

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.,