For example, on the largest scales in the field of cosmology, astrophysics and particle physics increasingly view the universe as the ultimate ''high-energy laboratory'', which may be the only way to address questions about the fundamental nature of matter and space itself. Observations made at AURA observatories both on the ground and in space have revealed the existence of both dark matter and dark energy. At the other extreme of scale, astrobiology is synthesizing research in astronomy, biology, and chemistry and is emerging as a field in itself. Again, observations at AURA's observatories are beginning a quest to search for the presence of life and ultimately understand its origins both within our solar system and in our galaxy.

Looking to the near future and the advent of the James Webb Space Telescope and a Giant Segmented Mirror Telescope, we hope to see the light from the first stars in the Universe, to catch galaxies as they are first assembling, investigate the nature of dark matter and dark energy, understand how black holes are formed, and take a census of extrasolar planets with masses extending from that of Jupiter down to masses comparable to that of the Earth. With the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope, we hope to observe the Sun at the smallest scales possible and understand the fundamental workings of our closest star. These questions are not just at the forefront of astronomical research, but are ones that have captured the public's interest and imagination.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in commending AURA for its accomplishments over the past fifty years. From a humble idea born in Tucson, AZ, to the outer reaches of the universe, AURA has made a major contribution to U.S. science and to our cultural heritage.

HONORING THE MOST REVEREND JOHN MICHAEL D'ARCY, BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to the Most Reverend John Michael D'Arcy, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. In the past 50 years countless individuals, both Catholic and not, have experienced the wisdom and love of Bishop D'Arcy and each of them can be grateful for having known him.

Bishop D'Arcy, the son of Irish immigrants, was born on August 18, 1932. He recalls feeling called to the priesthood at a very young age, hoping to follow in the footsteps of his childhood priests. Immediately following high school he entered Saint John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts. For the next 8 years Bishop D'Arcy developed his spiritual knowledge and prepared to serve his community.

After Seminary, Bishop D'Arcy studied in Rome at the Angelicum where he received his doctorate in spiritual theology in 1968. He returned to St. John's Seminary where he served as spiritual director and professor until 1985, guiding many young men in their journey to the priesthood. As a result of his years of faith and service, John D'Arcy was ordained auxiliary bishop in his native Boston in 1975.

Bishop D'Arcy was appointed the eighth Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend on the 26th of February, 1985. During his tenure, he has focused extensively on enlarging the Catholic community in faith and numbers. His focus on education has led to the expansion of Catholic education across the diocese. With the creation of the South Bend Chancery and other church offices Bishop D'Arcy gave many more people access to Catholic services.

So, today I rise to pay tribute to Bishop John D'Arcy for his years of dedication to the people of Indiana. His 50 years of selfless service will always be remembered by those whose lives are better because of his kindness and compassion. May God grant Bishop D'Arcy many more years of strength and courage. His service to the people of Indiana has truly been a blessing.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1868, THE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING STIMULATION ACT OF 2007

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today as an original co-sponsor of the Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007. I join my colleagues from the Science and Technology Committee, Mr. WU, Mr. GORDON, Mr. HALL and Mr. EHLERS, in introducing this important bill that will ensure our Nation's technological competitiveness for decades to come.

The President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) provides a foundation to keep our country competitive in the ever-expanding global marketplace. The Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act plays an important role in fulfilling this initiative by reauthorizing the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST. NIST labs serve almost every Federal agency and U.S. industry by providing reliable and dependable standards, measurements, and certification services.

As Congress looks to the future of the technology industry in this country, NIST research will prove to be indispensable in the maturation of cutting-edge basic research in becoming successful commercial products. Emerging fields such as nanotechnology and bioengineering are dependent on scientifically-based industrial measurements and standards to see that advanced laboratory research can make that leap into practical industrial applications. I recently visited some of NIST's laboratories and was amazed by the fascinating and vital work its scientists perform.

H.R. 1868 includes 3-year authorization levels for NIST's laboratories which are consistent with the ACI's goal to double the nation's investment in physical science research by 2017. The Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act also authorizes the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program-a cost-sharing program that provides technical and business assistance to small and medium-sized manufacturers. This assistance has a proven track record in the manufacturing industry to help companies remain competitive in the global marketplace by improving productivity and efficiency. In addition, this legislation authorizes the Technology Innovation Program that provides grants that encourage the development of high-risk, innovative technologies that will provide widespread economic benefits to companies across the United States.

I thank Chairman WU for incorporating our priorities for NIST into this comprehensive authorization bill and I look forward to working with my Science Committee colleagues to ensure quick action on this important bill.