

with Africa. The long-term partnerships that will be created because of this legislation will better enable the U.S. to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and allow us to design cost-effective techniques that can be used throughout our foreign aid programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Africa Seeds of Hope Act of 1998 provides substantial economic benefits to Sub-Saharan Africa and promotes American foreign interests. This bill has received bipartisan support in this Congress and is consistent with our current African foreign policy. I strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF
COLD SPRING HARBOR JUNIOR
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Rachel Friedstein, Jessica Berenblum, Lauren Schulz, and Raina Tripp who placed second in their quest for the Bayer/National Science Foundation (NSF) Award for Community Innovation. Each of these students has received a \$3,000 savings bond and will be honored at a Capitol Hill Ceremony. We should also recognize the outstanding work of their coach, Mr. Jim Frank, whose leadership and guidance was instrumental to the students' success.

These Cold Spring Harbor Junior High School students conducted a comprehensive study of the long term damage caused by wearing backpacks that were excessively heavy. They concluded that 25–33 percent of adolescents already experience lower back pain and that overweight backpacks can exacerbate these problems leading to even more serious back conditions later in life. The students worked with physicians and chiropractors to identify risk factors and prevention methods.

In the fall, these four students began a program entitled "Light is Right" which seeks to inform their peers about the dangers associated with backpack misuse and strategies to avoid this problem. They will hold an assembly for new junior high school students and distribute brochures and stickers describing the problem. Moreover, they will work to create an Internet survey to conduct further research.

The creativity and ingenuity of these students should serve as a model to all of our schools and communities. It also shows that students can really make a difference in the lives of their peers by working with their school and the private sector. The award program, which is jointly run by the National Science Foundation and the Bayer Corporation, has adhered to this model of public-private interdependence. It is my hope that other schools throughout the New York area will look to this example and create similar programs. Most importantly, their work will enable other teenagers to lead healthier lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues join me in rising to honor these extraordinary students and their coach.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HELLING
STADIUM RENOVATION PROJECT

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I rise and give recognition to the people of Ellwood City on the occasion of the rededication of Helling Stadium. Under construction for the past year and a half, the new stadium will provide a state-of-the-art facility for the students who attend Lincoln High School. It will also provide a first class venue for the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League to use for playoff games in baseball, football, and track and field bringing more and more people from outside Lawrence County into Ellwood City.

In addition to having one of the premier football stadiums in western Pennsylvania the complex has added a six-lane regulation polyurethane running track as well as a new baseball field and concession stands. As a result of this renovation, Lincoln High School will finally be able to host track and field events. It is interesting to note that prior to the renovation the baseball stadium's lighting was passed down from storied Forbes Field in Pittsburgh.

The Fourth Congressional District has been home to many great professional athletes. Tony Dorsett, Joe Namath, Ty Law, and George Blanda to name a few. It is my belief that with a first-class facility like this, it may not be long before a new crop of future NFL stars come from Ellwood City.

Mr. Speaker, it is once again with great pride that I rise and urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Ellwood City on this fabulous evening. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my most sincere thanks to Brad Oviat and the entire school board for the work they have done to guarantee the completion of this project. Good luck for the future and go Wolverines.

A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND
BERNARD C. POITIER

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Reverend Bernard C. Poitier for his many years of service to our community and to his church as an educator, family counselor, and community leader.

Rev. Poitier has been the owner and director of Poitier Funeral Home for the past 30 years and the Pastor of Saint Luke Cousin Memorial A.M.E. church for 18 years.

Pastor Poitier began his ministerial training at Mount Herman A.M.E. church under the guidance of Reverend C.E. Jenkins. He received his primary and secondary education from Dade County public schools, then went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree from Bethune-Cookman College in 1963.

As pastor of Saint Luke Cousin Memorial A.M.E. Church, Rev. Poitier has inspired many to become personally involved in doing God's work. Guided by his commitment to inner city

youth, Rev. Poitier has organized numerous athletic events, fund raisers, and recreational activities designed to benefit those who are less fortunate.

Pastor Poitier is married to the former Barbara Riley and is the father of two sons, and two daughters. He is also the grandfather of two.

In honoring Rev. Poitier today, we honor the virtue, moral courage, and sacrifice which he has exhibited throughout his life. As an inspiration, strength, and a blessing to those whose lives are touched by his, he helps others understand the place of faith in their lives.

I know that my colleagues join with me and our entire community in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Rev. Bernard C. Poitier for his lifetime of service.

HONORING THE VERY REVEREND
FATHER STEVAN STEPANOV FOR
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE
TO ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN
CHURCH IN ALIQUIPPA, PENN-
SYLVANIA

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional individual, the Very Reverend Father Stevan Stepanov of Aliquippa, PA.

This year, Father Stevan celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of serving the Aliquippa parish and the thirty-fifth anniversary of his ordination into the Orthodox priesthood.

Born and educated in Yugoslavia, Father Stevan moved to this country with his family to begin his career as a Deacon to the Serbian Orthodox Diocese in America. He became a United States citizen, earned a Master's Degree at the University of Pittsburgh, and strove to be a good husband and father.

As the parish priest in Aliquippa, he quickly established himself as an outstanding priest and helped to build the reputation of Aliquippa as one of the finest, most active Serbian Orthodox communities in America. Father Stevan has maintained the spiritual vitality of the Orthodox church service. He has rejuvenated holiday traditions that are centuries old. He has served as teacher to generations of young and old parishioners. He founded the summer camp and served as advisor and supporter for its Sunday School, Youth Group, KCC, Church Choir, Junior Choir, Mother's Club, Men's Club, and other organizations.

Through these many years, Father Stevan has enjoyed the support and good counsel of his wife, Ana. Her strength, humor, and patience have allowed Father Stevan to devote the many hours and much energy to his work in the parish.

Mr. Speaker, once again I want to commend Father Stevan for his service to the St. Elijah Serbian Church and the greater Aliquippa community and wish him many more years of good health and good work. He is a credit to his people and his vocation and an inspiration to all citizens of the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in recognizing the exemplary work of a truly extraordinary man.