

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 2010–2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—SAMANTHA TODD

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 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."

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:

Volunteering in my community has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Each event provided me with a unique life experience and has added to my sense of community. One of the events I volunteered at was Matthews Elementary School's Fall Carnival. Seeing the interactions between the families and friends was amazing and brought back memories from when I was that age. I also volunteered at Huffman Elementary School's Math Night where I super-

vised math oriented games. Another place I earned service hours was at Mustang Creek Nursing Home, where I played bingo and talked with the residents. I have sincerely enjoyed the time I have spent at Mustang Creek and I plan on continuing to visit the residents there. One of the longest events I have volunteered in was at my church's aide station in Dallas's Whiterock marathon. I spent six and a half hours helping set up and run the station. These volunteering experiences have changed my perspective and made me feel like a greater part of my community. In the future I plan on continuing to volunteer in my community and help other people.

—Samantha Todd

THE RESTART ACT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bipartisan bill to avert a U.S. rare earth supply crisis by restoring our nation's production of rare earth metals. This bill, the Rare Earths Supply-Chain Technology and Resources Transformation Act of 2011 (RESTART Act), would achieve this by reestablishing a domestic rare earth industry in the United States.

Currently, the world is nearly 100 percent reliant on Chinese exports for these critical materials and China's trade policies of restricting rare earth exports pose a serious threat to both the economic and national security of the United States. China supplies about 95 percent of the world's rare earth metals, used in everything from wind turbines, electric car batteries, television sets, smart phones, and advanced weapons systems. Chinese officials have announced a decision to cut exports of rare earth metals by 35 percent in the first half of 2011. The Chinese government-ordered reduction in rare earth metals exports demonstrates the urgent need for us to act to correct our rare earth supply chain vulnerability.

I became alarmed early in 2009 when I learned that many U.S. defense contractors rely heavily on Chinese exports of rare earth metals to make everything from night vision goggles, tanks, and fighter aircraft, to precision guided munitions. This reliance on China poses a key vulnerability.

My comprehensive, bipartisan legislation will put in place mechanisms to assist U.S. companies with meeting their needs for rare earth metals and ensure our national security needs are met in the near term.

The legislation does not waive environmental laws, but it directs appropriate federal agencies to expedite the permitting process in order to increase the exploration and development of domestic rare earth elements, and the legislation establishes a multi-agency Task Force to carry out this process. The legislation makes federally-backed loans available to start rare earth production only when private

capital is not available. The bill sets-up a Defense Logistics Agency rare earth domestic inventory to generate a domestic market and facilitate the domestic sourcing of rare earth alloys and magnets. It establishes a rare earth program at the U.S. Geological Survey, and it require the various cabinet Secretaries appoint Executive Agents for rare earths.

Our Nation must act to protect our security interests with regard to rare earth elements. China is neither an ally of the United States nor is it a reliable trade partner when it comes to these strategic metals.

My legislation has the support of the Coalition for a Prosperous America, CPA, the United States Magnet Materials Association, USMMA, and their members who are most affected by the disruption in the rare earth metals market.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
JOSHUA S. GIRE

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, while we can never fully express the depth of our appreciation for those who give their lives to protect us, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of Ohio's seventh congressional district to recognize and honor the life of Army Staff Sergeant Joshua S. Gire.

Gire, 28, lived a purposeful life. He served the United States with honor. Regrettably, it was Staff Sergeant Gire's duty as a soldier defending the interests of this great country of ours that led to his death. He was killed in combat in Afghanistan on March 22, 2011. Staff Sgt. Gire showed exceptional courage and bravery while defending the United States.

Joshua S. Gire graduated from Huntington High School in 2000 and enlisted in the Army in 2001, just prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11th. This was Gire's second deployment to Afghanistan. He also served time in Iraq and Kosovo. Staff Sergeant Gire comes from a family dedicated to military service. He followed his grandfather, a World War II veteran, and father, a Vietnam veteran, into the Army.

He had recently been promoted to Staff Sergeant. Gire was based in Germany before his deployment to Afghanistan, where he lived with his immediate family. Staff Sergeant Gire is survived by his wife Jackie, as well as their 5-year-old son Nicolas and their daughter Riley, who just turned 3.

Those who know Staff Sergeant Gire speak highly of him, saying he is a role model to young children, and that he did his job and he did it right. My heart goes out to his widow and their children. Joshua S. Gire is a true hero who will never be forgotten.

Thus, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the constituents of the Ohio's seventh

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