

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to discuss the merits and benefits of the Changing Lives character education program. I would urge all school districts to consider using this program as they apply for the Character Education grants distributed by the Department of Education. It is a proven program with results that attest to its effectiveness in changing student behaviors and transforming school environments.

RECOGNIZING JOHN MICHAEL ROSE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true friend of Colorado's Arkansas Valley. John Rose is a good neighbor, and he typifies the Western values I hold dear.

John Michael Rose and his wife, Jolly, moved to the Lower Arkansas Valley in February of 1995. They settled near the town of Fowler, Colorado. John said, "We came down here to escape the metropolitan lifestyle, and to enjoy the peace and quiet associated with living a rural lifestyle." The Rose's have raised corn and alfalfa on their eighty-acre farm for two years. John switched the operation from farming to ranching in 1997 and went into a cow-calf operation. They enjoyed living on the land and learning about farming and ranching.

In October of 1998 John received a call from the local Soil Conservation District with an offer to fill a vacant chair on the Board of Directors. John said, "That was just the beginning of my reentry into public service." In December of 1999 the City of Aurora announced its intentions to purchase the remaining shares of the Rocky Ford Ditch. John encouraged the Soil Conservation Board to become proactive and get involved with the process of objecting to the sale and monitoring what would happen to the land when Aurora took the water and dried up the land. The board held a water forum and John served as the moderator. John says this thrust him into the spotlight and thus began his involvement in water issues in the Lower Arkansas Valley. The Otero County Commissioners created the Water Works Committee and asked John to be the coordinator. This led to the creation of the Arkansas Valley Preservation Land Trust; the revival of Arkansas Valley Conduit project, and the Arkansas Valley Water Preservation Group. John is a frequent speaker throughout the valley to community groups, service clubs, and to other governmental agencies.

John serves on the Board of Directors of Big Brothers-Big Sisters. He is active in the Masonic Lodge and continues to serve on West Otero Timpas Conservation District. He is a valuable member of his community, and I am proud to have represented such a vigorous conservator in the Congress. John is a man of integrity who does the right thing even when it isn't the easiest thing to do.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FREDERIC PAUL GRESKY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude and congratulations to Mr. Frederic Paul Gresky, Colorado, one of Colorado's most outstanding citizens. Paul, a Colorado resident for over 30 years, is an individual who has made a positive and lasting difference in the lives of others.

In 1971, he and his wife Carol moved to Colorado and have raised two wonderful children, Ellen and Michael. His call to civic duty began in 1974 when a neighbor of Mr. Gresky's left a loaded shotgun unattended and the neighbor's son injured another boy. The injured boy happened to be the son of Paul's co-worker. We all have pivotal events that affect our lives, Mr. Speaker, and this was definitely Paul Gresky's. Instead of reacting irrationally, Paul set out to make a difference.

Since 1974, Paul Gresky has served as a volunteer hunter education instructor, teaching the values of safe firearm handling and responsible human-to-wildlife interaction. Mr. Gresky has earned the title of Division of Wildlife Master Instructor in 1983 and instructed an astonishing 11,000 students. In 1985, he was named Colorado Instructor of the Year and in both 1987 and 1989 he was the Colorado Candidate for Winchester's Instructor of the Year. Paul is a Certified Instructor for the Boy Scouts of America and has been called on by the Poudre Valley School District to teach Home Safety for Firearms.

Paul Gresky's commitment to wildlife has been equally impressive. When the Kodak Company wanted to develop a watchable wildlife site, they called on Mr. Gresky. His expertise resulted in one of only two watchable sites in Colorado, the only location where observers can walk through 41 acres and view natural wildlife habits.

The values that Paul Gresky holds should never be ignored. If you have the privilege of attending one of his classes, you will hear him quote Victor Hugo saying, "Common sense is developed without regard to education, not as a result of it." The young children in his courses go home with a life-changing regard to firearms, our country's heritage, and the value of wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Gresky's service and dedication to teaching and serving his country remind us of all that is good in America. Paul is truly a shining example for all Americans.

As a constituent of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, Paul Gresky not only makes his community proud, but also his state and country. It is a true honor to have such an extraordinary citizen in Colorado and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his service and dedication to the community. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulations to Mr. Frederic Paul Gresky.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALAN FOUTZ

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude and congratulations to one of Colorado's outstanding citizens, Mr. Alan Foutz of Akron, Colorado. Mr. Foutz, a graduate of the Colorado State University's department of Soil and Crop Sciences, was recently honored for his leadership and contributions to agriculture.

Mr. Foutz received his bachelor's and master's degrees in agronomy from Colorado State in 1968 and 1970. Since owning Foutz Farms in Akron, Alan has been an advocate for relationships between Colorado State and rural communities. Always working for the future of agriculture, Mr. Foutz has pushed for more student scholarships and awards for faculty members deserving recognition. His influence in the agricultural industry has spanned many groups, including serving as president of the Colorado Farm Bureau and Colorado Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance. Additionally, Mr. Foutz has served on the board of directors for Western Farm Bureau Insurance, the American Farm Bureau Federation Wheat Advisory Committee and the National Sunflower Board. Mr. Foutz also serves on the Colorado State College of Agricultural Sciences advisory board and has been a university commencement speaker.

While his service with formal organizations has been impressive, Alan's own peers recognize his valuable contributions. Mr. Jim Quick, the Soil and Crop Sciences Department Head recently commented that Alan has made "many valuable contributions to science and to the crop industry."

As a constituent of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, Alan Foutz not only makes his community proud, but also his state and country. It is a true honor to have such an extraordinary citizen in Colorado and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his service and dedication to the community. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulations to Mr. Alan Foutz.

APPRECIATION FOR EDUCATION REFORM GROUPS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the valuable contribution and tireless assistance of more than 30 organizations committed to helping all children achieve academic excellence through educational choice. Over the past year, these groups have demonstrated a remarkable dedication—often under difficult circumstances—to advancing education tax credit legislation.

During my time in Congress, no issue has captivated my time and attention more than education reform through school choice. Several years ago, a handful of my colleagues and I began meeting to work on a serious parental choice legislative effort. The result of our work was several education tax-related

bills, including the Education Freedom Act (H.R. 5192) and the Back to School Tax Relief Act (H.R. 5193), which I introduced earlier this year.

As the 107th Congress draws to a close, I am struck by the historic progress we made toward advancing education tax credits. Dozens of education tax-related bills were introduced during the 107th Congress, and one bill, H.R. 5193, passed the Ways and Means Committee and is currently awaiting floor action in the House. Our President, George W. Bush, offered his endorsement of education tax credits and established a placeholder in his budget for such legislation.

Mr. Speaker, let me be the first to say, none of this progress could have been made without the relentless support of numerous individuals and organizations. Several of them de-

serve mention here in the House: Agudath Israel, Alexis de Tocqueville Institution, American Association of Christian Schools, American Conservative Union, Americans for Tax Reform, American Legislative Exchange Council, Association of Christian Schools International, Catholic Vote, CATO Institute, Children First America, Concerned Women for America, Center of the American Experiment, Council for American Private Education, Council for Urban Renewal, Education Leaders Council, Empower America, Family Research Council, Heritage Foundation, Institute for Policy Innovation, Latino Coalition, Lexington Institute, Maryland Catholic Conference, Minnesota Catholic Conference, National Association of Private Special Education Centers, National Catholic Education Association, National

Center for Home Education, North Carolina Education Reform Foundation, People Advancing Christian Education, REACH Alliance, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, United New Yorkers for Choice in Education, Washington Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, please Join me in commending these organizations for their fine work and dedication to improving the education of all children in America. The battle for education freedom will not be easy, but it will be won someday soon with the sustained efforts of these committed organizations. For me, it has been a true privilege to work alongside these fine organizations and the people they represent. May God bless them all.