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For Immediate Release
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Palo Alto Unified Bond Measure A Nets 1,000 Endorsements

47-year Palo Alto resident Sam Webster becomes 1,000th endorser of Measure A School Facilities Bond Campaign

Palo Alto, CA – Over 1,000 local residents who believe in the strength of the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) and community have endorsed the District's Measure A facilities bond that will appear on the June 3, 2008 ballot. This crucial bond will fund repairs, renovations and improvements to PAUSD's aging infrastructure and accommodate growing enrollment in Palo Alto schools.

Palo Alto businessman and Tall Trees Award recipient Sam Webster, who turned ninety this year and has lived in Palo Alto for nearly five decades, became the 1,000th endorser of Measure A on Monday evening, May 12. His wife, Kim Webster, who has lived in Palo Alto for 79 years, also endorsed the measure. Mrs. Webster graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1938, and also attended Channing Middle School, and Addison Elementary School. The couple sent three children through the PAUSD, the last graduating in 1971.

"I unequivocally support Measure A because quality schools are the heart and pride of Palo Alto," said Mr. Webster. "My children got a wonderful education in these schools and went on to Stanford, Cal and Harvard thanks to this school district. Those of us whose children have grown and benefitted from living here have an obligation to provide for future generations."

"We're happy to support upgrades to the schools, as students are using some of the same buildings and facilities I did in the 1930's," said Kim Webster. Mrs. Webster remembers sitting in the Palo Alto High School theatre on December 10, 1936, listening to the abdication of King Edward VIII on the radio. "The whole student body was assembled in the theatre and you could hear a pin drop, we were all listening so intently to the news. You could never have those kinds of assemblies in that old theatre today," she said. "It wouldn't hold half the students."

"Improving the schools is the best investment you can make in this town and the proof is in the success of our wonderful children," Mrs. Webster added.

Measure A has been endorsed by the local branches of national organizations and leading local groups, including the League of Women Voters, the Palo Alto

Chamber of Commerce, The American Association of University Women, The Foothill-DeAnza Board of Trustees, Partners in Education, the Paly Campanile, The Silicon Valley Association of Realtors, and Palo Alto Community Child Care. If approved by voters on June 3, Measure A will raise \$378 million without increasing tax rates, by extending the current tax rate from the 1995 facilities bond approved by over 80% of PAUSD voters.

“The momentum demonstrated by 1000 endorsements with twenty days still to go before the election is great!” said Jon Foster, co-chair of Strong Schools for a Strong Community, an independent campaign organization. “We are really pleased to have this kind of support from long-time residents who no longer have children in the schools.”

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