

Materials and Resources. Some of the amazing environmentally-friendly innovations include: Electricity requirements are met by the purchase of 100 percent wind-power energy; over half the wood used in construction did not originate from logging; low-emitting volatile organic compound materials are used for paint and adhesives; 90 percent of its structural steel contains post-consumer content; 2 million gallons of water annually are saved by recycling rainwater for building cooling and through the use of low flow plumbing fixtures; and the carpet uses backing made from recycled soda bottles. This kind of top-to-bottom environmental sensitivity is where our Nation and our planet's future lies.

I would also like to acknowledge APEC's leadership in environmental education and awareness. Every year, over 35,000 school students from all over New York City and Long Island visit Alley Pond Park. At APEC-run programs, students of pre-school, elementary school, middle and high school ages learn about the environment and conservation policy. APEC also runs wonderful teacher workshops to educate teachers in methods to enrich and improve their natural sciences curriculum when they return to the classroom. APEC restored and reclaimed Alley Pond Park in the 1970s as a refuge where New Yorkers could experience nature, wetlands and woodlands first hand. APEC features live animal exhibits and several miles of trails in both wetland and woodland areas, bird walks, nature hikes, craft sessions and workshops on environmental topics. Through the "Green Living Award", APEC continues its environmental mission by recognizing the "green" achievements of individuals throughout the New York area.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to recognize Tom Santiago for his exemplary work in green building construction and for receiving the "Green Living Award" from the Alley Pond Environmental Center. I know my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Thomas Santiago and his colleagues at Citigroup for this well-deserved honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF KENNETH OWENS UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRINCIPAL OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN MILTON, FLORIDA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kenneth Owens, who is retiring after almost 40 years of service as a teacher, coach, and administrator in the Northwest Florida school system. His passion and dedication proves that teachers can truly make a difference in the lives of their students, and I am proud to honor such an admirable leader of our community.

Mr. Owens began his life as a public servant almost forty years ago. He spent his entire career enriching the lives of young people as both a teacher and a coach. Seventeen years ago, he came to Central High School in Milton, Florida as an assistant principal where he has remained ever since. As principal, Mr.

Owens transformed Central High School from a "C" school to a "B" school under Florida's A+ Plan for Education. This tremendous achievement exemplifies Mr. Owens' commitment to Central's mission statement of providing an environment that encourages students to achieve their fullest potential. He has touched thousands of lives, and his devotion will never be forgotten. Although he is retiring from his position as an educator, Kenny Owens will always be a Central High School Jaguar.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I would like to thank Mr. Owens for his years of public service to the students and community of Northwest Florida. Vicki and I wish him and his family best wishes for continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York as they commemorate the 225th anniversary of Evacuation Day.

The Sons of the Revolution in New York is an organization which keeps alive the memory of the men who achieved American independence through military, naval, or civil service. They also promote and assist in celebrating the anniversaries of events which relate to the War of the Revolution.

November 25th is the anniversary of Evacuation Day, which signaled the end of the Revolutionary War when the last British troops departed Manhattan. Though the importance of this day is sometimes forgotten, the Sons of the Revolution have kept its memory alive. This year they are hosting a parade on November 22nd to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the British evacuation of New York.

Once again, I offer my heart-felt congratulations to the Sons of the Revolution at the time of this celebration. As representative of the 8th Congressional District of New York, I am honored to have such distinguished citizens working in my district to keep the history of America alive.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2009.

FEL Capabilities for Aerospace Microfabrication.

Account: U.S. Department of the Air Force, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation. Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Jefferson Science Associates on behalf of the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility.

Address of Requesting Entity: 12000 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, VA 23606.

Description of Request: Provide \$1.4 million for the expansion of the Free-Electron Laser

program at Jefferson Laboratory through the USAF RDT&E Account. The FEL has delivered world-record levels of infrared light for development of defense, science and industrial applications. This joint project of the Aerospace Corporation and the Jefferson Lab in support of the Air Force Research Lab has demonstrated the use of kilowatt levels of ultraviolet light useful as a microfabrication processing tool to produce miniature satellite components. The completion of the ultraviolet processing capability will enable microfabrication techniques for production of miniature satellites at substantially lower cost and processing time than what is achievable with current technology.

\$11 million was appropriated for the UV FEL project in the FY 2001–FY 2004 period, as well as an additional \$1.6 million appropriation in FY 2008, which has allowed the hardware to be 90 percent completed. The FY 2009 request of \$1.4 million is needed to complete and commission this project. There is no matching requirement. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation account.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE MARILYN MASSENGILL

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge The Honorable Marilyn Massengill, Plymouth Township Clerk, upon her retirement from the government of Plymouth Township after thirty-nine years of dedicated service.

Throughout her life, Marilyn has striven to better our community. Mrs. Massengill graduated from Plymouth High School in 1952 and went on to work in several township departments. She began her dedicated career in June, 1969 when she was hired to work in the Building Department before advancing to the Planning Department and then the Clerk's Office. Marilyn was first elected Plymouth Township Clerk in 1992, re-elected in 1996 and again in 2000. She received official recognition as a Certified Municipality Clerk in 1995 by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks following completion of specialized training.

Marilyn has participated in multiple associations during her committed service to Plymouth Township, including: The First United Methodist Church, Plymouth Business and Professional Women's Club, BPW, Wayne County Clerk's Association, International Institute of Municipal Clerks, Plymouth Study Club, and as a Charter Member of the Plymouth Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club. Despite her numerous accomplishments and community activities, Marilyn remains most proud of her four children, all of whom attended and graduated from the Plymouth Canton Community School District, and her eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, after over 30 tireless years, Clerk Massengill will be retiring from her position of Plymouth Township Clerk. As she enters the next phase of her life, she leaves behind a legacy of leadership, integrity,

and devotion to the citizens of Michigan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Honorable Marilyn Massengill, upon her retirement and recognizing her years of loyal service to our community and our country.

HONORING THE SAFETY AND EXCELLENCE OF KEITH BRUCE AND CHARLES RHYNEHART OF UNITED PARCEL SERVICE, U.P.S.

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding efforts of Keith Bruce and Charles Rhynehart of the United Parcel Service.

These two men who graciously serve Louisiana's 5th District, have been inducted in to the elite "Circle of Honor" for their 25 years or more of accident-free driving. The men and women who have achieved membership in to the Circle of Honor are the best of the best. This is an accomplishment I am proud to honor as these men have demonstrated a commitment to safety and high standards in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Keith Bruce and Charles Rhynehart of the United Parcel Service, for their dedication to the safety of their fellow drivers and those with whom they share the roads.

SWEETWATER HIGH SCHOOL  
MAKES HISTORY!

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize Sweetwater High School in National City, California, a school in California's 51st Congressional District, my district, with a statement prepared by the school which touts its remarkable success.

In the United States of the 21st Century, no single institution has received more attention, been the center of more controversy or passionately advanced as "the last best hope" of passing on the promise of national excellence than the public high school. The driving force behind the passage by Congress of "No Child Left Behind" was to create schools that reflect equity—where dynamic learning environments driven by high academic standards will promote academic, social and ethical growth for ALL students.

Schools are held accountable through a comprehensive assessment program that measures achievement and yearly progress for every student, their scores reported by gender, by ethnicity, by parent education, by economic circumstance. No child was left undiscovered, and in 2001, at Sweetwater High School, it was alarmingly clear that many had been left behind.

Census reports from 2001 reported that National City ranked as the second poorest city in San Diego County and had the fifteenth

poorest economy in the United States for a city of fewer than 59,000 residents. Located seven miles north of the Mexican border, Sweetwater High School, built in 1921, serves culturally and socially diverse low-income families whose needs place unique demands on the school and staff who serve them. Eight of ten students speak a language other than English at home. More than 80 percent of the 2500 students qualify for the free lunch program.

In its first reporting year for "No Child Left Behind," Sweetwater scored a lowly 461 out of a possible 1000 on the Academic Performance Index (API) and more telling, did not meet adequate yearly progress by its targeted populations. In the second year, while the API score improved significantly and some gains had been made, the school did not meet the goals established by the federal guidelines of "No Child Left Behind." Two consecutive years of unmet goals landed Sweetwater High on the Federal List of Failing Schools.

What followed is Sweetwater High School at its best, Sweetwater High School calling on 87 years of Spirit and Pride.

Under the leadership of new principal Wesley Braddock, administrators, counselors, resource personnel, and teachers united to develop a school-wide assault on poor and failing scores. District curriculum and instructional staff provided resources and support identified by Sweetwater teachers and administrators as key to moving ALL students to academic success, with proficiency on state exams and meeting and exceeding federal benchmarks for performance. Student data became the map staff followed in search of the keys that would unlock the treasure chest of achievement. Students who had previously missed the proficiency cut were assigned an extra support class to assist them in developing critical thinking strategies and test taking skills. Incoming 10th grade students identified as below basic—those in the lowest quartile—were given additional support. This strategy provided in-depth remediation and academic development prior to the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) to the Sophomore Class each February. Most striking was the challenge to those sophomores who were "not at risk," that they too should work hard in their core academic classes.

Principal Braddock went personally to every 10th grade English class and spoke from his heart about the importance of doing well, about the Sweetwater Tradition to rise far beyond what others think we can do. While 350 is the score required to pass the CAHSEE exam, this minimum state score was not sufficient to move Sweetwater out of the federal Program Improvement category. Principal Braddock then issued the "380 Challenge." He challenged students to do what so many said Sweetwater High would never do. He told them that together, they would accomplish great things. To accomplish those great things, all of us, students, staff, administration, parents and community would not only act, but dream, and not just to dream, but to BELIEVE! Students did believe, and many smashed the 380 goal, giving Sweetwater High the largest passing percentage in English-Language Arts in the district.

The staff and students have learned over these past three years that great things are not done by impulse, but by knowing the goal, committing to the work, and hitting the target always saying, WE BELIEVE.

Sweetwater High School has raised its Academic Performance Index (API) from 461 to 706.

Sweetwater's API growth is the 5th highest in the entire state of California.

Sweetwater High School's 97 percent Attendance Rate is the highest in the 30,000 student/23 school Sweetwater Union High School District.

Sweetwater High School, in September of 2008, made history by being one of only two schools to make it off the Federal Watch List. In fact, its achievement has surpassed the achievement of 851 of California's 855 high schools.

Sweetwater High School, stands with firm resolve, both feet planted in this 21st century. The staff and students of Sweetwater High exemplify extraordinary courage as they continue to engage in attacking and mastering the rigorous academic standards set forth by the state and the nation. Their resilience and resolve rise up from their State of the Heart Legacy and will take each generation of students into a world where they not only believe in their ability but will achieve success. For those looking for that "Last Best Hope" described in A Nation at Risk, just Google . . . 2900 Highland Avenue, National City, CA: Sweetwater High School—"Home of the Red Devils!"

As an educator, I applaud the achievements of the students, staff, teachers, administrators, parents and the community of Sweetwater High School! I was so moved by the efforts of these students that I was able to obtain \$292,000 in federal funds for students at Sweetwater High School and neighboring high schools for their Compact for Success. This Compact is a program that guarantees a place at San Diego State University for every graduating high school student who maintains a "B" average and meets the goals of the Compact. Participation in the Compact is yet one more way that the Sweetwater High School community is challenging and rewarding its students, the students who are a beacon of light and a remarkable example of what can be achieved when everyone focuses on the goal, the goal of a quality education for each and every student.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DELAWARE STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S MARVIN S. GILMAN SUPERSTARS IN BUSINESS AWARDS

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce's Marvin S. Gilman Superstars in Business Awards. For ten years, the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce has taken pride in honoring small businesses and organizations for their outstanding services, quality of management, and exemplary approach to business in our state.

Each year, winners of the Marvin S. Gilman Superstars in Business Awards are companies that have met three criteria: the companies have been established at least three years, have 150 employees or less, and are members of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Awards of Excellence are