

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

given to commendable companies, and one award is given to one outstanding non-profit organization. Over the years, corporations within the development, arts, public utilities, communications, and healthcare industries, among others, have been recognized for playing a leading role in Delaware's economic well-being. In November of 1998, the very first luncheon was held to present these distinguished awards in the Gold Ballroom at the Hotel DuPont, the very same location where many of the 40 winning companies, state and local officials, Chamber members, and other notable members of the community will gather to celebrate this milestone. In fact, I was among the guests present at the first Superstars in Business Awards luncheon, and a decade later I am pleased to join in saluting what has become a distinguished tradition.

In recognizing this program, it is only fitting to also recognize the program's entrepreneurial namesake, the late Marvin S. Gilman. Mr. Gilman served as president of Gilman Development Co. in Wilmington for more than forty years, during which time he earned the reputation of a model small business owner and leader in the community. He used his position in the housing industry to further the cause of desegregation, sponsoring the Sutton Place high-rise facility project in Baltimore—one of the first major real estate projects to welcome tenants of all races—and serving on the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing. Recognized for their service to the community, Mr. Gilman and his wife, Muriel, were the first couple to receive the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce's Josiah Marvel Cup Award.

Once again, I recognize the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce's Marvin S. Gilman Superstars in Business Awards for ten years of honoring exceptional small businesses and organizations. It is this commitment to fostering economic and community excellence that keeps Delaware one of the best environments to conduct business in the United States.

EMERGENCY ECONOMIC
STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I reluctantly supported this economic rescue plan on Monday, and I will do so again today. Not because I like it. I don't. Not because it is popular. It isn't. And certainly not because I think responsible taxpayers have any obligation to bail out Wall Street. They don't. Instead, I will support this plan because I believe that acting decisively now will almost certainly mean less cost to taxpayers and less pain on Main Street than allowing this credit crisis to get worse.

In what history will record as the final verdict on 8 years of the Bush administration's failed economic policies, allowing this credit crisis to spread to Main Street would dry up existing lines of credit, cause more small businesses to fail, put more people out of work, place more retirees' pensions at risk, and accelerate the current downturn in our fragile economy. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

Let's be clear: This legislation is a far cry from the original, three-page, blank check proposal Secretary Paulson submitted to Congress. Whereas the Paulson proposal had no oversight, no limits on executive compensation or golden parachutes, no help for homeowners, no upside for taxpayers, and no requirement that the President submit a plan to Congress to recoup the full amount of the taxpayers' money from participating institutions should any amount of the initial outlay not be recovered after 5 years' time, this legislation contains all of those protections.

Additionally, as a result of the Senate's action last night, the bill we are considering today also includes a 1-year patch for the AMT to ensure 25 million additional Americans are not snared by this tax; \$18 billion in renewable energy incentives (paid for by eliminating subsidies to the oil and gas industries) to accelerate our transition to a 21st century green economy; and mental health parity legislation that will end the shameful history of insurance discrimination suffered by those whose conditions affect the brain, rather than the rest of the body. This revised package also contains bipartisan legislation I introduced to end the ISO AMT crisis affecting tens of thousands of law-abiding Americans by providing permanent relief from that universally condemned corner of our code. And it further protects our citizens' savings by temporarily increasing the cap on FDIC-insured accounts to \$250,000.

Like any legislation of this magnitude, there are provisions I do not support, other provisions I thought should be included, and still others I would have changed. For example, the renewable energy title includes several incentives that in my view fall outside the definition of "renewable," and the tax title contains a number of narrowly drawn provisions that detract from the larger purpose of this legislation. Additionally, the final bill failed to include a measure I support to allow bankruptcy judges to modify mortgages on primary residences the same way they are currently able to modify mortgages on second homes and investment properties. Furthermore, the Senate package was not fully paid for and for that reason will unnecessarily add to our national debt. And finally, I personally would have preferred that that this rescue plan include some immediate regulatory reforms, recognizing that more comprehensive reform will follow congressional hearings that begin next week. Nevertheless, our citizens can be assured that Congress is determined to get to the bottom of what caused this mess and act promptly to make sure this kind of crisis never happens again.

IN HONOR OF RAFAEL "FEYNNER"
ARIAS GODINEZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of a special friend, Rafael "Feynner" Arias Godinez, on this occasion of his 20th anniversary as a steward of the UC Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve in Big Sur, California. The Big Creek Reserve is operated by the University of California's Santa

Cruz campus. The land was part of the Circle M Ranch until the ranch was broken up and sold; private owners, including my father, the late Senator Fred Farr, later granted the land to the university's Natural Reserve System.

Feynner Arias came to the United States from his native Costa Rica. He was born near the town of Parrita, Costa Rica. His family was very poor by American standards. Feynner's life in the jungles of Costa Rica is full of stories that books and movies are made from; learning to hunt and fish from his grandmother, his abuela, Elija; battling school bullies who abandoned him in a well; overcoming deadly snake bites in the jungle; learning to survive with just a machete and his wits; and, as a sawmill child laborer having to remove saw dust from a fast moving sawmill blade. Through hard work and out of necessity, he developed a jungle reputation as a person who could track down anything; he could hunt and capture it for food or money to support his mother and seven siblings.

Feynner's vast knowledge of the land and animals drew wildlife scientists from around the world to hire him as a guide; his work helped to establish the Corcovado National Park in Costa Rica. Feynner often traded his guiding services for food. One of his clients was a woman PhD candidate at UC Berkeley. Together they lived in the rain forest studying ants. After she returned to California he received a letter asking him to come for a visit. He traded the gold that he had panned for in Panama for an airline ticket to the U.S., going from the rain forest of Costa Rica to the San Francisco Bay area. Soon married, he landed a job at the Big Creek Reserve. By a stroke of luck, the resident reserve manager at Big Creek had, many years prior, benefited from Feynner's guide services in Costa Rica and was well familiar with Feynner's wilderness experience and helped to guide Feynner through the bureaucracy of the university's hiring practices.

Today, the entire Big Sur coast and the UC Natural Reserve System have come to love and respect Feynner's knowledge of natural flora and fauna and the coast range. His stories of sleeping near the mountain lions, killing a wild boar with a small knife, rescuing lost and injured hikers, and leading fire crews to the best areas to fight raging fires are well known on the coast. Whether working with world-renowned academics or nondegreed people like himself, he is sought after like a celebrity. He is known locally as the person who can fix anything, build anything, or find anything. He is able to grow Costa Rican bushes in his home, spot wildlife and whales that others can't find, and to understand the natural world around him in ways that the more formally educated often can't. His understanding and appreciation of the world around him and us is unsurpassed.

Feynner is now celebrating 20 years with the Big Creek Reserve. Those who know and love him celebrate this uncommon immigrant who has captured their hearts and minds. We congratulate and celebrate his service to the people of California and especially to his friends and neighbors in Big Sur.

Madam Speaker, Speaker, I for one, will always treasure the Farr family good fortune to have known, laughed and learned from Rafael Arias. Gracias Amigo por todo!