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**Date:** 3/24/2011 11:21:13 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Senator Rose: Thank you, "Mrs. Dabney: Constituent

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Katherine,

Please give the Governor an opportunity to read my letter to the editor below.

Thank you.

Mike Rose

A matter of personal interest:

## Thank you, "Mrs. Dabney"

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Dear Editor,

Words cannot adequately describe the gratitude I feel to certain people who helped me at key points in my life. Among them were certain K-12 teachers.

Recently Vivian and I visited Frances Dabney – "Mrs. Dabney" to me -- a 91-year-old widow of a Baptist preacher now living in Spartanburg whom I had not seen for almost fifty years. In 1963 she was my 11th grade geometry teacher at then Garrett High School in then Charleston Heights, SC. Mrs. Dabney, still very articulate and sharp as a tack, reminisced to us how she asked me one day what I was doing in her class. She said I, who was then age 15 (young due to having skipped two grades), said I was filling out an application to take the SAT college entrance exam but discovered I could not take it as I did not have the required \$13 fee. She told us repeatedly that she was "haunted" by what I had said about not taking that exam due to not having the fee, for she knew I was a good student with promise.

Evidently it did "haunt" Mrs. Dabney because she soon gave me a check to pay the required fee, and I took the exam. She explained that weeks later I handed her thirteen \$1 bills in repayment – money I probably earned from a part time job I got later as janitor for the Durant Avenue Church of Christ. She said she immediately used this \$13 at Belks to buy herself pink nylon pajamas and a house coat, which she keeps now in a suitcase to use when she goes to a hospital. She said that with these clothes I "bought" her, she is "always prepared" and has always remembered me.

Mrs. Dabney had much more to share with us than memories. She pulled out a letter postmarked June 12, 1969 from me to her. It was from Lt. Michael T. Rose to Mrs. Fred C. Dabney, Dorchester Waylyn Baptist Church, Charleston Heights, SC 29405. That envelope has on it a German postmark and stamps showing I mailed the letter to her from Germany, and the handwritten address to her then home in Spartanburg to which the Church forwarded the letter.

In the envelope was a formal announcement of my graduation exercises from the "Superintendent and the Class of Nineteen hundred and sixty-nine of the United States Air Force Academy Colorado" and my handwritten letter stating as follows:

Dear Mrs. Dabney, I am writing this note (as I fly over London, England) to sincerely thank you once again for the loan you gave me (this airplane is bouncing) to take the college entrance board exam back in my junior year of high school. I needed it then.

It is because of help from you and others that I can send you this announcement of my graduation from the Air Force Academy.

Again, thank you so much.

P.S. I believe I repaid you the money. (?)"

Mrs. Dabney insisted that Vivian and I take that letter with us, which we did. She said repeatedly that it would mean more to my family after she is gone than to hers.

I shudder to think of what would have become of me -- how my life and the lives of my family and others would have been so different -- if I had not received encouragement and assistance from Mrs. Dabney and others when I needed it as a child. I cannot write this without tears. I told Mrs. Dabney that I have tried to repay her and others over the years by trying to live up to the confidence they expressed in me and by passing on to others the love and assistance they provided me.

We should remember, praise and thank now each Mrs. Dabney in our lives, so they can have the satisfaction of realizing the importance of and our appreciation for their contributions. Judging by the obvious joy in Mrs. Dabney as we visited with her, it is evident that a little deserved attention and expression of gratitude can go a long way.

Senator Mike Rose  
Summerville