

Throughout his many years of drawing, Morrie had received no formal art training and so he sought advice and encouragement from other professional cartoonists. In that process, he began to question why there were no artists from communities of color working as professional cartoonists, particularly among those who were publishing national pieces. In response, his mentor Charles Schultz, creator of the infamous Peanuts strip, suggested that Morrie create one. In the early 1960s he did just that, creating Dinky Fellas, the strip that would later evolve into the hugely successful Wee Pals, a strip that takes place in a world without prejudice and that celebrated ethnic, racial, cultural and other differences in our society. In 1965, the series became the first multi-ethnic cartoon syndicated in the United States. Wee Pals went on to appear in over 100 newspapers worldwide, and has also featured a weekly additional panel called Soul Corner, in which the life of a famous person from a community of color is detailed.

Wee Pals also carries special significance in my district, because it later became the cornerstone of an Oakland Police Department crime prevention and safety program. Through this effort, Morrie's message of open mindedness, equality and cultural embrace was coupled with one of public safety and community service, thereby impacting the lives of countless young people and families in the 9th Congressional District and beyond.

Morrie's outstanding work in periodicals has been recognized by the public on numerous occasions, as have his published children's books, whose titles include The Illustrated Biography of Martin Luther King, Jr. He was honored in 2000 by the Cartoonist Society with their Sparky Award, has been introduced into the California Public Education Hall of Fame and has also been recognized by Children's Fairyland in Oakland; he is also the subject of a film called Keeping the Faith with Morrie.

On May 31, 2006, the friends, family and colleagues of Morrie Turner will come together to celebrate the career and immeasurable contributions of Morrie Turner to our community. On this very special day, I join all of them in thanking and saluting Morrie for his invaluable service to our community, and for the profoundly positive impact his work has had on countless lives here in California's 9th U.S. Congressional District, across our country and throughout the world.

ENCOURAGING COMPREHENSIVE
INVESTIGATION INTO THE
HEALTH EFFECTS OF AGENT OR-
ANGE EXPOSURE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4259. This important legislation would create the Veterans' Right to Know Commission, an investigative body comprised of distinguished veterans of the United States Armed Forces and honorable citizens of our great Nation. The Commission would be delegated the task of comprehensively investigating the usage of chemical and biological agents employed by the U.S. military during

wartime and their effect on the men and women of our Armed Services. I am a co-sponsor of this bill because I believe we require comprehensive knowledge regarding the health effects of various chemical and biological agents carried out under Project 112/SHAD, so that we can more fully understand what exposure to them means for our veterans.

The consequences of exposure to chemical and biological agents like Vx nerve gas, Sarin Nerve Gas and E. coli have long been debated by those in the scientific community. We already know that long-term exposure to Agent Orange, an herbicide used for 10 years during the Vietnam War to defoliate and destroy crops, increases the risk of cancer, and the Air Force and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs now officially recognize that exposure to this chemical plays a role in the formation of diabetes. However, some 50 years following initial exposure, the specific health effects other chemical and biological agents have on the human body are not fully understood. It is imperative to determine whether exposure to those agents, tested on unknowing military personnel by the Department of Defense between 1962 and 1974, correlate with life threatening diseases. The American people deserve answers and this Commission will help provide those answers.

Thousands of brave veterans of foreign wars reside in my district, individuals who have put their very existence on the line to defend every right, ideal and freedom that this noble country exemplifies. We owe the passage of this legislation to these men and women and to all those who have been exposed to Agent Orange and to other destructive chemicals. Just last year, Western New York native and veteran Nelson C. Hughes passed away from cancer after being exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. He was one of the Nation's leading advocates of Vietnam veterans suffering from Agent Orange exposure. I am troubled that in this time of prolific medical advances we are still unable to understand how some chemicals used by our own government affect the human body. Mr. Speaker, I call on Congress to honor Mr. Hughes and all U.S. veterans by passing this bill. We have a duty to make every conceivable effort in the fight to understand and to treat their ailments, many of which may be directly or indirectly related to chemical exposure our government facilitated.

REGARDING THE 2006 LAUREATES
OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE'S
AWARDS PROGRAM

HON. CHAKA FATAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. FATAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Nation, the 2006 Laureates of The Franklin Institute Awards Program. Ten brilliant individuals will be honored on April 27, 2006 in the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial at The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, for their outstanding achievements in science, technology, business, and philanthropy. Through the outstanding leadership of The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia's

great science museum, a 182-year tradition of recognizing brilliant achievement and promoting the pursuit of science and technology for the public good continues to inspire a passion for learning in millions of people each year.

The Franklin Institute Awards Program—considered by many as the American version of the Nobel Prize—is one of the oldest and most renowned science and technology awards programs in the world. The program's distinguished history dates back to 1824, when the Institute was founded by a group of leading Philadelphians to train artisans and mechanics. Philadelphia, then the largest city in the United States, was the Nation's innovation and manufacturing center. In 1824, the Institute arranged the first of what became a series of regular exhibitions of manufactured goods and inventions.

With these exhibitions came the presentation of awards—first certificates and later endowed medals—for scientific and technical achievement. Recipients are selected by the Institute's Committee on Science and the Arts, which was founded as the Committee on Inventions with the beginning of the program. Fields recognized today include Chemistry, Computer and Cognitive Science, Earth and Environmental Science, Engineering, Life Science and Physics. Through a rigorous and unique case-prosecution process, the Committee evaluates the work of nominated individuals whose uncommon insight, skill or creativity has influenced future research or applications to benefit the public.

The newest awards, the Bower Award for Business Leadership and the Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science, were made possible by a \$7.5 million bequest in 1988 from Henry Bower, a Philadelphia chemical manufacturer. The Bower Science Award carries a cash prize of \$250,000, one of the richest science prizes in America.

The list of Franklin Institute Laureates reads like a canon of 19th, 20th and 21st century scientific achievement. The honor roll includes Alexander Graham Bell, Marie Curie, Rudolph Diesel, Thomas Edison, Niels Bohr, Max Planck, Albert Einstein and, more recently Stephen Hawking, David Packard, Roy Vagelos, Jane Goodall, Herb Kelleher, and Gordon Moore—to name a few. To date, 105 Franklin Institute Laureates have also been honored with 107 Nobel Prizes.

I invite Congress and all citizens of these United States to join me in congratulating the newest names to be added to this roll call of genius:

The winner of the 2006 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Chemistry, Samuel J. Danishefsky, of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Columbia University, for his achievements in the art and science of synthetic organic chemistry, particularly for the development of strategies and methods for the preparation of complex natural products and related compounds, including oligosaccharide immunoconjugate vaccines, and their emerging applications in the field of cancer chemotherapy.

The winner of the 2006 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Computer & Cognitive Science, Donald A. Norman, of Northwestern University and Nielsen Norman Group, for his development of the field of user-centered design, which through the use of conceptual models, feedback, affordances, and constraints leads to the creation of interactive technologies which are easily employed by humans.