence doesn't overspill more into other nations.

Again, I fully support this resolution and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

HONORING LINDER'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Linder's Garden Center in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Linder's is a family-owned greenhouse that began as a small business selling fresh produce to local restaurants, and has grown into a Garden Center selling more than 25 million plants each year.

In 1910, a Swiss immigrant with humble beginnings named Albert Linder brought his horse drawn wagon filled with celery stalks and other fresh vegetables to local markets and restaurants. Linder soon found success as a result of his hard work and dedication to plants. At its peak, this burgeoning small business operated six greenhouses for celery seedlings.

By the 1940's, Linder had stopped using horse drawn wagons because trucks enabled him to expand his business to customers located farther away. Facing strong competition and celery blight, Linder was eventually forced to change the model of his business. He decided to move away from celery seedling and focused on cut flowers and bedded plants. This change proved profitable for Linder's and allowed Linder to remain successful even during difficult economic times.

Modern day Linder's continues to focus on flowers and plants, but has expanded to include green houses, and a garden center which hosts educational classes that allow budding urban gardeners to learn more about plant care. In 1970, the third generation of the Linder family took over the business. Robert, Dave and Lillian Linder have successfully continued their grandfather's business and continue to make our community beautiful.

Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to honor Linder's 100th Anniversary. I am honored to submit this statement recognizing this resilient and successful Saint Paul family-owned business. They are truly an example of the American dream being fulfilled. Their hard work and dedication have made them a successful Minnesota business.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,247,793,649,102.86.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,609,367,902,809.06 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.