

The U.S.-Bahrain FTA will provide substantial market access for U.S. services providers, including financial services.

One hundred percent of bilateral trade in consumer and industrial products will become duty-free immediately, and 98 percent of U.S. agricultural product exports to Bahrain would be immediately duty free.

Moreover, as Democrats who are strong on defense, we believe that securing an FTA with Bahrain is a positive foreign policy and national security step for the United States.

Bahrain has been a strong and stable state in the Persian Gulf region and a friend to the United States.

The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet is based in Bahrain, and the United States has recognized the importance of our relationship with this country by establishing a joint U.S.-Bahrain Defense Cooperation Agreement and designing Bahrain as a "Major Non-NATO ally."

This FTA strengthens relations with one of our proven strategic allies in an unstable region.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, it is critically important that trade agreements are balanced and fair for workers.

We are pleased that Bahrain has agreed to take the additional steps necessary to comply with basic international labor standards that are integral to ensuring that the benefits of globalization are broadly shared among all people.

Bahrain has committed in writing and with a clear and immediate timetable to amend all provisions of its labor laws that are not consistent with basic International Labor Organization (ILO) standards.

The government will repeal its current laws that forbid the formation of more than one trade union within a single enterprise; allow foreign workers who have not been paid their wages to only change employers after wages have not been paid for more than 3 months; do not provide for the reinstatement of workers fired because of anti-union discrimination; and require that in order to conduct a legal strike, three-quarters of the union must approve and the union must give the employer and Ministry of Labor two weeks notice.

The Bahraini government will also reiterate its commitment to ensuring that penalties for anti-union discrimination are adequate to deter this activity and that workers are paid in a timely manner.

Bahrain remains committed to progress on these issues and recognizes the need to ensure its laws are consistent with international standards.

These changes are a major step forward in securing safe and fair working environments for all workers in Bahrain.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I are happy to support this FTA today. It is in our best interest to engage Bahrain and complete this bilateral free trade agreement. We urge all Members to support H.R. 4340.

TRIBUTE TO PENN DETROIT
DIESEL ALLISON

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Penn De-

troit Diesel Allison company for the grand opening of their new state-of-the-art facility in Pittsburgh. The new facility will be located in Cranberry Township just outside of Pittsburgh.

Penn Detroit Diesel Allison has provided the latest innovations in diesel engines, transmissions, and replacement parts to their customers for over 50 years. With the opening of their new facility, they will be able to "provide our customers with a superior and professional service experience," said Jerry Tiffan, president of the company. The new facility is equipped with 10 drive-through service bays, and a full diagnostic service center.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the grand opening of the new Penn Detroit Diesel Allison facility in Pittsburgh. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a distinguished company like the Penn Detroit Diesel Allison company.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3058,
TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOP-
MENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DIS-
TRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDE-
PENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report on Transportation-Treasury-HUD Appropriations for fiscal year 2006.

This legislation provides \$60.7 billion to fund the Transportation Department and improve America's transportation infrastructure. I was especially pleased this legislation included \$2 million for Central Corridor, an eleven-mile transit corridor that will run from St. Paul to Minneapolis along University Avenue. Building Central Corridor is vital to keeping the Twin Cities competitive in the 21st Century.

The conference report provides \$1.3 billion in funding to Amtrak. Maintaining a strong and healthy rail system in America is necessary to reduce our dependency on automotive transportation, reduce ozone emissions, and combat smog in our cities. Furthermore, high-speed rail provides convenience and mobility to travelers, while creating new jobs and economic growth. A diversified transportation system including Amtrak is critical to our Nation's future.

The report also includes \$300,000 to address the problem of homelessness among youth, which is a symptom of a larger problem in our community. For many youth, their home situation is violent and unhealthy. These young adults need our partnership, and this funding will help provide the support and opportunity they need to get their lives back on track.

Recognizing the need for every American to have access to affordable housing, this bill funds affordable housing programs above the President's request. Unfortunately, in this Republican bill, funding for critical housing programs, such as Section 8 vouchers, is still not adequate to address the affordable housing

crisis occurring in communities in the Fourth District of Minnesota and across the country. The lack of affordable housing is a serious problem for too many Americans, young and old, who are trying to live on less than a living wage. In order to excel at school, hold down a steady job, stay active and healthy, and contribute to our communities, Americans must have access to safe and affordable housing.

For these reasons, I support this bill and encourage my colleagues to vote for this legislation.

HONORING THE LATE FRANK
FALKOWSKI FOR HIS VALIANT
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great American—a Western New Yorker whose service to this Nation brings honor to his family and to his countrymen alike. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Frank Falkowski.

Frank Falkowski was born on February 24, 1919 in Depew, New York. He was the eldest child in a family of 11 children. Forced to quit high school to help support his family when his father died unexpectedly, Frank entered the U.S. Army at the age of 22 on February 3, 1941. Stationed in Georgia, Los Angeles, Hawaii, the Philippines and New Guinea, Frank performed a number of important roles during his military service, including service as a Military Policeman and machine gunner. During his spare time in the Army, Frank played Basketball and Football on military teams, but, more importantly, he completed his GED studies. Frank served a total of 42 months overseas during World War II, and while stationed in the Philippines and the Pacific theater, he assisted with the evacuation of women and children to safe havens as the Japanese were advancing. After receiving a letter of appreciation and thanks for his efforts from the mayor of Luzon, Frank was discharged from the U.S. Army on June 22, 1945.

After serving in the military, Frank met his wife, Marion. They were married in 1946 and raised 4 children, Marcia, Linda, Jerry and Janice. Frank worked as a welder for Contractor's Ornamental Steel and also worked part time as a security guard at the once famous Palace Theater in downtown Buffalo. After his retirement, Frank had the opportunity to enjoy his greatest pleasure—time with his friends, family and loved ones.

Frank was an Army veteran of World War II. While much is not known about his military service, it is well known that his service on the field of battle was valiant indeed. As a result of his service, he earned the following awards:

Bronze Star Medal; Good Conduct Medal; American Defense Service Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Combat Infantryman Badge First Award; Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 bronze service star, and Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII.

Unfortunately, Frank never lived to actually receive these awards. His daughter, Linda