IT GIVES ME GREAT FLEASURE TO PRESENT THE ALABAMA SMALL BUSINESSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD TO ROY H. DRINKARD OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, WHO EXEMPLIFIES IMAGINATION ----

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AND INDEPENDENCE CHARACTERISTIC OF ALABAMA'S 44,000 SMALL BUSINESSMEN.

SMALL BUSINESSES PLAY AN INTEGRAL PART IN OUR OVERALL ECONOMY AND THE PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION THROUGHOUT AMERICA HAVE BEEN OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY --- NOT ONLY IN EXPANDING EXISTING BUSINESSES - BUT IN BRINGING IN NEW INDUSTRIES --THUS CREATING NEW JOBS. THIS ROLE OF SBA MUST BE CONTINUED AND EXPANDED IF THE YOUNG PEOFLE ARE TO BE PROVIDED JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT HOME. YOU HAVE A STRONG, DIVERSIFIED SMALL BUSINESS SECTOR IN ALABAMA. I AM SURE THAT EACH SMALL BUSINESSMAN IN THIS GREAT STATE DESIRES TO SEE IT GROW EVEN STRONGER. SENATOR JOHN SPARKMAN IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THIS

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> CREAT NATION AS THE CHAMPION OF THE SMALL BUSINESSMAN AND OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

WE --- AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL --- ARE PROUD OF THE TREMENDOUS STRIDES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN ALABAMA IN CREATING NEW AND ADDITIONAL JOBS THROUGH ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

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