men, women and children. Our enemy is not limited to fighting on a military battlefield. Our enemy does not discern its victims on the basis of race, religion or nationality.

The most recent examples of this complete disregard for human life are the attacks occurring this last week in Morocco and Algeria. Not only did the attacks result in several deaths and injuries, but whole communities were devastated and thrown into extreme chaos.

The people and governments of Morocco and Algeria must know that we stand behind them and that America does not condone any act of terrorism, killing several people and devastating communities by the chaos and havoc wreaked by them.

I am pleased my colleague and friend, Representative MICHAEL ROGERS from Michigan, has joined me as an original cosponsor of this resolution. I strongly urge our colleagues to support it and urge its swift consideration.

FARM RISK MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I introduced legislation today, along with my Alabama colleagues Reps. SPENCER BACHUS, JO BONNER, BUD CRAMER, and MIKE ROGERS, to enable America's farmers to better manage the risk to their livelihoods in times of severe weather and skyrocketing energy costs. The Farm Risk Management Act (FARM Act) would create risk management accounts, using both USDA and individual farmer contributions, to reduce the financial impact of disasters on the agriculture community. The FARM Act would allow farmers to insure their income by creating a whole-farm risk management program based on total revenues from all their farming activities. This is a departure from the current crop insurance program, which provides coverage based on a specific commodity. The new risk management account goes beyond the scope of current crop insurance by allowing farmers to withdraw funds from their accounts to help offset any unforeseen farm expense including high energy or fertilizer costs. With my new proposal, a farmer would deposit money into the new risk management account. The U.S. Department of Agriculture would then match the farmer's contribution in this tax-deferred, interest-bearing account, rather than subsidizing a portion of the crop insurance premium for the farmer as is done presently. As a result, farmers would effectively be self-insured.

More and more, we are seeing farmers lose their farms due to the unfortunate combination of increasingly harsh weather, rising operational costs and a Federal crop insurance program that is too expensive to help many cover their losses. Recent Farm Bill hearings and subsequent meetings I have had with farmers in the Southeast have led me to the conclusion that current crop insurance programs are not working. The present system is too expensive, leaving many farmers exposed to uncontrollable risks. It also allows room for fraud which only serves to drive up program costs for everyone.

There is an urgent need for significant crop insurance reform that will offer hard-working farmers the tools they need to manage the unique risks involved in agricultural production. This approach of individual risk management accounts could address many of the problems associated with the current crop insurance system and save the Federal government money by alleviating the future need for ad hoc disaster assistance. Most importantly, it will give farmers struggling against natural forces beyond their control greater flexibility to make a living while performing the vital task of putting food on America's table.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JACKIE ROBINSON

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and groundbreaking accomplishments of Jackie Robinson, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of integrated Major League Baseball. Sixty years ago this month, Jackie Robinson overcame institutionalized opposition to become the first African-American Major League Baseball player. He proved himself to be among the best that have ever played the game. He was a member of six World Series teams and earned six consecutive All-Star Game nominations. In 1962 Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In addition to his multiple sports accomplishments, Jackie Robinson accomplished great things in his personal life. He was a key figure in the establishment a growth of Freedom Bank. He also served with honor and distinction as a second lieutenant in the United States Army from 1942–1944. In 1984, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It gives me great pride to have served during the 108th Congress when we awarded Jackie Robinson the Congressional Gold Medal.

Throughout his life Jackie Robinson stood up against inequality, served as a great role model for all American citizens, and proved that anything is possible. I recall one story that exemplified his commitment to justice, when he faced court-martial charges for insubordination resulting from his refusal to obey an order to move to the back of a segregated military bus in Texas. I salute Jackie Robinson and commend him on his life of accomplishment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING STIMULATION ACT OF 2007

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce with my colleagues ''The Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Competitiveness Act.'' I introduced legislation in both the 108th and 109th Congresses focused on strengthening U.S. manufacturing, and both times it was passed by the House. I am pleased that this bill contains many of the same provisions as well as others, since the global competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing remains a pressing issue.

The President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI), started in 2006, launched a three-pronged approach to competitiveness by strengthening research at the National Science Foundation, Office of Science at the Department of Energy, and the laboratories and construction of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). This bill addresses the last of these agencies by fully supporting the ACI requested improvements, as well as reauthorizing programs at NIST crucial to our global competitiveness.

Although manufacturing has experienced tremendous technological gains over the last few years, international competition has exacted a terrible toll on our nation's manufacturers. In particular, our small and medium-sized firms are under tremendous pressure to become more efficient, to modernize, and to cut their prices. There is no evidence that these pressures are likely to go away.

This bill will help address long-term problems facing our nation's manufacturers by broadening and strengthening manufacturing extension services and creating a new program to revive manufacturing innovation through collaborative research and development.

Specifically, this bill will address the competitiveness needs of our Nation by:

Reauthorizing the critical programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), a federal research laboratory dedicated to ensuring U.S. leadership in technology-based standards and industries; creating a new collaborative research and development program for manufacturing technology; creating a fellowship program at NIST to develop U.S. manufacturing research expertise; reauthorizing and creating a new grant program within the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program so that the MEP Centers can extend their expertise to a range of problems beyond their current scope of activities; and establishing the Technology Innovation Program and Advisory Board to help bring more innovative technologies to market.

I want to thank Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for working in a bipartisan manner to introduce this bill, which addresses such an important topic to our nation. I appreciate the efforts of the majority to consider the input of the minority members of the Science and Technology Committee.

Madam Speaker, it is incredibly important to our future for this nation to remain competitive today. Congress must provide a coherent federal response to the changes that are underway in manufacturing, and to support the technological innovation that is fundamental to retaining our manufacturing strength. This bill provides a mechanism for that crucial response and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue in the 110th Congress.