

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