

Nevertheless, Common Core emerged. Keep in mind, the specific standards were never voted upon by Congress, the Department of Education, state or local governments. Yet, their implementation was approved by 49 states and territories. The president essentially bribed states into implementation via Race to the Top, offering 4.35 billion taxpayer dollars to participating states, \$500 million of which went to Tennessee. And much like No Child Left Behind, the program promises national testing and a one-size-fits-all education, because, hey, it worked really well the first time.

While I do admire some aspects of the core, such as fewer standards and an emphasis on application and writing, it's not going to fix our academic deficit. If nothing else, these standards are a glowing conflict of interest. And they lack the research they allegedly received. And most importantly, the standards illustrate a mistrust of teachers, something I believe this county has already felt for a while.

I've been fortunate to have incredible educators that opened my eyes to the joy of learning, and I love them like my family. I respect them entirely, which is why it frustrates me to review the TEAM and APEX evaluation systems. These subjective anxiety-producers do more to damage a teacher's self-esteem than you realize. Erroneous evaluation coupled with strategic compensation presents a punitive model that, as a student, is like watching your teacher jump through flaming hoops to earn a score. Have you forgotten the nature of a classroom? A teacher cannot be evaluated without his students, because as a craft, teaching is an interaction. Thus how can you expect to gauge a teacher's success with no control for student participation or interest?

I stand before you because I care about education, but also because I want to support my teachers. And just as they fought for my academic achievement, so I want to fight for their ability to teach. This relationship is at the heart of instruction, yet there will never be a system by which it is accurately measured.

But I want to take a step back. We can argue the details ad infinitum. Yet I observe a much broader issue with education today. Standards-based education is ruining the way we teach and learn. Yes, I've already been told by legislators and administrators, Ethan, that's just the way things work. But why? I'm going to answer that question. It's bureaucratic convenience. It works with nuclear reactors, it works for business models, why can't it work with students? I mean, how convenient calculating exactly who knows what and who needs what. I mean, why don't we just manufacture robots instead of students? They last longer and they always do what they're told.

But education is unlike every other bureaucratic institute in our government. The task of teaching is never quantifiable. If everything I learned in high school is a measurable objective, I haven't learned anything. I'd like to repeat that. If everything I learned in high school is a measurable objective, I have not learned anything. Creativity, appreciation, inquisitiveness—these are impossible to scale, but they're the purpose of education, why our teachers teach, and why I choose to learn.

And today we find ourselves in a nation that produces workers. Everything is career and college preparation. Somewhere our founding fathers are turning in their graves, pleading, screaming, and trying to say to us that we teach to free minds, we teach to inspire, we teach to equip. The careers will come naturally.

I know we're just one city in a huge system that excitedly embraces numbers, but ask

any of these teachers, ask any of my peers, and ask yourselves, haven't we gone too far with data?

I attended tonight's meeting to share my critiques, but as Benjamin Franklin quipped, any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain, and most fools do. The problems I cite are very real. And I only ask that you hear them out, investigate them, and do not dismiss them as another fool's criticisms. I'll close with a quote of Jane L. Stanford that Dr. McIntyre, shared in a recent speech:

"You have my entire confidence in your ability to do conscientious work to the very best advantage to the students—that they be considered paramount to all and everything else. We're capable of fixing education, and I commit myself to that task. But you cannot ignore me, my teachers, or the truth. We need change, but not Common Core, high-stakes evaluations, or more robots." Thank you.

IN HONOR OF ROD RICE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Rod Rice as he prepares to hang up his microphone after a 40 year career in radio.

Rod Rice has more than three decades on the air in Houston—providing us news and information. Much of that time, he's spent at Houston's Public Radio station, 88.7 KUHF.

He joined KUHF from KTRH as a reporter and leaves this Friday morning as the anchor of KUHF Morning Edition. As Rod told a media reporter, "It's been a pleasure playing a small role in the daily life of this wonderful city." Well, Rod, it's been our pleasure as listeners.

During Rod Rice's tenure at KUHF, the station has grown their news operation from a 5 person newsroom to a full service news and information station that Houston relies on each and every day.

Rod Rice may sound like he was born behind a news microphone, but he served in the US Army and as a disc jockey in many formats over several years before coming to Houston in 1991 to anchor the news on NewsRadio 740 KTRH. That's because Rice's fascination with radio began with his grandfather and listening to radio programs. That fascination never left him and those he mentored say he is always eager to pass it on to a new generation.

Rod quickly developed a reputation for working with new reporters and helping them to make their news coverage better. One of those reporters mentored by Rod Rice now serves as my Communications Director.

Rice has been honored more times that we can address here for excellence in broadcast journalism, including a regional Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio and Television News Directors Association.

What's next for Rod Rice is turning off his early morning alarm and enjoying life, but his roots in radio will always be a part of him. And, those who know him are convinced he will continue to mentor and share his love of radio for many years to come.

HONORING MR. L.C. LEACH, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable civil rights advocate and public servant, Mr. L.C. Leach, Sr. Throughout his remarkable life, Mr. Leach made unprecedented strides towards the ongoing battle of ensuring civil rights for African Americans in his community.

Born February 7, 1927, Mr. Leach was a lifelong resident of Bolton, Mississippi. He received his formal education at Champion Hill Elementary School, Champion Hill High School, and Southern Christian Institute College. He received additional education at Jackson State University and became a prominent figure in the community through his employment at Universal Life Insurance, located in Jackson, Mississippi.

As an African American male living in a small rural town of segregated Mississippi, Mr. Leach witnessed and endured many injustices towards himself and others in the community. But with the necessity of change beckoning his spirit, Mr. Leach set aside any fears or reservations he may have had to help his community rise above the systematic inequalities of segregation.

Through a coordinated effort with other African American members of the community, Mr. Leach put forth his determination to integrate the white-only elementary school in Bolton, Mississippi by sending his son (along with three other African American students) to attend class there. Although many in town were uneasy with the decision to do so (both whites and blacks), the stance proceeded without incident.

Using the stance on the white-only elementary school as a catalyst for advancing other significant changes in the community, Mr. Leach became an avid member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He worked extremely close with many other civil rights advocates in the state, most notably brothers Charles and Medgar Evers.

Through organized boycotts orchestrated through the NAACP, Mr. Leach and others were instrumental in integrating white-only grocery stores in Jackson, Mississippi, the Jackson Zoological Park, and public restrooms and water fountains in and around the city of Jackson. At times, Mr. Leach helped local residents strategize boycott tactics under the cover of his insurance office.

In addition to advocating for the dismantlement of segregation, Mr. Leach will be forever known for his courage in seeking and obtaining the elected position as first African American Alderman of Bolton, Mississippi. After serving as Alderman, he would later sit as Judge Leach of Bolton, as well as spearhead an effort with other community leaders to establish the community's first Head Start program for area preschool children to attend.

Through all his community advocacy and public servitude, Mr. Leach was a wonderful husband and father. He was married to his loving wife, Earnestine Perry Leach, for 55 years at the time of his death. He has two sons (Joe and L.C., Jr.) and two daughters (Veronica and Bobbie) who also will continue

to carry on the legacy of Mr. L.C. Leach, Sr. He transcended this life on earth on April 28, 2008.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. L.C. Leach, Sr. for his dedication and service as a civil rights advocate and pioneer during the civil rights movement.

RECOGNIZING THE PARTICIPATION
OF THE HERNDON HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING BAND IN THE 2013
PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL PA-
RADE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Herndon High School Marching Band for being selected to participate in the 2013 Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade and for receiving Grand Champion honors in recognition of their outstanding performance.

Known as "The Pride of Herndon," the Herndon High School Band is the oldest established high school band in Fairfax County and has been a part of Northern Virginia since 1947. Since its founding, the band program at Herndon High School has grown from that original group of fifteen musicians to more than 200 instrumentalists comprising the following ensembles: Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Jazz Band, all currently under the direction of Ms. Kathleen Jacoby.

The National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day was established by an Act of Congress on August 23, 1994 to commemorate the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. The Pearl Harbor Memorial Day Parade, which began in 2011, honors the survivors, veterans, active duty military and their families, and most especially the more than 2,400 members of U.S. Armed Services who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Each year, one high school band from each state that bears the same name as an American battleship or other vessel that was attacked at Pearl Harbor is invited to participate in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade. This year, The Herndon High School Marching Band was chosen to represent Virginia. While in Hawaii, the Pride of Herndon toured the USS Arizona Memorial, performed in front of the USS Missouri, met with World War II Veterans who survived the Pearl Harbor attack and served as Virginia's official "ambassador" to the parade. Following the parade, a three-judge panel designated the band as Grand Champions for the quality and appropriateness of its performance.

The band's participation in this event would not have been possible without support of the Herndon High School Band Parents Association and the Herndon High School community, including the Herndon Rotary which raised more than \$15,000 to help fund the cost of the trip.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Principal William Bates, Band Director Kathleen Jacoby, and the Herndon High School Marching Band on this tremendous achievement and in commending them for their roles in honoring and paying tribute to our Greatest Generation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 23 I voted "yea," I wanted to vote "nay."

HONORING DIANNE J. TAYLOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dianne J. Taylor, an employee of the Mississippi Department of Human Services for over twenty years.

The opportunity to become a civil servant of any branch of the government is a great privilege to be able to serve the American people. Dianne graduated from Troy State University in 1993 with her B.S. Degree in Resource Management and shortly afterwards she began her career with the Mississippi Department of Human Services in that same year.

In an effort to build upon her academic training and hands on learning within the agency, Dianne returned to school and received her MBA from Delta State University in 2004.

During this entire time, she maintained her employment as a case manager in Tallahatchie County where she administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. This program is designed to help single parents become self-sufficient so that they can transition off of public assistance.

Dianne has all intentions of retiring as a civil servant employee, realizing the opportunity given to her twenty years ago has been not only more than a privilege but rewarding by allowing her to help others in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Dianne J. Taylor for her longevity and dedication to helping others as an employee of the Mississippi Department of Health and Human Services.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2014 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2014 Prince William County Human Rights Commission Awards.

The Prince William Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) implemented the Human Rights Ordinance January 15, 1993, formally establishing the Human Rights Commission. Two years prior, the BOCS formed the Human Rights Study Committee to explore the needs of a community that was growing in population and diversity. An exhaustive effort that included numerous committee meetings and

public hearings identified a strong community desire for a human rights ordinance and an agency to enforce it. The Human Rights Ordinance prohibits discriminatory practices based on race, color, sex, national origin, religion, marital status, or disability, as well as in the consideration of employment, housing, public accommodations, education, and credit, in Prince William County.

The BOCS approved the ordinance in September 1992 to ensure that "each citizen is treated fairly, provided equal protection of the law, and equal opportunity to participate in the benefits, rights, and privileges of community life." Residents enlist the services of the commission if they feel their rights have been violated in the areas of employment, fair housing, credit, education and public accommodation.

In celebration of Universal Human Rights Day, the Human Rights Commission recognizes individuals and organizations that promote the principles of human rights in Prince William County. It is my honor to enter into the Congressional Record the recipients of the 2014 Prince William County Human Rights Commission Awards:

Vicky Castro
Father Gerry Creedon
Doreen Dauer
Cydney A. Neville
Sam Sanders

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the recipients of the 2014 Prince William County Human Rights Commission Awards. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to these honorees for their efforts to safeguard our most basic rights and remind us of our common humanity. Let us use their example to rededicate ourselves to the fight against inequity and injustice.

IN HONOR OF THE LONE STAR
FLAG'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the "The Lone Star Flag" of Texas. 175 years ago, Texas' Red, White and Blue banner was adopted as the flag of the Republic of Texas. The blue stands for loyalty. The white stands for purity. The red stands for the courage with which Texans have been blessed.

One-third of our flag is blue with a single centered white, five-pointed star. The remaining two-thirds of the flag are horizontal white and red bars. It's an image known the world over.

When Texas became our nation's 28th state, Texas' national flag became our state flag. Our state pledge starts with "Honor the Texas flag."

Dr. Charles Stewart lived in Montgomery, Texas when he led a committee appointed by Mirabeau Lamar tasked with designing our flag. You can see how he envisioned Texas' flag at the Nat Hart Davis Museum on Liberty Street in Montgomery. Our county, and this community's Lone Star Flag ties, are second to none.

In 1997, the Texas Legislature honored Montgomery County, Texas as the birthplace of the Texas Lone Star Flag. Our community is so proud of this honor.