

By Kevin McCarthy July 1, 2011 [Link](#)

I want to take the opportunity to recognize just a few of the many bright young people in our community. I found my life's calling after working as an intern for Congressman Bill Thomas, cutting newspaper clips in his local office and answering phone calls from constituents. Because of my experiences, I have tried to give as many of our local students a chance to intern over the summer as possible. This summer, we will have a total of 21 interns and 4 fellows serving in my Washington D.C. and Bakersfield offices.

Most of these students call Bakersfield home. The current Bakersfield natives interning in my D.C. office include: Vanessa Klass, a Stockdale High School graduate about to start her senior year at CSU Fullerton; Jacob Frost, a Liberty High School graduate attending the University of Colorado; Rane Cravens, also a Liberty High School graduate and political science major at Kansas State University; Mike Mettler, a BHS graduate going into his senior year at CSU Chico; Julia Berchtold, a Garces graduate and finance major at Notre Dame; Kyle Legg, a graduate of Centennial High School studying international business and marketing at San Francisco State University; Ross Powers, a Garces graduate working toward a degree in business administration from USC; Haley Devaney, a Stockdale High School graduate pursuing her political science degree at UC San Diego; Annie Wilson, a BHS graduate who has already received her political science degree from Queens University of Charlotte North Carolina; and Andrew Green, a BHS graduate studying political science at UCLA.

In my Bakersfield office right now, we have Blair Buckley, a communications major at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a Liberty High School graduate; Deepa Kannappan, a graduate of Stockdale High School and Stanford University student; and Kelsey Linford, a Centennial High School graduate currently studying political communication at American University.

These students are all smart, insightful and hard working. Their drive and commitment exemplify the strong principles and values of our community. Another member of our community who continues to impress me is Douglas "DJ" Taylor. DJ was my principal nominee to West Point last year, and he recently shared some of his first-year experiences with me. Those experiences are highlighted on my Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/congressmankevinmccarthy](http://www.facebook.com/congressmankevinmccarthy)) if you want to check out what life at West Point is like.

DJ is just one of the many Americans who have answered the call to serve our great nation, and as Independence Day draws near, now is a special time to thank all the men and women in our Armed Forces and their families. We still live in the freest, most prosperous republic in the world, and those who serve play a large role in that. From the Revolutionary War to the wars of today, they have stood strong to defend the freedoms laid out in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. I wish everyone in our community a happy Fourth of July.