

years, Sumners kept up the drumbeat, noting that it "requires no great imagination to visualize what might develop in a close election when feeling was running high with a belief that wholesale fraud had been perpetrated in one or more pivotal States with no possibility of a final judicial determination."

Sumners' "serious situation" arose in 2000, and it could easily happen again this year. An era of electronic communication and overnight couriers, Congress should immediately lengthen the period between Election Day and the date of the electors' meeting.

The electors' meeting should occur as few days as possible before the Jan. 6 Congressional counting date. The six-day deadline for a state's choice of electors should be changed to the new date for the electors' meeting. And delivery of the electors' votes to Congress should be accomplished by any rapid and secure method, not just by registered mail as is currently required.

Making the date, say, Jan. 3, would provide an additional four weeks this year for an unrushed review.

We should not be hamstrung by a redundant and slow transmission scheme built for an earlier time. The states should have the maximum time, within the framework of the existing November election date and the Congressional counting date, to resolve any contested elections. This time, the game clock should not control the outcome.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REDDEN FAMILY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to the Redden family from Gunnison, Colorado. LeOna, Tom, Brett and Wendy represent two generations of Gunnison cattle ranchers, and are truly outstanding citizens of Colorado. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing their tremendous achievements before this body of Congress and this Nation.

As owners and managers of a 2000-acre ranch outside of Gunnison, they have honored their trade with distinction for over a century. In addition to being ranchers, each has contributed significantly to their community. Tom Redden participates with the Gunnison County Stock-growers' Association, the Cattleman Days committee, the Oddfellows, and the Elks Lodge. He also presided over the Soil Conservation Board. LeOna Redden is a member of the Rebeccas and is the state secretary of the military branch of Oddfellows. In recognition of their service to the industry, the couple was honored earlier this year as parade marshals of the Cattleman's Day parade.

Brett Redden and Wendy Hanson, grandchildren of the ranch's founder, currently operate the ranch with the help of their respective families. In addition to ranching, the two families have contributed to their community and the environment. Brett works at the local airport while Wendy works as the director of finance for the city of Gunnison. The pair have also protected almost 1000 acres of land with a conservation easement, and donated additional land to the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor the Redden family for their longstanding commit-

ment to Gunnison and their contributions to the environment and the citizens of Colorado. It is with great pleasure to recognize them today before this body of Congress and this nation.

TRIBUTE TO COY J. HALLMARK FOR RECEIVING THE 2004 ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION HUMANITARIAN AWARD

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Coy J. Hallmark of Huntsville for receiving the 2004 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award. This award is given annually to a person in the Huntsville community who has displayed exemplary community leadership.

As an undergraduate at the University of North Alabama, Reverend Hallmark received his first pastoral appointment at a church in Lexington, Alabama. After earning a Master of Divinity Degree from Emory University, Reverend Hallmark was commissioned as a chaplain in the United States Army in 1983. He is currently a Lieutenant Colonel with the 279th Signal Battalion in the Alabama National Guard where he provides spiritual support and supervision for the battalion chaplains in Huntsville, Florence, Mobile and Ft. Lewis, Washington.

In 1986, after returning from a military exercise in South Korea, Reverend Hallmark became an associate pastor at my church, the First United Methodist Church of Huntsville, a role he has served ever since. During his tenure, the church has seen a large increase in its membership and it has been more inclusive and accessible.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Reverend Hallmark has vigorously committed his time volunteering for numerous community organizations that promote the welfare of persons with disabilities and provide them with access to assistive technology devices and services to increase independence in the home, school, and work environments. This issue is close to Coy's heart. His daughter, Rachel was diagnosed with cerebral palsy in 1982.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Hallmark has been a well respected and thoughtful member of our church and community for many years. On behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate my friend, Coy Hallmark on being named the 2004 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award winner.

BAY COUNTY'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the Bay Area Women's Center of Bay City, Michigan for their diligence and dedication to educating the community on the devastating effects of domestic violence and for supporting numerous victims and their fam-

ilies. The month of October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. On Tuesday, October 5, 2004 the Bay Area Women's Center will host their annual vigil and awareness walk to show and renew their commitment to ending domestic violence.

As we enter into National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I urge every community leader, resident, and law enforcement officer to come together and take a stance against this hideous crime not just during the month of awareness, but every day throughout the year. Countless lives are lost and homes are broken as result of this preventable crime. We as a community must educate ourselves on the warning signs. We must also be willing to alert the authorities before a situation becomes violent. Domestic violence is prevalent in all communities. It knows no status or ethnicity. This is a vicious crime sweeping our Nation with many victims too afraid or simply not aware they are victims until it is too late. I am thankful for the Bay Area Women's Center, for they are committed to helping people in crisis. They hold true to their philosophy that every individual maintains the right to live free of fear and violence. Survival of organizations such as this one is critical if domestic violence is to be an issue of the past. We must support these organizations and help them spread the word that domestic violence will not be tolerated. During the month of October renew your own commitment to stamping out domestic violence by first assuring that you or your loved ones are not falling prey to this repulsive crime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring the Bay City Women's Center for their tireless efforts in promoting domestic violence awareness and for providing a supportive, and non-judgmental environment to those who have become victims.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOUG SCHAKEL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Doug Schakel, a gifted teacher and coach from Grand Junction, Colorado. Doug has been coaching basketball at the high school and college levels for over thirty-two years. During that time, he has earned many accolades, and has touched many lives in Colorado. This year Doug has been inducted into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous achievements before this body of Congress and this Nation.

As a student at Central Iowa University, Doug began his journey to being one of the most successful collegiate coaches in Colorado history. There he played on their varsity basketball team where he developed an interest in coaching. After several years of coaching at various high school programs, Doug eventually ended up as the head coach at Mesa State College in 1978. During his eighteen years as head coach, Doug led the team to an impressive seven conference titles. He also had the best overall record of any coach in the history of Mesa State. In addition, Doug

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.

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.

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, Jestine 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.

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.

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 kindness 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.