

This bill also seeks to expand VA services that are designed to end veteran homelessness. It is unacceptable that the brave men and women who fought in service to our country would go without a place to rest their heads at night. I applaud these efforts to augment Secretary Shinseki's plan to end veteran homelessness in the next 5 years.

The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act deserves our undivided support. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of S. 1963.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

I had the privilege of interviewing Congressman Sam Johnson. He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Congressman Johnson was a prisoner of war for nearly seven years in the Hanoi Hilton. Shortly after the Vietnam War, he retired from the United States Air Force as a Colonel. When he departed from the military, he was a highly decorated officer having received two Legions of Merit, the

Distinguished Flying Cross, two Silver Stars, one Bronze Star with Valor, four Air Medals, two Purple Hearts, and three Outstanding Unit Awards.

Since 1991, Congressman Johnson has served the Third District of Texas as our representative to the United States Congress. He serves as the Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee. Congressman Johnson currently sits on the prestigious Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Johnson has personally inspired me as a young man. Through his unshakable faith, he has shown me that nothing is impossible with a mighty God. "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13). Congressman Johnson is my Hero.—Gabriel Devoto.

HONORING DAVID POSSNER

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the service of David Possner to the youth of New York City. He has dedicated his life to educating the youth of our city and to the betterment of his community.

David Possner graduated from the prestigious New York City Leadership Academy's Aspiring Principals Program and is currently an assistant principal at M.S. Q226 in Queens, New York. At this school, he is the supervisor of the Visionary School Academy. In this role, he is a role model and inspiration to his students. He is always available to assist students and their families, in or out of the classroom.

David's commitment to education and community service is not limited to the classroom. He is always available to assist students and their families in both academic and personal matters. David is involved in numerous charitable organizations and has inspired many of his students to join him in these endeavors. He sees his role not just as an educator, but as a leader of youth. His tireless dedication to his life's calling makes him an inspiration not just to his students, but to educators across the country.

I am pleased to inform you that David's hard work has not gone unnoticed. He has been recognized by the United States Senate, the House of Representatives, the New York State Assembly, and the New York City Council. The New York Post has called him "a visionary who has made a deep impact on the lives of his students and fellow teachers."

The one word that we could use to describe David would be "hope." This has been his guiding principle for his entire career: hope in New York City, hope in our state, hope in our youth, and hope in our nation. Despite the constant challenges facing his students, he never gives up on them and always inspires them to strive for excellence.

Madam Speaker, I invite the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the outstanding life contributions of David Possner to our city's and our nation's youth.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and celebrate with them on their 150th Anniversary of service and dedication to serving their Church and community.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth come from a long legacy of public service that stretches back to the 19th century. This legacy is interwoven with the founding and development of the Catholic Church in New Jersey. Under the authority of the first American bishop, Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton founded the American Sisters of Charity in 1809 in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Fifty years later, Sister Mary Xavier Mehegan was assigned by the New York Sisters of Charity to take charge of the new community that the first Bishop of Newark, James Roosevelt Bayley, nephew of Mother Seton, wished to establish.

Following the example of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, the new community was formally ordered and established in Newark, New Jersey on September 29, 1859. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth founded the Academy of Saint Elizabeth, the first secondary school for young women in the state, near Morristown in 1860. In 1899, at a time when New Jersey had no baccalaureate-degree-granting college for women, Sister Mary Xavier Mehegan founded the College of Saint Elizabeth, New Jersey's oldest four-year college for women and one of the first colleges for women in the United States.

Under Sister Mehegan's leadership, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth moved their ministries beyond New Jersey to Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. Following her passing, they further expanded their work into China, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. While their endeavors continued to grow and expand abroad, they did not hesitate to toil restlessly for those who were disadvantaged and discriminated against at home. During the period of segregation, the Sisters of Charity opened a school for black children in Pensacola, Florida. The Sisters truly believe it to be self evident that all men, women and children are created equal.

From this rich history, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth have become a beacon of hope throughout the community. Their mission is to work with and for the poor, to alleviate suffering, to dispel ignorance, and to promote justice. They participate in the mission of the Catholic Church through ministry supported and nourished by prayer and a vowed life of service to the community. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth serve as a true example of selflessness and service. They continue to embody President John F. Kennedy's grand instruction: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Madam Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join with me in honoring the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth for their 150 years of faithful service to New Jersey.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America. The summary follows:

As a 1st rank navel veteran, Mr. Harvey F. Spears has had many awe-inspiring experiences. In particular he was involved in law enforcement and weapons control in his military career, which lasted 20 years. In the Navy, he was the Command Master in Arms (CMAA) and was involved in the Navy Security Guard. He comes from a history of family serving their country through various aspects of the military. He helped found the Veterans Association just before graduating from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas; currently, Mr. Spears is the president of the Veterans Association at UNT, which helps veterans gaining an education at the University of North Texas to fully access all the resources available to them.

I absolutely enjoyed talking to him and realized that he had been through much that even I could learn from. I was also amazed at how many places he has been to, seeing as I have never been outside the country. Ultimately, I admire his leadership ability to create an organization for veterans as an alumnus of the university and still play a prominent role in his community, even after

his retirement from service.—Anita Chandrahas

TRIBUTE TO DENVER HEALTH

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, along with Representative Ed PERLMUTTER, I would like to recognize the exceptional endeavors and notable undertakings of an extraordinary public hospital system in Denver, Colorado. It is fitting and proper that we recognize this outstanding institution for its innovation in the health care field and for its enduring service to care for the people of our state. It is to commend this outstanding and distinguished institution that we rise to honor Denver Health on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

Since 1860, Denver Health has been providing essential, quality health care services for the metropolitan area. It is astonishing to think about what an integral role Denver Health has played over the last 150 years. It has been a community institution since Abraham Lincoln was elected President; sixteen years before Colorado even became a state. Denver Health has been here since the days of duels and horse-drawn ambulances; since before the Civil War even began. The hospital began in a small log cabin and has transformed into the extraordinary institution we know today, serving twenty-five percent of Denver residents and one in every three Denver children. Last year alone, Denver Health provided approximately \$350 million in uncompensated care to the uninsured and medically needy.

The first sentence in Denver Health's mission statement is a testament to its commitment to the health of our citizens. It reads: "Provide access to the highest quality health care, whether for prevention, or acute and chronic diseases regardless of ability to pay." Serving as the safety-net provider for the community, Denver Health faces obstacles year after year as the uninsured population continues to increase. Denver Health's pioneering leadership has been innovative in developing tools to reduce cost, curb waste, and improve quality for our most vulnerable populations.

In addition to its role as our primary safety-net hospital, Denver Health provides a number of other services to the surrounding communities and region. Denver Health operates the city's school based health centers, Denver's 911 emergency response system, provides correctional facility care, and houses the Denver Public Health Department. Denver Health also serves the surrounding region by housing the regional Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center, Rocky Mountain Center for Medical Response and the Rocky Mountain Regional Trauma Center. Denver Health is truly a system of integrated care.

Denver Health's physicians, leadership, and medical professionals have received an array of local and national accolades for their innovation and commitment to achieving the highest quality of patient care. Denver Health leads the way in innovation and improvement in quality and efficiency.

Please join me in commending Denver Health on the occasion of its 150th Anniver-

sary. It is the vision, innovation, and commitment of Denver Health that continually enhances the lives of our citizens and builds a better future for Coloradoans and for all Americans.

HONORING TAYLOR MILLS AS A STUDENT LEADER

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Taylor Mills, a student leader at the University of Arkansas.

A dedicated student and an active individual, Taylor Mills has quickly distinguished himself as an influential leader among the students of the University of Arkansas. He has served in various leadership positions around campus, such as the president of the Red Cross, vice president of Hogs for Haiti, and as the president of One World RSO. Maintaining his motivation to be a well rounded individual, Mills conducts research for the Terrorism Research Center as well as serves as the intern coordinator for Winrock International. All of this has culminated in his nomination as Student Leader of the Week.

Taylor Mills serves as an inspiration for all of us, showing what hard work and dedication can lead to. I have seen his hard work first hand as an intern in my office and am proud of what he has accomplished. I believe this man is capable of great things not only for the State of Arkansas, but also for the entirety of the United States. Thank you, Taylor Mills, for all you have done at your time at the University of Arkansas and all you will continue to do. We look forward to seeing what you will accomplish.

HONORING REVEREND JAMES COFFEE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor a man who was a dear friend to me and a giant in our community. Reverend James Coffee of Santa Rosa, California, passed away April 6, 2010, at the age of 76, after a life that touched thousands of lives. He will be deeply missed.

Raised in Oklahoma when segregation was the rule of the day, Rev. Coffee moved to the San Francisco Bay Area as a teenager. He was first invited to be the pastor of Community Baptist Church in Santa Rosa in 1962 while studying at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary in Mill Valley. A year later, he accepted the position and took on a small congregation of 15 African American members.

Rev. Coffee was engaged in the civil rights struggles of those times, including the 1956 Montgomery bus boycott where he met Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Racial tensions existed in Sonoma County also. In 1985 the church was damaged in a fire that Rev. Coffee believed to be arson, possibly because of his stand against apartheid and his success in