

RECOGNIZING THE 10,000TH GED "GRADUATE" FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 7, 2010*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 10,000th GED "graduate" from the Adult Education Program at Southwestern Illinois College.

In 1990, Southwestern Illinois College changed its adult education programming from a general literacy effort to a program focused on preparing students for the GED test and transitioning them into postsecondary education. Martha Giordano, Ph.D., who headed the program then, recalls that "it was like a light coming on. Students wanted a high school completion so they could move on. We had to make everything we did relate to this primary goal." The program revised its curriculum and course scheduling to accomplish that goal.

Martha O'Malley, the St. Clair County Regional Superintendent of Education at the time, also saw the light and decided to help. She made GED testing locally available when she took on the responsibility of testing and persuaded the other district Regional Superintendents to do likewise. GED tests were administered monthly throughout the district and registration for testing became an ongoing activity in the regional offices. This practice continues to the present.

"This combination of intensive, highly focused instruction and frequent local testing accounts for our high numbers," states Giordano. "When students come to our program, they know we will take them from where they are and push them forward until they are ready for that test."

Southwestern Illinois College keeps careful records of the students who pass, and in October 2009, it recorded its 10,000th GED "graduate." This year, at its annual GED Certificate Ceremony—May 19, 2010—the College and District will celebrate this important milestone.

Southwestern Illinois College has one of the largest adult education programs in Illinois. It averages over 500 graduates annually, and

last year 573 of its students earned the GED. Over the years 42 percent of these GED graduates have enrolled in undergraduate programs at Southwestern alone. "We see our former adult education students in the halls and classrooms at SWIC and all about town," reports Janice Buchwald, the current GED Director. The program has students who have finished nursing programs, transferred to 4-year institutions and are working as lab technicians, graphic designers, cafeteria managers, salespersons and in a host of other occupations. Undoubtedly Southwestern Illinois College's adult education efforts are having a significant impact on the lives of many district residents.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the board, administration, faculty and students of Southwestern Illinois College as they recognize and celebrate the 10,000th GED "graduate" from their Adult Education Program.

CELEBRATING MOTHERS AND MOTHER'S DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1295, "Celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day." First and foremost I would like to thank my distinguished colleague from Nebraska, Representative JEFF FORTENBERRY, for introducing this bill. It is vital we recognize that mothers have made immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong nation. The services rendered to the children of the United States by their mothers have strengthened and inspired the Nation throughout its history.

Today I stand before my colleagues honoring the 102d anniversary since the first official Mother's Day. As a mother of two children myself, I understand the hardships and difficulties that so many mothers face every day in our country. We honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the

home and family as the true foundation of the Nation. I want to pay tribute to my mother Ivalita Jackson who has stood the test of time in rearing and raising her children. I would also like to take this time to honor my aunt Valerie Bennett for her constant love and support. To the mothers of Houston, too many to name here, I salute you for your dedication to raising and saving your children.

Today, thousands of mothers in this country have become active and effective participants in public life and public service, promoting change and improving the quality of life for men, women, and children throughout the Nation.

Mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding, and compassion, while overcoming the challenges of modern society; Mothers throughout our country juggle between work, family and the household, all with a smile on their faces.

On May 9, 2010, we will honor mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, stepmothers, foster mothers and godmothers who take in children, mothers who adopt, those who act as mothers, for those women who have no relations by blood but who give the gift of mothering to children.

I want to congratulate and praise all of the mothers in America for all of their hard work. Mothers have a huge influence on our everyday lives; we owe all of our success to them. As former President George Washington put it best "My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her." We can never thank our mothers enough for all the sacrifices they have made for us. I wish all families a very happy Mother's Day this Sunday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 7, 2010*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 252, the Barton of Texas Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 5019, the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act of 2010, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."