

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