

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

persuading the Board of Supervisors to withdraw investments in South Africa. Many in the community rallied around the church, contributing time and money to the repairs and later to the building of a new church.

Reverend Coffee always persevered in his vision of a society where everyone could realize his or her full potential. With love and an open heart, he acted on his principles. With the support and assistance of his wife Vivian, his family, and his many friends made over the years, he worked inclusively to break down the barriers between races and promote the greater good.

He was particularly concerned with the community's youth, mentoring young people, providing scholarships, and joining with others to establish and promote programs such as Rites of Passage (with Shirley Gordon) which teaches teens that they can attend college and become leaders. These activities have given young people the hope and the support that keeps them out of gangs and on the path or promise.

Rev. Coffee also founded or participated in a wide variety of civic organizations and could be found bringing people together for a wide variety of social issues. From the Bridge Builders Organization (to promote racial reconciliation), 100 Black Men of Sonoma County, Race Equality Week, and Citizens Against Domestic Violence to the Salvation Army Advisory Board and Citizens for Balanced Transportation, Rev. Coffee's presence and energy were a catalyst for the whole community.

In 1981, he co-founded Santa Rosa's Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration (with Carole Ellis and Mary Moore) which continues to inspire youth and bring people together. In 2004, he had the honor of meeting King's son, Martin Luther King III who spoke at a Sonoma County Human Rights Commission event at which the first of a new series of awards were presented—the Reverend James E. Coffee Human Rights Awards.

Rev. Coffee himself earned many awards throughout his years of service. He appreciated these acknowledgements, yet the greatest honors for him were the light of understanding in a teen's eyes, the dialogue across a racial barrier, and the legacy of love and activism. He leaves a Community Baptist Church that is multi-cultural with 500 active members who will carry on his work.

He is survived by his wife Vivian; his children James Jr., Shirley, and Yvette; three grandchildren; one great grandchild; and countless friends who will mourn him and be inspired by his example.

Madam Speaker, I am one of those many friends and I will miss him every day. To me, the Reverend James Coffee, has been the perfect embodiment of one of his favorite sayings: "Make a difference one day at a time." Reverend Coffee did make a difference—with strength and persistence, humor and compassion—every day of his life.

IN HONOR OF TAKE STOCK IN  
CHILDREN GRADUATION AND  
CONTRACT SIGNING 2010

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2010*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention

of my colleagues the work of Take Stock in Children. This organization offers extraordinary educational and mentoring programs for disadvantaged youth throughout the state of Florida.

Enrolling students as early as sixth grade, Take Stock in Children offers each child a college tuition scholarship, a volunteer mentor, a case manager, and long-term support. The children in the program sign performance contracts agreeing to get good grades; exhibit positive behavior and; remain drug and crime free.

Through their programs, Take Stock in Children aims to reduce the number of high school drop-outs and increase the number of students who finish college and enter the workforce successfully. Since its inception in 1995, Take Stock in Children has served over 16,000 children in 67 of Florida's counties, graduating 92 percent of its scholars in comparison with the state average of 65 percent. In my home county of Broward, over 900 low income students have received scholarships since 1996, with 550 volunteer mentors meeting with the students at their schools every week.

I would like to congratulate the 72 Take Stock in Children senior scholars who will be graduating and the 85 new scholars who will be entering the program next week in Broward County. They join students graduating from around the state, 88 percent of which are first generation college-going students, empowered by the financial and moral support that this important program has provided over their high school career.

I am proud today to honor the important work that Take Stock in Children continues to do paving the way to better lives for many disadvantaged children and helping them pursue the American dream of a college education.

#### HONORING ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2010*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, our friend and partner. After a process that began with the Balfour Declaration, the Mandate of the League of Nations and generations of struggling to regain their homeland, the United Nations passed a resolution on November 29, 1947 giving Israel the right to exist as a state. On May 14, 1948, Israel signed a proclamation creating the State of Israel, establishing it as a country that will "ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex." That same night, the United States officially recognized Israel as a sovereign nation.

Despite its unfortunate history of violence, the State of Israel has established itself as a world leader and a nation millions of Jews are proud to have as their homeland. Considering that Israel is the hundredth smallest country in the world with less than one thousandth of the world's population, what Israel has been able to accomplish is truly remarkable. What separates Israel from almost every other country is its truly innovative and entrepreneurial nature.

With regards to education, Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees in the world, so it is no surprise that Israel has become a leader in the health, science, and technology fields. In fact, many of the technologies we rely upon in the United States were actually developed in Israel such as the cell phone, computer operation systems, and voicemail technology. As a result of these technological developments Israel has developed a \$100 billion economy, which is larger than the combined economies of all its immediate neighbors.

Therefore, I rise today to celebrate Israel's Independence and to pay my respects to those who have lost their lives defending the nation they loved. Although the State of Israel has experienced more than its fair share of trying times, it has never lost sight of the noble ideals upon which the state was founded: freedom, justice, equality and peace.

#### CELEBRATION OF ELIZABETH EVELYN WRIGHT DAY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2010*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Elizabeth Evelyn Wright Day, which will be commemorated this year on April 24th, in Talbotton, Georgia. Ms. Wright was an incredible woman. Her passion to inspire and educate the disenfranchised burned within, and her internal fire was often challenged by actual fire. She survived several arson attacks, yet remained undeterred. The flames of hatred were no match for the lamp of knowledge.

Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was born April 3, 1872, in Talbotton, Georgia. She was raised in a poverty-stricken area of Talbotton known as "Smith Hill." As a child, she was persistent in her educational endeavors. At St. Phillip's AME Church, she studied reading, writing, and arithmetic, and her scholastic excellence was quickly recognized by her professors.

To realize her potential, Wright then enrolled at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where she worked in the cafeteria during the day and attended classes at night. With the aid of Olivia Washington, wife of Booker T. Washington who was then Principal of Tuskegee Institute, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was able to attend daytime classes. She became close with the Washington family, and was affectionately known as "Lizzie." Mrs. Washington inspired Lizzie to use her exceptional talents to educate underprivileged African-American children.

During her senior year of college, Wright was approached by Almira Steele, a white trustee at Tuskegee who knew of Lizzie's stellar academic reputation. She asked Lizzie to move to McNeill, South Carolina, to teach. In 1892, taking a hiatus from school, Lizzie realized her dream of educating African-American children and became inspired to open her own school.

In 1893, the McNeill School burned to the ground due to a hate-fueled attack. Witnessing this injustice inspired Lizzie to return to Tuskegee to graduate. She resumed teaching in McNeill, this time, at her own school. Nevertheless, the flames of hatred burned again as