Chief McGrath began his life of public service during World War II. From 1943–1947 he served in the United States Navy, defending our country as a member of the Submarine Service. After returning to civilian life and graduating college, he began a thirty year career as a Connecticut State Police Officer—where he achieved the rank of Captain. He began his tenure as Ansonia's police chief in 1981, and then held that position for nearly two decades.

Chief James J. McGrath has devoted his life to protecting the well-being of others. He worked tirelessly to ensure that Ansonia was a safe place to live and work for its families, children, and senior citizens. In fact, his dedication was such that during his 19 years as police chief, he never took a single sick day. I know that I speak for all Ansonia residents in saying that the city is deeply appreciative of his work and his leadership.

Perhaps there is no better way to illustrate Chief McGrath's commitment to public safety than to refer to his own words: ''I'm as concerned about the welfare of the people of Ansonia as I am of my own family.''

Mr. Speaker, Chief James J. McGrath deserves wide recognition for his lifelong dedication to law enforcement. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding public servant, and to extend our best wishes as he embarks upon a well-deserved retirement.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE ENERGY COALITION PLANT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the farmers-members of the Golden Triangle Energy Cooperative on the imminent success of the new ethanol plant in Craig, Missouri. The new plant will add value to members' agricultural commodities through efficient processing and bring renewed economic opportunity to Northwest Missouri. I am honored to have the Golden Triangle Energy Cooperative in my district.

On Saturday, February 17, 2001, we will celebrate the grand opening of the Golden Triangle Energy Coalition Plant. This plant will process 6 million bushels of corn each year, producing 15 million gallons of ethanol. This plant will not only benefit farmers, but also the environment and our consumers across the nation.

I am pleased that farmers in Northwest Missouri are making a positive impact on their rural community by expanding value-added markets, such as ethanol. In the past 10 years, more than 20 farmer-owned cooperatives were constructed nationwide. Today farmer-owned ethanol production facilities are responsible for one third of all U.S. ethanol production.

Farmers in Northwest Missouri are positioned to meet the nation's ethanol needs. Ethanol produced in Craig, Missouri will be sold across the country as a high-octane fuel bringing improved automobile performance to drivers while reducing air pollution. It is a clean-burning, renewable, domestically produced product. The new plant in Craig will create jobs and provide value-added markets to bolster agriculture and our rural economy.

Again, I congratulate and commend the farmer-owners of the Golden Triangle Coalition on the opening of the nation's newest ethanol plant. I look forward to working with them in the future.

HONORING ANTHONY F. COLE

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extol the virtues and lament the retirement of Anthony F. ''Tony'' Cole after more than 25 years of federal service.

A scholar and a gentleman, Tony graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College of William and Mary, earned a Masters in history from Rutgers, and his law degree from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at William and Mary.

In 1975 Tony joined the staff of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, where he served as Deputy General Counsel of the Depository Institutions Deregulation Committee and later as Special Assistant to the Board as its liaison with Congress.

Leaving these real jobs, Tony came to the Hill in 1986 to serve first as Minority Counsel and then as Minority Staff Director for the House Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

During my tenure as Chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, from January 1995 to the end of last year, Tony was the Staff Director for the Committee.

Tony's fine hand may be seen in all of the major legislation the Committee considered over the past 15 years, from the reform of the savings and loan industry (FIRREA), to the financial modernization bill (Gramm-Leach-Bliley), to debt relief for the poorest countries in the world.

As my colleagues know, the job of a committee staff director is one of the most demanding on Capitol Hill. It requires assuaging the easily bruised egos of the Members, administering a multimillion dollar budget, managing a 50-member professional and support staff, and coordinating with leadership. All this must be accomplished while having at one's finger tips an encyclopedic knowledge of both current statute and the legislative process.

Nobody did it better than Tony.

A consummate professional, Tony was respected by both sides of the aisle and revered by the staff he led by precept and example. A person of grace and good humor, he gave of himself unstintingly to this institution and in so doing to serving the people of the United States.

The House needs the likes of Tony Cole and he will be sorely missed.

It is with profound gratitude that I wish Tony all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

DEFENSE FUNDING

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, throughout our nation's history, our armed forces fought bravely to preserve and protect the liberties we cherish. As of late, we have done much to recognize the accomplishments of the generation that fought the Second World War, and rightly so. But we should not forget the equally impressive job our military forces are doing today. They faced down aggression in Iraq; restored democracy in Haiti; and ended ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia. In short, they have much to be proud of

However, we are faced with some serious concerns. This increase in deployments and operations occurred during a time of military downsizing. It is clear to many we cannot, in good faith, ask our forces to be engaged around the world when they are stretched so thinly.

We have no choice but to embrace this opportunity and demonstrate our commitment to our military personnel. In this time of peace and budget surpluses, we must prepare for the threats that loom in the not-too-distant future by modernizing our military forces and investing in programs to recruit and retain quality military personnel.

We have done a great deal to ensure that our military forces are the best in the world, but the world is changing before our eyes—we need to do more. As we move though the budget process, let us show our support for these brave men and women by passing a responsible defense budget.

THE WAGE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Workers Access to Accountable Governance in Employment (WAGE) Act. This bill takes a first step toward restoring the rights of freedom of association and equal protection under the law to millions of American workers who are currently denied these rights by federal law.

The WAGE Act simply gives workers the same rights to hold decertification elections as they have to hold certification elections. Currently, while workers in this country are given the right to organize and have union certification elections each year, provided that 30 percent or more of the workforce wish to have them, workers are not given an equal right to have a decertification election, even if the same requirements are met.

As a result of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) created contract-bar rule, if 30 percent or more of a bargaining unit wants to hold an election to decertify a union as their representative, they are prohibited from doing so unless the contract is in at least its third year.

In other words, it does not matter whether or not workers want to continue to have the union as their representative. It does not matter whether or not the union represents the will of the workers. It does not even matter if the majority of the current workforce voted for union representation. They must accept that representation.

Mr. Speaker, this is absurd. The lowest criminal in this country has the right to change

their representative in the courtroom. Yet millions of hardworking, law-abiding citizens cannot change their representation in the workplace.

As a result of the passage of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) in 1935 and the action taken by the federally-funded NLRB, workers can be forced to pay union dues or fees for unwanted representation as a condition of employment. Federal law may even force workers to accept union representation against the will of the majority of workers.

Talk about taxation without representation! Mr. Speaker, the WAGE Act takes a step toward returning a freedom to workers that they never should have lost in the first place: the right to choose their own representative. I urge my colleagues to support the nonpartisan, pro-worker WAGE Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOUNT WASHINGTON AMERICAN LEGION POST 484

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of the Mount Washington American Legion Post 484, which celebrated its 80th anniversary on January 21, 2001.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veterans organization. The Mount Washington American Legion Post 484 opened its chapter 80 years ago, and, since then, it has carried out its mission—to defend and teach the principles of democracy; to uphold the law of the land; to foster patriotism; to venerate, serve and support our veterans; to instill a sense of obligation to the community, state and nation; and to guard the rights and freedoms provided to us by the Constitution.

Post 484 has made a remarkable difference in the Cincinnati community by helping to improve the quality of life for our veterans and for others in the Second Congressional District of Ohio. Post 484 currently has about 400 members, many of whom have dedicated their time at Veterans Administration Hospital and Hospice volunteer programs. Its service also includes: volunteer work in our local schools; donations of blood to the Red Cross; environmental protection and crime prevention programs; and fundraising for crisis intervention and family support programs. Post 484 also has raised funds for the Americanism Youth Conference; the Spirit of Youth Fund; flag etiquette and citizenship programs; the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America; and anti-substance abuse, child safety as well as literacy programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Mount Washington American Legion Post 484 reminds us that one of the best ways to help individuals and communities is through the hard work and dedication of our local volunteers. These volunteers, who have courageously defended our country, have exhibited an unrelenting service to our country. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Post 484 and its members on 80 years of superb service to the Cincinnati area and to our nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES E. CRIST

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles E. Crist. I have had the pleasure of working with Chuck for the past five years in his position as Deputy for Program and Project Management with the St. Paul District of the Corps of Engineers. Quite simply put, he is one of the finest public servants I have had the opportunity to work with.

Throughout his time with the St. Paul District, Chuck has stood out as an individual who could tackle complex, sensitive water resource issues. He is a man of great integrity, with a deep commitment to the issues he works on. His contributions to the Corps are numerous, but one that will always be recognized is his efforts to make the Corps a truly responsive agency to the needs of the communities it serves.

During the devastating flood of 1997, Chuck worked to coordinate emergency response measures in Grand Forks, North Dakota and all along the Red River. In the aftermath of the flood, Chuck assembled a team within the Corps to design plans for a permanent flood control project for Grand Forks. He was instrumental in leading efforts to expedite the development of the project reports needed to secure authorization. Without the quick, creative work of Chuck and his team within the Corps, we would have missed a critical window to secure congressional authorization. In recognition of this work, the team received the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Outstanding Planning Achievement Award for Planning Team of the Year. Thanks to Chuck's dedicated efforts, Grand Forks is now getting the protection it so desperately needs.

In addition to his work in Grand Forks, Chuck has also led efforts to address the ongoing flooding in the Devils Lake Basin. His work has been critical to protecting the future of a town that has experienced eight years of continual flooding. All throughout this process, he has been able to balance a wide range of issues while implementing workable solutions. No matter what the challenge, Chuck has always been able to meet or exceed it.

Chuck's friendly demeanor and genuine sympathetic nature have made him a trusted public servant. He has been wholeheartedly committed to working with North Dakota communities through difficult water problems and challenges. Through tough and daunting times, he has always maintained a level of optimism that has gone unmatched. There is no doubt that North Dakota has been well-served under his leadership.

Above all, Chuck is a valued friend and partner. Chuck will be missed for his personality, remembered for his professionalism, and honored for the positive change he brought to the Corps. After a distinguished career that has spanned more than 32 years, I want to thank Chuck for his service to the Corps and the State of North Dakota. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOREIGN TRUCK SAFETY ACT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that I believe is paramount to keeping our highways and byways safe. The Foreign Truck Safety Act would mandate that all foreign trucks at our southern border be inspected if they have not passed inspection in the previous twelve months. This is necessary because last week a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) dispute panel ruled that our southern border with Mexico should be opened to unfettered cross-border trucking. The new Bush administration also stated they would abide by that ruling and open the border.

This ruling means that Mexican trucks, trucks that fail 35 percent of inspections across the border zone, and 50 percent of inspections in Texas, would be free to roam all throughout the United States. Since NAFTA went into effect in 1994, these trucks have been able to cross into a small NAFTA border zone. The border was scheduled to have been fully opened in December 1995, but due to real safety concerns and the high rate of failed inspections of Mexican trucks, the border was kept closed by the Clinton Administration.

The highly respected and non-political U.S. DOT Office of Inspector General (IG) concluded in a November 1999 report that ''Adequate mechanisms are not in place to control access of Mexico-domiciled motor carriers into the United States.'' In a December 1998 report the IG stated, ''We concluded that far too few trucks are being inspected at the U.S.-Mexico border, and that too few trucks comply with U.S. standards.'' And it has not gotten better since: in 2000 35 percent of Mexican trucks that were inspected were put out of service for significant safety violations. And what's discouraging is that less than two percent of Mexican trucks were inspected.

In addition, since NAFTA was signed in 1993, Mexico has known that it would have to harmonize it's trucking laws and regulations with the U.S. and Canada (whose trucks have as good a safety record as U.S. trucks), and yet it has failed to do so. For example, the Land Transportation Standards Subcommittee (LTSS) was created by NAFTA to harmonize transportation standards and regulations by the year 2000. However, even though we are in 2001, Mexico does not have vehicle maintenance standards, roadside inspections, safety rating systems, a drug and alcohol testing program, or hours of service regulations. And Mexico has just started the process of mandating logbooks for record keeping, while the U.S. DOT is in the process of upgrading logbooks to electronic record keeping. Most importantly, Mexico allows trucks upwards of 100,000 pounds on its highways, while the U.S. limit is 80,000 pounds.

Without an adequate inspection system at the border, it is just a matter of time before 100,000 pound, unsafe trucks with drivers who haven't slept in days are driving straight into a tragedy on one of our highways. That's why the Foreign Truck Safety Act is necessary. In addition to mandating the inspection of foreign trucks, the bill would authorize the border