

and needs of the children remain the focus of our child welfare and court systems.

SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING
PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3867) to update and expand the procurement of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3867, the "Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act." I support this legislation because it provides for much needed contracting opportunities for small businesses that would otherwise escape them. H.R. 3867 encourages participation by qualified small businesses, particularly veteran owned businesses, in the appropriate contracting programs offered under the supervision of the Small Business Administration. The Act aims to assist small business participation, prevent fraud and bring consistency to the operation of the main contract assistance programs. While I applaud the efforts to increase opportunities to veteran-owned small businesses, I believe that it is particularly important that doing so does not adversely affect contracting opportunities for women and HUBZones.

H.R. 3867 ensures government contract opportunities for small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans. The least that we can do is provide our veterans with opportunities to fulfill their dreams of owning successful businesses so that they can support themselves in an ever-growing, competitive business arena. By expanding procurement opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, a group that currently receives only a small fraction of their contracting goal, we say thank you to those brave heroes who sacrificed much so that all Americans can enjoy the fruits of their labor, freedom and security. The bill also protects those veterans for whom the opportunities are created by establishing penalties for misrepresentation of a service-disabled veteran owned business classification and adopts a roadmap for providing information, advice and training to service-disabled veterans as prescribed by the President.

Finally, it provides discretion to contracting officers in cases that must now be set aside for HUBZones but that could, with these amendments be used for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses. But as I stated at the outset, the exercise of such discretion must be judicious so as not to frustrate the purpose set out in the Small Business Act to provide for opportunities for HUBZones.

Mr. Chairman, this bill has safeguards to ensure that the benefits provided reach the intended recipients. Under H.R. 3867 provides that the Administrator perform the necessary checks on applicants for participation in the various contracting assistance programs to ensure their business integrity and qualifications. Most programs already require this but this makes it uniform.

The Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act also expands opportunities for women entrepreneurs. The bill establishes requirements for the SBA to implement the Women's Procurement Program immediately. Because it has taken too much time for the SBA to implement the Women's Procurement Program, this bill is intended to provide agencies with sufficient information to immediately begin competing contracts among women business owners. Seven years is far too long for the women who have been waiting for these business opportunities. As a result of this unwarranted delay, women have lost tens of billions of dollars in contracting opportunities but thanks to H.R. 3867 they will not have to wait any longer. I am particularly pleased to know that women small business owners will finally receive the long anticipated contracting opportunities that were intended for them under the Small Business Act.

Mr. Chairman, this bill will also strengthen Community Development. Title IV strengthens the HUBZone program by verifying that small businesses receiving contracts under its authority are qualified. It further requires construction contracts to be performed within a reasonable distance of the particular HUBZone the contractor is to benefit.

This legislation has bipartisan support within the Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act Committee and includes the input from a number of Members. There is remarkably broad support on this legislation, ranging from the National Black Chamber of Commerce to the National Federation of Independent Business and the Associated General Contractors of America. Also supporting the legislation are the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and AMVETS. The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce and the National Defense Industrial Association also.

While this bill goes a long way to provide much needed contracting opportunities for small businesses, my amendment would have greatly enhanced such opportunities. My amendment to H.R. 3867, which updates and expands the procurement programs of the Small Business Administration. My amendment provides that it is the sense of Congress that the Administrator should encourage the components of the administration, as well as appropriate State and local government agencies, to competitively bid and negotiate contracts and prices for services, including debris clearance, distribution of supplies, reconstruction and other assistance, in advance of an act of terrorism, natural disaster, or other emergency; and work toward a goal of awarding to qualified firms located in a county, parish, or other unit of local government within the affected area, but only to the extent that the goal does not interfere with the ability of the Administrator to provide timely and effective assistance.

Mr. Chairman, we have learned from the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma that severe consequences can result from not having the proper disaster recovery plans in place prior to such a disaster. We also know that having in place a comprehensive written response plan to give support to small businesses so that they may rebuild their businesses and in turn help to rebuild the affected areas is an essential component of a good recovery plan.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma small businesses and in particular minority and disadvantaged businesses, in the affected areas were severely and negatively impacted because they did not receive financial support necessary to rebuild their businesses and participate in the rebuilding of the affected community.

I understand that a major purpose of H.R. 3867 is to encourage participation by qualified small businesses, particularly veteran owned businesses, in the appropriate contracting programs offered under the supervision of the Small Business Administration. The Act also aims to assist small business participation, prevent fraud and bring consistency to the operation of the main contract assistance programs. My amendment would further support the goal to support small businesses by encouraging SBA to establish a program that provides for pre-negotiated contracts with small businesses, in advance of an act of terrorism, natural disaster, or other emergency. Thus, the small business owners from the affected areas will not only be included in the recovery and rebuilding process but also maintain viability in a competitive economic environment.

I hope that in the future we will consider the devastating impact that disasters can have on small businesses as well as the affected communities. I urge my colleagues to support small businesses by supporting H.R. 3867.

A TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL J.
CORNELIUS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Samuel J. Cornelius. His longstanding commitment to the citizens of Missouri has earned his place among the ranks of past inductees into the Missouri Walk of Fame.

Mr. Cornelius has been passionately devoted to promoting minority businesses and being engaged in the political process. A graduate of Anderson University, Mr. Cornelius got his start in business when he organized the Sacramento Street Businessmen's Association in Berkeley, California. During his time with the Businessmen's Association, he developed cooperative buying, promotion, and advertising programs for minority business owners.

Mr. Cornelius has been remarkably persistent in developing minority business leaders. After taking leave from his privately-owned business, he implemented the Economic Development Assistance Center for Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America. There he administered three national programs: The Anti-Poverty Program, the Minority Business Program, and the \$16.5 Billion Feeding Program.

Mr. Cornelius has served as Vice-President of the NAACP Board of Directors and a member of the United Way, the United Black Fund and the Boys and Girls Club of America. In addition, he is listed in Who's Who in Black America. He is married, a proud father of four and a Veteran of the United States Navy.

Madam Speaker, it is with great privilege that I recognize Samuel J. Cornelius today before Congress. His life and his career are

steeped with dedication to the well-being, of not just Missouri residents, but to the entire nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Samuel J. Cornelius.

HONORING BILL AND LUCY
KORTUM

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join you here today to honor Bill and Lucy Kortum for their outstanding contributions to Sonoma County, the State of California and the Nation. Having made significant changes to the environmental consciousness in California and beyond, among other good works, Bill and Lucy have changed the world permanently—for the better.

Bill's priorities were clear from the time he was young, growing up in Sonoma County where he could hike or travel anywhere in the county. His father told him, "Enjoy it now, because when you grow up, it will be gone."

Determined that wouldn't happen, Bill has contributed in many ways to protect the valued lifestyle of the community. That work has had lasting effect around the world, and resulted in a long list of notable accomplishments. For example, as co-founder of COAAST (Californians Organized to Acquire Access to State Tidelands), Bill led the fight to ensure the public's right to use California's 1,300 miles of coastline. Out of that came the California Coastal Protection Initiative, a ground-breaking measure that created the Coastal Commission to regulate development along the State's coast.

"That's not only a gift to the people of California," says Professor John Kramer of Sonoma State University, "but that bill was instrumental and served as a model for environmentalists around the globe of how you could value coast with the notion that it's a common value. And it has been re-affirmed by the Supreme Court over and over."

Among Bill's other contributions were the idea of triple use for urban wastewater, the selection and securing of land for the campus of Sonoma State University, and the idea of a hiking trail along the length of California, now called the California Coastal Trail—which includes a part named after the Kortums.

Because of his steadfast dedication, Bill is considered the dean of Sonoma County environmentalists. As such, he was the first to serve as a Sonoma County supervisor. He was also one of the founders of Sonoma County Conservation Action, an organization that has been instrumental in electing environmentally minded local officials, and is now a leader in transportation issues, as well.

Bill's ideas were always backed by Lucy's actions, says Kramer. "Bill would get an idea and Lucy would type it up on an old Underwood."

While her husband led the charge and attended meetings, Lucy organized papers and photos, typed documents and maintained computer files. It has been said of the couple's partnership that "he runs around and she organizes it."

But Lucy has contributed more than administrative support. "While Bill was preserving

our environmental heritage, Lucy was preserving our architecture," Kramer notes.

Her love of history motivated her to earn a master's degree at Sonoma State University in the subject. Her meticulous research about historic sites resulted in more than a dozen Petaluma buildings being named to the National Register of Historic Places.

It was Lucy who was responsible for the research of every one of the 144 California Carnegie libraries, Kramer notes. The thesis she wrote from this research, entitled "Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899–1921" served as the multiple property nomination that resulted in 10 California Carnegie libraries being added to the National Register of Historic Places. In fact, the paper still sets the standards by which such libraries achieve the National Register designation.

In recognition of her dedicated volunteer service and scholastic achievements in the field of historic preservation and research, the Sonoma County Historical Society awarded Lucy the Jeanne Thurlow Miller Individual Award in 2005. The next year, she was named Petaluma's "Good Egg" and chosen to lead the town's annual parade, an acknowledgment of her volunteer work for the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum. She still serves as a board member of the Petaluma Historical Society and Friends of the Petaluma Library.

In addition to her own accomplishments, Lucy worked tirelessly alongside her husband to bring about the coastal trail, the coastal commission and the California League of Conservation Voters, among others.

"They've been such incredible individuals," Kramer notes. "Beyond just living a good life [and raising a family of three], they've given to their community in extraordinarily wonderful ways."

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in acknowledging two amazing people who have made a difference. Thank you, Bill and Lucy, for your contributions to the betterment of Sonoma County and the world.

HONORING TEMPLE BRITH ACHIM

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the groundbreaking of Temple Brith Achim's new Life Long Learning Center.

Temple Brith Achim, a reform synagogue affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, began in 1971 as a small group of families who dreamed of building a place to worship, celebrate, mourn, teach, learn and grow. In the 36 years since this "covenant of brothers" was formed, Temple Brith Achim has flourished into a community of more than 280 families.

This past April, as part of its 36th Anniversary celebration, Temple Brith Achim honored its founders and builders for their contributions, and reflected upon the congregation's strong tradition of community sharing and caring.

Temple Brith Achim continues to provide a welcoming atmosphere rich with religious and

cultural traditions, beliefs, and rituals. Beyond worship, members of the congregation engage in charitable community outreach activities, employing social activism to improve local, national and global communities.

This weekend, the community marked the beginning of a new phase in the Temple's life with a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Center for Life Long Learning and for modernization of its existing facility. These improvements and additions will further the Temple's commitment to educating and instilling Jewish values in both its younger congregation and its adult congregants through its Religious School and Adult Education.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing this important milestone, and in congratulating the members of Temple Brith Achim for their continuing contributions to society. Their spirit of community and giving serves as an example to us all.

THE MARINE CORP MARATHON

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride I rise today to congratulate the 20,630 brave souls who finished the Marine Corp Marathon this past Sunday, October 28, and to thank all the Marines, and Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen that have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice for this Country.

Anyone that participated in the Marine Corp Marathon as a runner or a spectator should be very aware of the inherent good in humanity. The entire course was filled with Marine volunteers handing out water, friends and family of those running, and countless well-wishers who just came to cheer the runners on, and pay respect to those that have given so much.

There are 20,630 stories of why this marathon was important, and 20,630 reasons why it was special. I would like to take a minute to share just a few of these compelling and heartwarming stories.

I am told that 1st Lt. Travis Manion was excited to run the Marine Corp Marathon with his father, Colonel Thomas Manion, also an active duty Marine. Being active duty Marines they were accepted before general registration began. Unfortunately a sniper's bullet cut Travis's life short on April 29, 2007 in Al Anbar province. He was serving his second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In his honor, his father ran with both their bib numbers, and nearly 100 others ran the marathon as a part of "Team Travis." All members of "Team Travis" should be proud of their hard work to honor this hero whose life was tragically cut short.

The United States Naval Academy Class of 1995 graduated a little over a decade ago just like generations of Sailors and Marines before them, ready to spread out over the world, and serve our country. This past weekend, nearly 100 members of that graduating class ran in the Marine Corp marathon to "Run to Honor" six members of their graduating class who have died in military operations from 1998 and 2007. Their fallen comrades, Marine Major Douglas Zembiec, Marine Major Megan McClung, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Erik Kristensen, Navy Lt. Richard Pugh, Navy Lt. Bruce Donald, and Navy Lt. j.g. Brendan Duffy, constitute