

broad array of commercial applications. I am pleased that this measure adds energy, climate change, and rare diseases as eligible topics for projects funded through SBIR awards. These additions demonstrate the broad horizon of challenges that dynamic small businesses around the country can help tackle.

I do have concerns, however, about a change made by this bill to allow small businesses that are majority-owned by venture capital investors to participate in the program. While I recognize the value in expanding the number and quality of applicants to the SBIR and STTR grant programs, I would not want to see these changes have the unintended result of skewing the grant programs toward companies with venture capital support.

There are many companies that do valuable R&D work, but have not been attractive to or interested in venture capitalist investment. In fact, it is often these companies that are a particularly good fit for the SBIR and STTR programs, which provide grants in the early conceptual stages to help small businesses get their products off the ground. Although the increased funding authorized for the programs will hopefully see more projects funded overall, it would be troubling to see favoritism for projects because they have a venture capital "stamp of approval".

It is important that this bill only authorizes the program for 2 years so that Congress will be able to closely examine how these changes are implemented. If necessary, we will have the opportunity to make further adjustments to prevent deserving applicants without venture capital funding from being marginalized in the SBIR and STTR application process.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY
SPECIALIST JACOB J. FAIRBANKS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember and honor the life and courage of U.S. Army Specialist Jacob J. Fairbanks. This 22-year-old native of St. Paul, Minnesota, died in Baghdad on April 9, 2008.

Specialist Fairbanks joined the Army in 2004 after graduating from Johnson High School, where he was a member of the Junior ROTC. His second deployment to Iraq began last October for a tour of duty as a field artilleryman. He was assigned to B Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Fairbanks served his nation and his fellow soldiers with honor and courage. His commitment to this noble service earned him the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon. He was a proud member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and will be remembered as an outgoing man, dedicated to his family.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Specialist Fairbanks. He is a Minnesotan and American hero. His desire to serve his nation is an inspiration to his com-

munity. Specialist Fairbanks' wife Dwan, daughter Kayla, stepchildren Alexander, Katelin, and David, his mother Janette, father Steve, stepfather Jeff, his many friends, and his comrades in Iraq have my deepest sympathies for their profound loss.

TRIBUTE TO ELKINS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on May 3-5, 2008, more than 1,200 students from across the country will visit Washington, D.C. to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that a class from Elkins High School will represent the State of Texas at this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's capital and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students will participate in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that independent studies of the We the People program indicate that alumni of this nationally acclaimed program display a greater political tolerance and commitment to the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches.

I am pleased to support such an outstanding program that continues to produce an enlightened and responsible citizenry. Madam Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from Elkins High School are: Krystal Castillo, Andrea Cavazos, Deborah Choate, Andrew Cockroft, Lucy Eiler, Jimmy Guerrero, Josh Hanks, Lara Hogue, Nick Johnson, Tiffany Kell, Curtis Kelso, D.J. Kinneman, Matt Macko, Colton Mendez, Jonny Murthy, Sola Oyewuwo, Tej Pandya, Bryan Philpott, Justina Rodriguez, Deepa Sabu, Nick Shipman, Pia Siatong, Ivette Soto, Achal Upadhyaya, Courtney Williams, Angela Wu, and Arif Yusuf.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Marilyn Ellington, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the national finals. Assisting Mrs. Ellington is her colleague Jan Arrington and former students Emily Lee, Kelsey Smith, and Masha Sharf. Also worthy of special recognition is Jan Miller, the State coordinator, who is among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my State. I congratulate these students on their exceptional achievement at the We the People national finals.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the City of Southfield, Michigan, on the 50th anniversary of its incorporation as a city.

Southfield's city leaders have coined the phrase "center of it all" to describe this diverse community situated in the center of metro-Detroit that has grown to the 13th largest city in the State of Michigan.

The residents of Southfield are what has always made this community strong and independent. For example, 17 days after the area was designated as "Ossewa Township" on July 12, 1830, citizens petitioned the State to change the name to Southfield. And in the 1950s, a group of Southfield Township residents formed the "Save Our Southfield" committee and lent their own money to the group's treasury. This group promoted the incorporation of Southfield and financed the filing for incorporation. Southfield became a city on April 28, 1958.

Southfield has grown from a rural farming community to a premier business and residential address in Michigan. This modern city of beautiful homes and golden skyscrapers has become home to nearly 80,000 residents. Their 26 million square feet of office space brings the city's daytime population to more than 175,000, making Southfield one of the leading business centers in Michigan and the Midwest Region.

Southfield is home to leading manufacturers and other diverse businesses, strong educational institutions, innovative health care institutions, strong community organizations, and a vibrant faith community. It also retracts a feeling of warmth and closeness within its neighborhoods.

I am pleased to have lived in Southfield during a time of transformation of city leadership and institutions which are an increasing representative of the diversity of this wonderful community. I have also been pleased to represent the residents of Southfield since I came to Congress.

As Mayor Brenda Lawrence and other elected officials join the citizens of this exceptional city to celebrate their golden jubilee, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents on its 50th year. Let this be the opportunity to pay tribute to the history of Southfield and re-commit ourselves to a prosperous and progressive future.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF STAFF SERGEANT
KEITH MATTHEW MAUPIN

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness and deep respect that I

rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Keith Matthew (Matt) Maupin.

Matt Maupin's story has gripped the hearts of thousands of Americans across the country since the 20-year-old Army reservist was captured in Iraq in 2004. Together, we have hoped and prayed for four long years that he would be returned home safely to his family. Sadly, those prayers went unanswered.

Matt Maupin was laid to rest in Cincinnati on Sunday, having given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. But the most significant thing about Matt Maupin isn't how he died, it's how he lived.

Matt is a beloved son to Keith and Carolyn and brother to Micah, Stephen, and Lee Ann. A native son of Batavia, Ohio, he understood there is no higher calling than service to others and bravely stepped forward to serve his country in the Army reserve. Matt Maupin is a true American hero.

On behalf of the people of the 8th District of Indiana, I want to extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends who love and miss him today. May God bless Matt, his family, and all of those who continue to sacrifice so much for our country.

HONORING MAURICE PRITCHETT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. Maurice Pritchett, who recently retired after more than forty years in the Delaware public education system. Maurice's service to Delawareans will be honored at a community celebration this Sunday, May 4.

Maurice's ties to the Wilmington public school system stretch back to his childhood. Though he now resides in Newark, Delaware with his wife Juanita, Maurice was born and raised on the East Side of Wilmington, where he attended public schools in the city.

At Howard High School, he proved to be an outstanding basketball player and was offered a full scholarship to attend Delaware State University, majoring in elementary education and continuing to excel in basketball, leading the Hornets as team captain during his junior year. Maurice also holds a master's degree from Villanova University.

Following graduation, he taught fifth grade in Cecil County, Maryland and in Wilmington before moving on to his position as community school coordinator of Wilmington's Bancroft Academy, a school that he himself attended. Over the next thirty-two years, Maurice served as vice-principal and then principal of Bancroft Academy. He later served as director of family and community engagement for the Christina School District.

Maurice's leadership at Bancroft, including the initiation of multicultural programs and a clothes closet, earned him the 1994-95 Delaware State National Distinguished Principal Award. His many other honors include the Christina Cultural Arts Center's lifetime achievement award, the Dr. Al O. Plant Lifetime Achievement Award and being named as one of the "100 African American Men of Distinction in Delaware" by the Afro-American Historical Society.

Remembering the difficult times that he faced while growing up inspires Maurice to continuously contribute to the community. He is a long-time volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club of Newark. In addition, as a member of the Delaware State Basketball Hall of Fame and Delaware Afro-American Sports Hall of Fame, Maurice co-sponsored a youth basketball league that provided extracurricular activity to inner-city Wilmington elementary school students.

Following his retirement in January of this year, Maurice established the Maurice Pritchett Education Foundation in partnership with the Delaware Community Foundation to benefit underprivileged children in New Castle County. While his public works are certainly well-known, those who gather for the celebration honoring his achievements will bring with them countless personal stories of Maurice's compassion, including one person for whose family Maurice bought groceries when they were financially unable. His kindness and dedication have touched the lives of many.

I acknowledge and thank my good friend Maurice Pritchett for his numerous contributions to education and the overall well-being of children and families in the State of Delaware. I am confident that as he enjoys his retirement with his family, he will remain an active and influential member of our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE BLACK ACHIEVERS PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the editorial, "Black Achievers in Industry" which appeared in this week's edition of the New York Carib News.

The editorial praised the Harlem YMCA's 38th National Salute to Black Achievers in Industry (BAI) Awards dinner. The Black Achievers in Industry Awards dinner serves as the organization's premier fundraiser to raise the money necessary to fund countless youth programs. The Black Achievers in Industry Awards serves a vital purpose in the community, as the cooperative has partnered with more than 100 corporations to provide much needed scholarships to New York City high school seniors and college students. The Black Achievers Program recognizes the importance of education and its ability to give children a future filled with possibilities.

It is my sincere hope that other corporations across the Nation will join the Black Achievers Program in providing disadvantaged students from lower- and middle-income families with the financial means required to attend a college or university.

HONORING SUE SAWYER

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I stand before you to talk about a moth-

er, a soldier's mother. This week, Sue Sawyer made the ultimate sacrifice for our United States of America. She lost her son to war.

Sue's son, Marcus Mathes was killed in a mortar attack as he stood on duty, next to his truck, just north of Baghdad. Two fellow crew members were killed with him. Their death was instantaneous.

Marcus Mathes had just turned 25.

On behalf of the entire Congress of the United States, I want to thank Sue Sawyer. By raising your son to value the ideals of the United States of America, you have helped to improve the security of our country and our future.

Sue Sawyer has given an extraordinary gift to our country, for which we should be profoundly grateful. She has reason to be proud of her son's accomplishments and duty. Today, we must remember the accomplishments of the mother who selflessly raised Marcus and influenced him to give.

Representing our country in combat was a gift to all of us from Marcus Mathes and Sue Sawyer.

Thank you, Sue. God bless you.

IN TRIBUTE OF YOM HASHOAH, HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and my constituents in solemn recognition of Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day; a special day where we mourn the millions of Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis.

This day has special significance for Jews, the main target of Nazi atrocities. I represent many constituents who are Holocaust survivors and many more that lost friends, relatives and loved ones. We mourn their loss; honor their memory; and unite in opposition to acts of bigotry and intolerance.

We in South Florida are united in outrage that two synagogues in our community have been vandalized in recent weeks. These offensive, hate-inspired acts have no place in our society that values tolerance and diversity. We stand united with the congregants, friends and supporters of The Chabad Shul in Miami Beach and the Chabad of Parkland in North Bonnard. These houses of worship and centers of learning will rise again with a renewed sense of spirit and purpose of mission.

I once again honor South Florida's Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, its founders and museum curators for their fine work in educating and reminding the public about the Holocaust and remembering and honoring its victims. The Center is located in my Congressional District at 2031 Harrison Street in Hollywood, Florida.

To the residents of South Florida, the students enrolled in area schools, and to the millions of visitors to the region, I encourage you to visit the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center to study, understand and contemplate the consequences of man's inhumanity to man which occurred in Europe prior to and during World War II.

May the memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust be blessed for all eternity.