

student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

For my CYAC community service project, I volunteered as an attorney at the Collin County Teen Court, providing 30 hours of service between October 2010 and January 2011. The mission of Teen Court is to teach first-time juvenile misdemeanor offenders a lesson by sentencing the defendants with service hours and jury duty. The jury at Teen Court hears the testimony of the defendants and the arguments of the attorneys in order to come to a decision. A judge presides over the court proceeding and makes the court session formal and official. Teen Court is vital to the lives of young people in the Collin County community. Not only do the defendants in Teen Court begin to strive for better character; the jury members that hear the testimony of the defendants make sound changes in their own lives also. Through my work at Teen Court I have helped the teens who have made poor judgment. My job as an attorney has been crucial to bring the facts of the cases to the jury so that they can deliver fair verdicts. In addition, my experience in the Teen Court has inspired me to consider law as a potential career choice.

—Grant Powell

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 225. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 225.

OPPOSITION TO EFFORTS TO EXPAND A FEDERALLY-FUNDED SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAM IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. I submit the following letters:

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, DC, March 30, 2011.

Senator HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID: We write to express our opposition to renewed efforts to expand a federally-funded school voucher program in the District of Columbia. We appreciate your interest in providing support to public education in the District. We strongly believe, however, that federal funds should be invested in the existing public education program—both the public schools and the public charter schools—rather than diverted to private schools.

We support the decision by Congress and the President several years ago to phase out the voucher program. Multiple US Department of Education reports of the program indicate that the program has not lived up to the promises made by proponents. Moreover, a Government Accountability Office report revealed that many of the voucher students attend private schools with fewer resources and lower standards than our public schools. The evidence is clear that the use of vouchers has had no statistically significant impact on overall student achievement in math or reading, or for students from schools in need of improvement.

We have serious concerns about using government funds to send our students to private schools that do not have to adhere to the same standards and accountability as do public and public charter schools. For example, private religious schools, which 80% of voucher students attend, operate outside the anti-discrimination provisions of the District's Human Rights Act. Moreover, the voucher proposal is inequitable: if fully funded, the authorization would provide at least \$8,000 per student for vouchers, but only about \$723 per public charter school student, and even less—about \$437 per public school student.

Although we believe that students who are already receiving a voucher should have the opportunity to maintain and use that voucher through graduation from high school, we do not support expansion of the program to new students. The District has devoted considerable funds to public education. As a result, parents in the District have both public school choice and access to the most extensive set of alternatives to traditional public schools in the country.

We appreciate your willingness to take into account the wishes of the District's elected officials on the quintessentially local matter of education as you consider this issue.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. BROWN,
Councilmember, At-Large.
MARY M. CHEH,
Councilmember, Ward 3.
JIM GRAHAM,
Councilmember, Ward 1.
PHIL MENDELSON,
Councilmember, At-Large.
TOMMY WELLS,
Councilmember, Ward 6.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, DC, March 30, 2011.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN PELOSI: We write to express our opposition to renewed efforts to expand a federally-funded school voucher

program in the District of Columbia. We appreciate your interest in providing support to public education in the District. We strongly believe, however, that federal funds should be invested in the existing public education program—both the public schools and the public charter schools—rather than diverted to private schools.

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TOMMY WELLS,
Councilmember, Ward 6.

COREY LAUGHLIN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker it brings me great pleasure to pay tribute to a young man who has exhibited a level of caring and selflessness well beyond his years. Corey Laughlin of Pueblo, Colorado, has taken it upon himself to bring the sport of baseball to underprivileged children who play in the Runyan Field Baseball Program.

Corey, a member of East High School's baseball team, has loved baseball for as long he can remember, and thinks that America's pastime has taught him some invaluable life lessons. Earlier this year he was going through his own baseball gear in anticipation of the upcoming season, and discovered he had an excess supply of lightly used baseball equipment; then he realized that many others would also have extra baseball bats, cleats and mitts. Corey then took it upon himself to rally the community in support of the Runyan Field Baseball Program, a youth league in Pueblo. Corey solicited teammates, neighbors and community members to donate used baseball gear. Corey organized a sale of the equipment, and announced all profits would go towards helping the underprivileged members of the Runyan Program.

Corey Laughlin's desire to share the game he loves with the less fortunate members of his community shows an incredible level of maturity, a deep sense of thoughtfulness, and gives me faith in future generations of Americans. Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to stand and pay tribute to the charitable efforts of Corey Laughlin.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—GINU SCARIA

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council, CYAC from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

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2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

Through community service and involvement, I have learned to view matters in a whole new perspective. When I look at my goals now of changing the world one step at a time, I know I am getting a step closer by taking part in service activities and events. Helping out is now part of who I am and my definition. It is definitely going to part of future in college as well as afterwards when earning a career. Gandhi once said to, "be the change you wish to see in the world." I believe the world gets a positive change every time someone steps up to the plate to make a difference, whether is it through community service or starting a charity. It is through generous hands that we learn a better role of ourselves and gain a better knowledge of viewing matters in a whole new angle. As Student Council President, helping out becomes an everyday routine, and I am very proud to have the opportunity. As a member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, I am happy to take part in community involvement, and because of it I have learned a life lesson. I cannot forget.

—Ginu Scaria

COMMENDING JOHN TWITTY OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of one of Missouri's finest leaders and my personal friend, John Twitty.

John is an icon in the 7th District. He's provided Springfield, Missouri with affordable electricity, inexpensive natural gas, and clean drinking water for almost a decade as the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of City Utilities. You would be hard-pressed to find a better leader with more integrity, which is evidenced by the high regard in which he is held throughout the city of Springfield, the State of Missouri, and across the country.

Whether he is dealing with employees, the general public, or community leaders, John maintains his professionalism and character. He sincerely cares for each one of the employees at City Utilities and for the entire Springfield community.

I am just one of many in the community that recognizes John as an outstanding leader. For his national leadership, he received the American Public Power Association's Alex Radin Distinguished Service Award—its top honor. He has also served as their Chairman. For his statewide leadership, he received the Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities Distinguished Service Award. For his contribution to Missouri and the nation, he received the Missourian Award and the Outstanding Missourian Award from the Missouri House of Representatives and the Missouri Senate.

John has also been very active in the Springfield community. Although he would be the last to say so himself, John has given

much to Springfield through his outreach and involvement in community organizations. He has worked with the United Way of the Ozarks, the Springfield Business and Development Corporation, the Partnership Industrial Center West Administrative Council, St. John's Health System, Empire Bank, the Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast, the Boys & Girls Town of Missouri, and other local organizations.

John will retire this June. No doubt, he will enjoy spending more time playing golf and with his family. John's family includes his wife, Jean, a retired Greene County Assessor and current member of the Springfield Public Schools Board of Education, and his daughter, Dr. Anne S. Twitty, an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Mississippi.

Although John is about to embark on a much-deserved leave of absence, his legacy will live on whenever a family cooks dinner using low-cost electricity or when children drink clean water from a school water fountain. He has faithfully performed the duty shared by all public servants; he left the institutions in his care stronger and better for the next generation. Let us all draw humility and purpose from his example.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Chair, I mistakenly cast my vote on this measure as a "no" vote. I intended to cast an "aye" vote on this measure.

A TRIBUTE TO ALBERT B. WASHKO

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Albert B. Washko. Al concluded 21 years of dedicated service to the Department of Veterans Affairs when he retired on March 31, 2011.

Ensuring our nation's veterans were provided with the world-class benefits and services they earned was not a mission Al took lightly as evidenced by his dedication to serving the men and women who served in uniform.

Over the course of his time with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Al held positions which took him from coast to coast. Before he was named the Director of the V.A. Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System in 2003, Al oversaw 23 medical centers in New York, New England, and Puerto Rico as Director of V.A. Northeast Region. He also worked at V.A. Medical centers in Albany, New York; Palo Alto, California; and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Al has served on numerous hospital, social service agency, and community boards which demonstrated his commitment to public service both on and off the job.