

committed individuals into a reality. I was serving in the Kentucky senate back in 2004 when rumblings of the school first began. Named after renowned Kentucky entrepreneur Carol Martin “Bill” Gatton, the school first opened its doors in 2007 to a select group of 126 public high school students. Aside from meeting stringent admission criteria, today’s Gatton Academy students embody a love and talent for science and math. Students there also share a common hunger for college-level academics, and that is exactly what they get at Gatton Academy.

Students are submerged in academics as they live and study in a residence hall built especially for them on Western Kentucky University’s campus. Most classes are college level and are taken on the WKU campus alongside college undergrads.

At the Gatton Academy, students break the traditional high school mold, trading locker-filled hallways and 8 a.m. bells for access to college-level innovative technology and the study of DNA and alternative fuels. Students work regularly with their instructors on scientific research projects, and also take advantage of the school’s study abroad programs. This past winter, several students had the opportunity to study in Western Europe and Costa Rica.

Students at the Gatton Academy graduate with more than just a high school diploma, as many students are well on their way to obtaining college and postgraduate degrees by the time they graduate high school.

The Gatton Academy is one of 16 residential public high schools in the Nation specializing in science, technology, engineering, and math—STEM subjects. In a world of increased global competitiveness, enhanced STEM education is critical if we want to remain one of the world’s most technologically advanced nations. I applaud the faculty and staff at both the Gatton Academy and WKU for fully recognizing this and making a commitment to the education of the Commonwealth’s best and brightest students.

Specifically, I would like to recognize the Gatton Academy’s executive director and visionary for the academy, Dr. Julia Roberts, and director Dr. Tim Gott, and congratulate them on this recognition, which is a testament to their years of hard work. I would also like to congratulate and thank Dr. Gary Ransdell, the president of Western Kentucky University, for making WKU’s partnership with the Gatton Academy possible.

Again, I offer my congratulations to the entire Gatton Academy community on this outstanding accomplishment. I look forward to following the future success of the Gatton Academy and its students.

FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to participate in the Foster Youth Shadow Day Program in honor of National Foster Youth Month. Many of my colleagues today have been paired with a foster youth to give them a firsthand glimpse of life in and around the Capitol. It is our goal to encourage them to nurture their innate talents, develop their leadership qualities, and even explore potential careers here in Washington. I would like to thank all of the cochairs of the Congressional Caucus of Foster Youth, of which I am proud to be a member, for planning this important event today.

I am also pleased to be paired with Dee Saint-Franc, a young woman who shows us all what determination and perseverance truly look like. Coming from a family that took in foster children, one of my priorities in Congress has been to ensure that this population has every opportunity to access and achieve success. Drawing on her personal experiences and leadership abilities, Dee has emerged as a strong advocate on this issue.

I have had the privilege of working with Dee on issues affecting youth in the foster care system, and I have deep respect for her commitment, courage, and capabilities. Among her many accomplishments, she has demonstrated tremendous passion and skill through her role as board cochair of The Voice and as Rhode Island’s delegate to the New England Youth Coalition. She attained an associate’s degree in business management from Johnson & Wales University, and works for the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association.

Dee came under the care of the Department of Children, Youth and Families at the age of 7 years old. She lived in group homes and with foster families, and, unfortunately, at some point along the way became a victim of identity theft. This issue of identity theft came to my attention a few years ago, and Dee’s personal story, as well as the stories of numerous other foster youth brave enough to step forward, was crucial in passing legislation to deal with this problem.

I’m pleased to report that last year President Obama signed into law the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, which contained a provision I authored to address identity theft in the foster care system. The measure requires States to provide foster youth ages 16 and older with a free copy of any consumer credit report pertaining to them while under State care, and to fix any problems if they are found so that when the child leaves State care, they do so with their identity and their credit intact. While this law would have protected Dee and others like her, she has nevertheless persevered and has done remarkable work with her peers in Rhode Island.

Moving forward, Congress needs to do its part to further support Dee’s efforts to level the playing field for foster

youth. I’m proud to support bipartisan legislation being introduced by caucus Members today to remove obstacles to ensuring that foster youth get the education that they deserve. We can all take simple steps to help them apply for State benefits and financial aid they need when they age out of the system, and I have introduced legislation for that very purpose.

Now at the age of 22, I am pleased to report that Dee is attending Rhode Island College, my alma mater, to pursue a bachelor’s degree in social work. I’m also proud that Dee is working to give something back to her community, and wants to focus her academic career in the area for which she is uniquely qualified. She is a role model for her daughter and for all of us here today. And perhaps, Mr. Speaker, one day she will be down speaking on the House floor herself in the not-too-distant future. I thank everyone for their support of Foster Care Awareness Month.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM WAMPLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, Representatives BOB GOODLATTE, and ROBERT HURT, I am deeply saddened to report the passing of a former Member of this body. On May 23, 2012, former Ninth District United States Congressman William Wampler passed away at his home in Bristol, Virginia. A man of principle, integrity, and courage, our Nation has truly lost a great man.

Born in Pennington Gap and raised in Bristol, Bill attended the Bristol public schools. The son of a hardware store businessman and a schoolteacher, Bill was a budding leader even in his youth. He was voted class president each of his 4 years at Virginia High School.

At the height of World War II in May of 1943, Bill, just 17 years old, enlisted in the United States Navy. For the next 27 months, Bill served as a seaman until the end of the war. Upon returning to southwest Virginia, Bill resumed his studies, pursuing his undergraduate degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1948 and then his law degree from the University of Virginia.

A Republican by birth, Bill joined the party his family supported because of its opposition to slavery. His first foray into politics came in 1948 while working as the Republican assistant campaign manager for the Ninth District congressional elections. Shortly thereafter, in 1953, at the ripe old age of 26, Bill was elected to the 83rd Congress. For the next 2 years, Bill had the distinction of being the youngest Member of Congress.

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Though Bill spent nearly 20 years in office, one incident from the 83rd Congress stayed with him for the rest of his life. On May 1, 1954, four Puerto

Rican nationalists, apparently on a tour of this very congressional gallery, pulled out pistols and fired 41 rounds of ammunition at Members of Congress. When the shooting ceased, five Representatives were wounded in the attack. By an act of God, none were killed.

After a short period of time in the private sector, Bill returned to Congress in 1967. He went on to serve in seven succeeding Congresses until 1983. The ranking Republican member of the House Agriculture Committee, a member of the Committee on Aging and the Committee on Committees, Bill always considered it a great privilege to serve the people of the "Fighting Ninth." Fondly known as "The Bald Eagle of the Cumberlands," I assure you and the people of the Ninth District that his legend will never die.

Even though he was in failing health, I was greatly honored, when I was elected in 2010, to have Bill Wampler show up at our victory party in Bristol and hand me his No. 9 license plate as a part of his legacy. I hope that I can achieve the greatness that he achieved and have the abilities that he had. He was truly a great man.

His legacy and influence will long be remembered across the Ninth and throughout southwest Virginia. I am honored to pay tribute to Bill's many contributions to our community, our region, and our Nation. He was a friend and a courageous public servant. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Lee; his children; friends; and loved ones. May God give them comfort during this difficult time.

HEARING FROM A BRAVE AFGHANISTAN TRUTH-TELLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, later today I will join a bipartisan group of Members at a panel discussion about the ongoing war in Afghanistan. Joining us as a special guest will be Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Davis, one Afghanistan veteran who has spoken the devastating truth about conditions on the ground.

During his second tour of duty in 2010 and 2011, he interviewed or interacted with 250 soldiers at all levels in several Afghan provinces. He also spoke with Afghan security officials and with civilians. He prepared both a classified and an unclassified report about what he saw and what he heard. Here is some of what he concluded in his own words, Mr. Speaker. He said:

What I saw bore no resemblance to rosy official statements by U.S. military leaders.

He said:

I witnessed the absence of success on virtually every level. I heard many stories of how insurgents controlled virtually every piece of land beyond eyeshot of a U.S. or international security assistance force base.

And he said:

From time to time, I observed the Afghan security forces collude with the insurgency.

Davis tells us that one Afghan police captain actually laughed at him when Davis asked about how they responded to a Taliban attack. No, we don't go after them, said the captain. That would be dangerous.

One senior officer told Lieutenant Colonel Davis: How do I look a soldier's wife in the eye and tell her that her husband died for something meaningful?

Mr. Speaker, is that what we have to show for nearly 11 years of war and hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money? As we recognized Memorial Day on Monday and over the past weekend, don't we at least owe it to the war dead and their families to ensure that their sacrifice was for a worthy cause?

Lieutenant Colonel Davis did not have to come forward. Without a doubt, it would have been better for his military career to keep his head down and his mouth shut. But with the stakes so great and the costs so high, he felt that he had a greater obligation to the truth.

Lieutenant Colonel Davis' story must be heard. It needs to be heard because it balances the last 10 years at the Armed Services Committee and in various other briefings and forums where we've been exposed to nothing more than the official line on how this war is going. It's time we got firsthand experience and a firsthand version from someone who has seen the dysfunction of our Afghan policy at the ground level.

In February, a group of Members sent a letter to House leadership asking that Lieutenant Colonel Davis have the opportunity to testify at a formal hearing of a relevant committee of the House, but this invitation has not been extended to him. So, thanks to the leadership of my friends, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and Congressman WALTER JONES, we will convene a panel later today to give Lieutenant Colonel Davis a chance to tell what he saw in Afghanistan.

I invite all Members of Congress to attend. It's at 2 p.m. at B-318, Rayburn. If you do, you will hear convincing and overwhelming evidence that this war is a colossal failure, and it's time, finally—after more than a decade—to bring our troops home.

CANCER SURVIVOR BEAUTY AND SUPPORT DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cancer Survivor Beauty and Support Day.

To my left here is a poster for Cancer Survivor Beauty and Support Day, which appears right now in hundreds of businesses all across our Nation and will be read by over a million survivors. This important day is observed

on the first Tuesday in June, which falls this year on June 5. I am very pleased to help draw attention and raise awareness for this important day.

Mr. Speaker, there are nearly 12 million cancer survivors living in the United States, and each year that number continues to grow. In 2012, about 1.6 million new cases are expected to be diagnosed, and each individual will face challenges both during and after treatment. Each individual will need a tremendous amount of care and support.

Since its inception in 2003, Cancer Survivor Beauty and Support Day has helped bring warm support, comfort, and pride to survivors. This day is one of a kind, bringing together all cancer survivors in this country—men, women and children, regardless of their type of cancer or when they were diagnosed—with thousands of volunteer stylists, beauticians, barbers, and industry professionals who are looking to offer a little personal kindness to our Nation's cherished cancer survivors. These individuals have overcome so much and have shown us all the courage to fight on in the face of so many uncertain challenges. This day simply is an opportunity to provide relaxation and to connect survivors with one another and with caring volunteers.

Cancer Survivor Beauty and Support Day is the only event of its kind in our Nation, with complimentary services being offered to all survivors by salons, barbershops, day spas, and other beauty and massage therapy facilities. The event is nationwide, with support in literally all 50 States. It is also important to note that participation in this day is purely voluntary by these businesses, with no monetary solicitation or donations before, during, or after the event.

Support for this important day continues to grow, thanks to the hard work of so many good people and dedicated supporters. I'd like to especially recognize Barbara Paget, the founder and dynamic leader of this cause, for her hard work. It certainly would not be the event that it is today without her leadership.

In addition to the signs and flyers like this one we have right here, Mr. Speaker, all around the country, Stand Up To Cancer will reach over 1 million survivors on their Facebook page on June 5, 2012.

This day is very established and deserves recognition by this body. To this end, I have introduced House Resolution 494, a bipartisan resolution which expresses the support for designating the first Tuesday in each June as National Cancer Survivor and Beauty Support Day. I certainly urge all of my colleagues to recognize and jump on board this important resolution. But more importantly, I ask everyone to take a moment to recognize this day. Put something on your Web site. Urge survivors and volunteers in your districts to participate on this day, June 5, and honor the cancer survivors all across our Nation.