

While Lillian has remained active throughout her life pursuing a range of pursuits and challenges, early in life, she did not have the benefit of much formal education. Nonetheless, at the age of fifty, she returned to High School to take courses in typing and drivers' education, another testament to her strength.

Madam Speaker, on Sunday, the Munising community, Mrs. Revord's friends and her family will gather in the basement of the local Methodist Church, a fitting location for a woman who has made faith such a cornerstone of her life. Together, they will congratulate her on her many accomplishments over her many years. As Mrs. Revord's 100th birthday is celebrated, I would ask that you join me in congratulating her and in wishing Mrs. Lillian Revord, her children, Orville, Jr., Raoul, and Joanne and her many grandchildren all the best.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

**HON. JOE SESTAK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2007*

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a piece of legislation to enhance two, critical Small Business Administration, SBA, Entrepreneurial Development programs, Small Business Development Centers, SBDCs, and the Service Corps for Retired Executives, SCORE.

Serving as the Representative in a District that has been historically driven economically by vibrant local, small businesses, I greatly appreciate and support the entrepreneurial development assistance that the SBA provides.

We know that entrepreneurial development assistance programs work. Businesses who receive SBA entrepreneurial assistance are twice as likely to succeed. In addition, every Federal dollar spent on entrepreneurial development generates seven dollars in increased tax revenue.

In the past three years, due to changes in our ever-changing globalizing economy, my District has lost 607 small businesses, and 1 out of 5 manufacturing establishments. This is a trend that I am committed to reversing through fostering entrepreneurial development and creating the right set of conditions to help businesses flourish, stay and be attracted to in my District, and I believe that supporting effective small business entrepreneurial development programs is a key part of that strategy.

In 1980, Congress established the SBDC program to foster economic development by providing management, technical and research assistance to current and prospective small businesses. As you know, SBDCs provide services which include, but are not limited to, assisting small businesses with financial, marketing, production, organization, engineering and technical problems and feasibility studies.

SBDCs serve Americans with the desire to start their own venture, but lack the technical expertise associated with starting and running a successful business, and in the past few decades, have provided assistance to millions of entrepreneurs across the United States.

The SBDC program also represents the effective and efficient use of allocated Federal

monies through public/private collaboration to provide necessary technical and mentoring assistance. To that end, SBDCs are funded by matching monies by state legislatures, foundations, State and local chambers of commerce, public and private universities, vocational and technical schools, and community colleges. In fact, sponsors' contributions have been increasingly exceeding the minimum 50 percent matching share, signifying greater participation among such groups and institutions.

This is why I feel especially fortunate to have several Small Business Development Sub-Centers located at local universities, such as Widener University, Kutztown University, and the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton, which provides critical business resources and technical assistance to small businesses in and around my District.

I would like to stress that the core SBDC program has been extremely effective, but there are certain operational improvements that can be implemented to increase flexibility of Small Business Development Centers to better support and serve our local small businesses and our aspiring entrepreneurs.

To that end, changes proposed in this legislation will ensure the quality of grant recipients to host SBDCs; help SBDCs maintain their autonomy from undue SBA interference; protect the confidentiality of SBDC clients; ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent as efficiently as possible by not using SBDC funds except for the sole purpose of business development; and allowing exemptions to the current cap on non-matching portability grants in the event of Federally-designated natural or human-caused disasters.

In addition to these operation changes, it is important to strengthen the SBDC core program, which successfully navigates entrepreneurs in managing their business, by establishing specific grant programs that will allow SBDCs to tailor their services to meet the needs of particular business constituencies.

For instance, the Capital Access Initiative would establish grants to assist entrepreneurs in processing loan applications and obtaining private equity. An Innovation and Competitiveness Initiative would establish grants to allow SBDCs to become "Technology Centers," to help market technologies and advanced projects to manufacturers. A Disaster Recovery Program would establish grants to allow SBDCs to assist and coordinate the Federal response for small business disaster victims.

The Older Entrepreneurial Assistance program will target older Americans interested in transitioning to become business owners, while the Small Business Sustainability Initiative will promote the development and implementation of energy efficient and clean energy improvements and technology. A National Regulatory Assistance Initiative will provide assistance to small businesses to comply with Federal regulatory requirements, and an Affordable Health Care Initiative, will help small business owners provide affordable health care insurance options to their employees.

As I also mentioned, a second program which this legislation will address is SCORE, which provides entrepreneurs with free counseling assistance by former executives. SCORE provides a valuable service to small businesses, and I believe it will be even stronger with a provision to actively recruit volunteer mentors who will greater reflect the so-

cial and economic diversity of those who utilize SBA services, such as women and under-represented minorities.

Again, thank you for allowing me to speak this morning about this important bill, which will greatly enhance the business development resources available to America's small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

THAILAND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2007

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, on September 19, 2006, the Thai military and police overthrew the elected government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. At the time, the popularly-elected premier was in New York City for a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

General Boonyaratkalin, leader of the military coup, suspended the constitution and dissolved the Cabinet, both houses of Parliament, and the Constitutional Court.

The Department of State immediately issued a statement saying, "There's no justification for a military coup in Thailand or in anyplace else . . . we certainly are extremely disappointed by this action. It's a step backward for democracy in Thailand."

Following the military coup, the United States suspended \$24 million in bilateral assistance to the Thai government.

Now eight months after the military coup, despite promises by the military leaders to the contrary, Thailand still has not drafted a permanent constitution, held a referendum, or called for elections.

In addition, Thailand seized American patents in clear violation of international law.

On December 30, 2003, the United States Government designated Thailand as a major non-NATO ally. This status gives Thailand a range of benefits, preferred American lending, participation in military exercises and preferential bidding on Department of Defense contracts.

A military dictatorship that disposes an elected government and then seizes American intellectual property should not be considered a major non-NATO ally.

Therefore, today I am introducing the Thailand Democracy Act of 2007 to push Thailand's military government to hold democratic elections.

Under this legislation, the President is required to terminate Thailand's status as a major non-NATO ally until he can certify to the Congress that democracy has been restored to the Thai people. I urge my colleagues to condemn the continued military rule of Thailand and support this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING CLYDE TIDWELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2007*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, in this day and age, it is very unusual for a person to work in a company for 40 or 50 years.