

white supremacists burned the lumber purchased to build Lizzie's schoolhouse and then set fire to the temporary classroom building. These were not the last fires of injustice Lizzie would experience in her lifetime. She would attempt three more times to build a school, and each met a fiery end.

Undeterred, she moved to Denmark, South Carolina, and opened the Denmark Industrial School. In 1902, with the gracious aid of Ralph Voorhees, a blind philanthropist from New Jersey, Lizzie was able to purchase 280 acres of land. With the assistance of her friend and mentor Booker T. Washington, the school expanded, and was renamed the Voorhees Industrial School, which today is known as Voorhees College. In 1904, the school was incorporated by the South Carolina State Legislature.

Sadly, due to life-long illness, Lizzie passed away shortly thereafter, but she left an incredible legacy. She never yielded in the face of adversity, and strove to educate and inspire her community. Her passion still inspires the students of Voorhees College. Today, the college is an accredited four-year liberal arts college, dedicated to a diverse global society, life-long learning, healthy living and an abiding faith in God. The students aim to improve communities, society, and themselves.

On April 2, 2009, my colleague, Congressman CLYBURN, sponsored a Tribute to Elizabeth Evelyn Wright. In celebration of her birthday, the Citizens of Talbotton, Georgia, first declared "Elizabeth Evelyn Wright Day" on April 4, 2009. The Citizens of Talbotton, in celebration of the "Second Annual Elizabeth Evelyn Wright Day," have asked that Congress again recognize the amazing contribution she made to education. On behalf of Georgia's Second Congressional District, which is proud to be the birthplace of Elizabeth Evelyn Wright, as well as the place she spent her formative years where her char-

acter, values, and academic excellence were developed, I am pleased to honor her today.

Madam Speaker, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was beyond remarkable, and has not been given an appropriate place in history. It is my hope to draw attention to this incredible educator, whose life and courage in the face of adversity continues to inspire students and teachers today.

---

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:

This unique opportunity to interview a veteran was very eye-opening and educational. It helped me to better understand why this country is so great. After interviewing such a prideful American, it is easy to see why this nation has been so prosperous. I am more cognizant of the opportunities set out for me and why those opportunities are possible. Many of them are only available because of those who have fought for this great country. I found this project so inspirational that I have become more interested in possibly serving some day. I think that for this country to continue to succeed it needs more people who are as special as Mr. Rowley, the veteran that I interviewed. His passion for America rubbed off on me in a unique way. The way he explained his experiences to me was special. It definitely seemed like his life and the way he saw things changed during his service. His eyes were opened up to the world. He never before realized how good his life in America was. One thing that struck me the most was how optimistic he was about the future of the country. In a time with so many issues, it is reassuring to hear enthusiasm about where we are and where we are going.—Blake Balda