

coached four All-Americans, and two Academic All-Americans. He also served as the school's athletic director from 1979 to 1981 and again from 1998–2001. In 1996, he retired from coaching the men's team at Mesa State to focus on teaching full-time.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor the accomplishments of this great Colorado citizen. Doug Schakel's dedication to the student athletes throughout his career, and his success as a basketball coach are testaments to his character, and it is with great pleasure to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. Congratulations, Doug, on this well deserved award, and good luck with all of your future endeavors.

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#### COMPACT FOR SUCCESS

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 30, 2004*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of funding in the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill for the Compact for Success, an educational reform and college guarantee program at the Sweetwater Union High School District, located in my Congressional District in California. The Sweetwater Education Foundation, a non-profit organization, facilitates this program.

The Sweetwater Union High School District serves the densely populated corridor between downtown San Diego and the international border with Mexico, including nearly 40,000 students in grades seven through twelve. These students live in some of the most diverse and economically disadvantaged communities in the state. The schools serve large numbers of "latchkey" children, many of whom enter school behind in basic academic skills. Nearly half of the students in the district qualify for free or reduced price meals, a figure that is as high as 90 percent at some sites.

In addition to their economic disadvantage, a significant percentage of Sweetwater youth come from homes where adult educational attainment is low. Many parents are new immigrants with limited schooling in their home countries. With little history of academic success, these adults often lack the first-hand "know-how" so critical in helping their children reach high achievement goals and think about attending college.

With 84 percent of its students coming from ethnicities traditionally under-represented in higher education, Sweetwater is one of California's most diverse districts. More than half of Sweetwater's students speak a language other than English at home.

The Compact for Success, now entering its fifth year, is raising the bar academically and giving the Sweetwater students the tools to reach their goal of attending a four-year university. Compact participants are students of Sweetwater Union High School District, who complete six years in the Compact program in exchange for guaranteed admission to San Diego State University.

Even though the first class of Compact students is in the 11th grade, the impact of higher expectations is already evident. This year, the number of graduating seniors admitted to

San Diego State University shows a 76 percent increase since 1999, the year the Compact began.

The Compact was named the most powerful student initiative in the nation this year by the American Association of School Administrators and earned a Magna Award from the American School Board Journal.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the students participating in the Compact, and I urge support of their funding request.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MRS. ROSABEL SIMMONS

### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 30, 2004*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Rosabel Simmons, an outstanding individual who has devoted her life to her family and to serving the community. Mrs. Simmons will be celebrating her 100th birthday in the company of her family and friends on Thursday, in my congressional district in the Bronx.

Rosabel Simmons, known as Rose, was born on September 30, 1904, to York and Malsie Simmons on Wadmalaw Island, South Carolina. She was the youngest of seven children and received her formal education on the Island. She married John Simmons of Edisto Island, South Carolina, and they raised a total of nine children.

Rose followed John to New York with two of their children in 1925. They resided at various locations in Harlem and the Bronx until they finally settled in Bronx County. She worked in the hotel industry and was a union member. After her retirement, she opened a retail establishment that she owned with her husband on Union Avenue in the Bronx.

Rose is a strong advocate of education and sent all of her children to local public schools from elementary school through college. Never one to sit on the sidelines when it came to her children and grandchildren, Rose converted from the Methodist Church to the Catholic Church to support her grandchildren when they entered the Catholic school system. She always insisted on raising the bar of excellence and held each of her children and grandchildren to the same high standard.

This affectionate, tenacious woman serves as the matriarch of her family. She is frequently consulted by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren for advice, guidance and reassurance. Rose attributes her longevity to her father's genes; York Simmons lived to be 114 years of age, and one of her older sisters, Jistine Simmons Matthews, lived to be 110 years of age. Both resided in Charleston, South Carolina.

Her motto is very simple: When you reach the tender age of 100 years, life becomes very simple. Good food, a good John Wayne or Clint Eastwood movie and continuing civic responsibility. For her birthday gift she asked "everyone eligible to vote to make it to their polling station and vote."

Rose has seen many elections and believes voting is a right which we must exercise, if we are to maintain the privilege, a privilege she is

determined will pass on to her great, great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that one of Rose's granddaughters, Mrs. Cheryl Simmons-Oliver, is my district office director and has worked for me for more than 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the family of Mrs. Rosabel Simmons in wishing her a very happy 100th birthday.

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#### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING TODD SKINNER

### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 30, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Todd Skinner was a participant in the "King Pumpkin" contest; and

Whereas, Todd Skinner harvested a pumpkin weighing 909 pounds and was deemed worthy of being named king in the 41st Annual Pumpkin Festival in Barnesville; and

Whereas, Todd Skinner should be commended for his efforts and diligence in providing nourishment to the pumpkin keeping it healthy in preparation for the event.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Todd Skinner for his outstanding accomplishment.

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#### HONORING ROCKBROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S AMERICAN SPIRIT TOWARD THE VICTIMS OF THE BESLAN SCHOOL TRAGEDY

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 30, 2004*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to say thank you to one of my hometown schools, Rockbrook Elementary School located in Lewisville, Texas. The students of Rockbrook enthusiastically participated in a card giving program for the victims of the Beslan school tragedy.

Before departing for my mission to Russia, I asked several local schools if they would like to create, draw, color or write greeting cards to the survivors and grieving families. The response was overwhelming. I was honored to be able to present hundreds of colorful cards to patients and families.

During my time in Russia, I had the opportunity to visit survivors recuperating at two hospitals. The visits were moving and tearful, but you could see the hearts of American students truly shining in the eyes of the Russian children. I was truly privileged to represent the United States, and especially grateful to be able to share wonderful cards full of encouragement and joy.

Again, thank you, the students of Rockbrook Elementary for your kindheartedness and thoughtfulness. Your words strongly conveyed the spirit of the American people and our commitment to build relations with countries dedicated to combating global terrorism.