

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.