

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