

allocate a sufficient portion of its administrative expense budgets to the SBIR program. By reserving these funds, agencies could (1) conduct site visits to companies which have won Phase I or Phase II awards; (2) provide the opportunity for agencies to review a company's work; and (3) provide those firms with such assistance in meeting the requirements of the program as they may require. Such expenses require agency investment in SBIR beyond set aside funds. However, this investment is a necessary agency administrative expenditure if agencies and participating companies are to get maximum value out of the program. A great example of this type of investment already exists at the Department of Defense.

Another change this legislation will make to the SBIR program is the addition of a National Research Council study. The Science Committee asked the NRC to examine a variety of questions which I and other Committee members feel will lead to a better understanding of the program's potential and encourage other beneficial program changes in the future. It is important that this study is done objectively, with a true understanding of the problems facing SBIR winners. We expect that the NRC panel that oversees this project will embody a wide range of expertise and experience, and include a respectable number of small high technology businessmen who have participated in the program.

In closing I would like to reiterate the importance of this program and the need to pass this bill this session. In the Boston area, we have a number of great research universities and laboratories; each filled with bright, technically oriented people who are willing to take a chance on an idea that possesses great potential. It is in our best interest to do what we can to encourage these individuals to pursue their ideas to the fullest. With this in mind, I urge each of my colleagues to give this bill their strongest support.

MR. EDWARD BRENDER HONORS  
SYNAGOGUE IN POEM

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 1, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents. Edward Brender of Kauneonga Lake, New York, wrote a poem honoring his Temple Beth-El which celebrated its 75th anniversary last year. The congregation first started meeting in a barn. When their numbers grew, additions were built. The congregation is still growing today.

Mr. Speaker, I submit Mr. Brender's poem into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this point:

"THE BARN THAT BECAME A HOUSE OF  
WORSHIP"

(By Edward Brender)

The temple once a farmer's barn; part of  
America's rural farm furnished with a  
century-old church's pews, yet filled  
with devout and dedicated Jews.

At Temple Beth-El, we like to stay with  
American uplifted heart's we spay.

For 75 years, the temple filled our spiritual  
needs, while rabbis planted righteous  
seeds.

The halls resounded with Chief Justice Lawrence  
H. Cook's praise, reminding us of

Hebrew sacrifices during America's  
revolutionary phase.

During the time of our country's greatest  
need, recounting tales of Jewish patriots'  
deeds.

High on a majestic verdant hill stands state-  
ly Temple Beth-El; For 75 years a beacon  
of freedom's faith, spreading  
boundless love and tales to tell.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 1, 1999*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday September 27 and Tuesday September 28 of 1999, I was unavoidably detained by a family medical emergency and missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes No. 448 regarding the EU ban of U.S. Hushkitted and Reengined Aircraft, "aye" on No. 449 supporting free elections in Haiti, "aye" on No. 450, conveying land to San Juan College, "aye" on No. 451 preserving affordable housing for senior citizens, "aye" on No. 452, the Energy and Water Appropriations Conference Report, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 453, the Continuing Resolution for FY 1999, "aye" on No. 454 regarding East Timor, "aye" on No. 455 expressing sympathy for Taiwanese earthquake victims, "aye" on No. 456 to protect Social Security, and "aye" on No. 457, the Health Research and Quality Act.

TRIBUTE TO HEALTH HILL  
HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

**HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 1, 1999*

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I announce the renaming of Health Hill Hospital for Children to the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation.

Since 1998, Health Hill Hospital for Children has been part of the Cleveland Clinic Health System. Devoted entirely to pediatric development, Health Hill has one of the largest teams of pediatric therapists in the nation. In addition to being one of the world's preeminent medical research and educational facilities, the Cleveland Clinic Health System is northeast Ohio's foremost provider of comprehensive medical and rehabilitative services to children requiring long-term treatment. In 1983, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation became the first medical center in the United States to be designated as a National Referral Center by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFTA), Department of Health and Human Services. More specifically, Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Pediatric Rehabilitation—Health Hill—is a national health resource for pediatric rehabilitation.

The primary goal for Health Hill is to create a more independent lifestyle for these children and their families. Not only does the hospital's pediatric staff provide excellent care to critically ill and disabled children, but they do so in a comforting and caring environment that

eases the children's fears and worries. For example, by providing unique programs, like the Day Hospital Program, children can receive daily intensive therapy without having to be hospitalized. Day Hospital patients receive therapy, nursing and medical care, yet are able to return home to their families each evening and weekend. Providing patients with the opportunity to maintain their routines and home lives is so important in making a sick child feel as "normal" as possible. The hospital serves children with a variety of illnesses, ranging from spinal cord and head injuries, respiratory problems, feeding disorders, and burns to chronic or congenital medical conditions.

Mr. Speaker, Health Hill Hospital has proven to be more than just a "hospital." Their commitment to providing the highest standards of medical services for special needs children is why they continue to be a shining example of one of the best children's specialty hospitals. Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation is affiliated with the renowned Cleveland Clinic Foundation, ranked among the ten best hospitals in the nation by U.S. News and World Report's annual guide to "America's Best Hospitals." It is exciting to see the resources of this prestigious hospital devoted to the care of children.

Again, I am honored to announce the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation's new designation, and commend the Foundation's outstanding achievements throughout the past 78 years.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO EN-  
SURE FREER AND FAIRER  
TRADE

**HON. LARRY COMBEST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 1, 1999*

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill that provides the United States Trade Representative with additional tools to ensure freer and fairer world trade.

For U.S. agriculture, trade is an essential part of their livelihood. Currently exports account for 30 percent of U.S. farm cash receipts and nearly 40 percent of all agricultural production is exported. U.S. farmers and ranchers produce much more than is consumed in the United States, therefore exports are vital to the prosperity and success of U.S. farmers and ranchers.

For years, United States agriculture has provided a positive return to our balance of trade. In order to continue this positive balance, and to improve upon it, markets around the world must be open to our agricultural exports.

One of the biggest threats to trade policy is the inability to make certain the trade agreements are adhered to and other countries live up to their commitments. This weakens support across the country for trade agreements. This is true for farmers and ranchers, and others interested in exporting United States goods around the world.

The bill my colleagues and I are introducing today addresses this issue by requiring that the United States Trade Representative (USTR) periodically revise the list of goods subject to retaliation when a foreign country fails to comply with a WTO ruling. The goal of