

that will make us all more secure. We will consult, coordinate and, where both agree, act jointly, as we are doing in Bosnia now.

Now, consider the extraordinary milestone this represents. For decades, the fundamental security concern in Europe was the confrontation between East and West. For the first time, a new NATO and a new Russia have agreed to work as partners to meet challenges to their common security in a new and undivided Europe, where no nation will define its greatness in terms of its ability to dominate its neighbors.

Now we must meet the challenge of bolstering security across outdated divides, making the NATO partnership work with Russia, continuing NATO's historic transformation.

In less than six weeks, NATO will meet again in Madrid to invite the first of Europe's new democracies to add their strength to the Alliance. The prospect of NATO membership already has led to greater stability, for aspiring members are deepening reform and resolving the very kinds of disputes that could lead to future conflict.

The first new members will not be the last. NATO's doors must, and will, remain open to all those able to share the responsibilities of membership. We will strengthen the Partnership for Peace and create a new Euro-Atlantic partnership council so that other nations can deepen their cooperation with NATO and continue to prepare for membership.

But let us be clear: There are responsibilities as well. Enlargement means extending the most solemn guarantees any nation can make—a commitment to the security of another. Security and peace are not cheap. New and current allies alike must be willing to bear the burden of our ideals and our interests.

Our collective efforts in Bosnia reflect both the urgency and the promise of our mission. Where terror and tragedy once reigned, NATO troops are standing with 14 partner nations—Americans and Russians, Germans and Poles, Norwegians and Bulgarians, all in common cause to bring peace to the heart of Europe. Now we must consolidate that hard-won peace, promote political reconciliation and economic reconstruction, support the work of the International War Crimes Tribunal here in The Hague, and help the Bosnian peace make the promise of the Dayton Accord real.

Today I affirm to the people of Europe, as General Marshall did 50 years ago: America stands with you. We have learned the lessons of history. We will not walk away.

No less today than five decades ago, our destinies are joined. For America the commitment to our common future is not an option, it is a necessity. We are closing the door on the 20th century, a century that saw humanity at its worst and at its most noble. Here, today, let us dedicate ourselves to working together to make the new century a time when partnership between America and Europe lifts the lives of all the people of the world.

Let us summon the spirit of hope and renewal that the life story of Gustaaf Sedee represents. He has a son, Bert, who is a bank executive. Today, he is helping to fulfill the legacy his father so movingly described—for just as the Marshall Plan made the investment that helped Holland's industry revive, Bert Sedee's bank is helping Dutch companies finance investments in Central and Eastern Europe. Just as the American people reached out to the people of his homeland, Bert Sedee and his colleagues are reaching out to the people in Slovenia, Latvia, Bosnia and beyond.

The youngest members of the Sedee family are also in our thoughts today—Gustaaf Sedee's grandchildren, Roeland and Sander,

nine months and one-and-a-half—I wonder what they will say 50 years from today. I hope that they and all the young people listening, those who are aware of what is going on and those too young to understand it, will be able to say, we bequeath to you 50 years of peace, freedom and prosperity. I hope that you will have raised your sons and daughters in a Europe whose horizons are wider than its frontiers. I hope you will be able to tell your grandchildren—whose faces most of us will not live to see—that this generation rose to the challenge to be shapers of the peace.

I hope that we will all do this, remembering the legacy of George Marshall and envisioning a future brighter than any, any people have ever lived.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL AIR
TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSO-
CIATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the National Air Traffic Controllers Association [NATCA], who will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its founding on June 19, 1997. On June 12, the NATCA local in Milwaukee will host a ceremony and public open house at Mitchell International Airport to commemorate this anniversary.

Representing approximately 14,000 men and women nationwide, NATCA works to protect the rights of air traffic controllers in the workplace through advocating safe working conditions and fair benefits in nearly 400 facilities in the United States and its territories. NATCA also helps ensure and maintain a reliable and safe traveling environment for our citizens by working jointly with the Federal Aviation Administration, the White House, Members of Congress, and the media to promote safety.

In today's computer age, there are more and more sophisticated devices in the complicated world of air travel. By skillfully reading and interpreting the information on the disks and screens, the dedicated men and women of NATCA safely get us home from our vacation destinations, back and forth to our home-State offices, and to our families for the holidays.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing NATCA a very happy 10th birthday and great successes in the years ahead. Keep up the excellent work.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN A. GANNON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of John A. (Jack) Gannon.

Jack Gannon was an American hero. He fought bravely in World War II, and when he returned home, he fought for the rights of working people. Jack joined the Cleveland Fire Department in the early 1950's. He fought fires on the front line. Through his experi-

ences, he saw the importance of improving safety and increasing support for his fellow firefighters, and throughout the rest of his career he fought to achieve those aims.

Jack was a union man. Jack joined the local committee of the International Firefighters Association, where his leadership skills and vision were quickly recognized. He rose to become president of the Cleveland Firefighters Local 93, where he served for 10 years. In 1980, Jack became president of the entire International Firefighters Association. Jack challenged his colleagues to improve safety and support. He was elected vice president of the AFL-CIO.

Jack was a national treasure. President George Bush and the U.S. Senate appointed him as a member of the National Council on Disability. As the sole Democrat on the council, he worked to forge a bipartisan forum for disability policy issues, and eventually helped to pass the landmark Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. President Bill Clinton called upon Jack to help win passage for the first-ever U.S.-sponsored resolution on disability policy in the United Nations Commission on Social Development and General Assembly.

A champion for the rights of firefighters and the rights of the disabled, Jack Gannon left a legacy of which Cleveland, this House, and the whole Nation may be proud.

HONORING RAYMOND G. O'NEILL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week, Americans celebrated Memorial Day, remembering those men and women who gave their lives in service to their country. As a nation, we paused to recall all they have done to preserve and protect our way of life. It is in this spirit that I rise today to honor a man who for over a half century has dedicated his life to working for Michigan's veterans. On June 1, 1997, Mr. Raymond G. O'Neill will retire as director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Service Office of Michigan after 45 years.

A lifelong Michigan resident, Raymond O'Neill enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps while still a high school senior in 1942, serving several stints in the South Pacific. During his tour of duty, he was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation with Star, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two Bronze Battle Stars, Marine Good Conduct Medal, and American Theater and Victory Medals.

After leaving the service, Mr. O'Neill served as the first commander of the VFW Post 9030 of Detroit, a post he was responsible for organizing. That post remained in use from 1947 to 1981, when it was consolidated with two other posts to form Fortier's-O'Grady Post 147, where he again served as its first commander. In 1952, Mr. O'Neill began his long tenure with the VFW Service Office as an assistant service officer and claims examiner, rapidly rising up the ranks from field supervisor to assistant director and ultimately leading to his current position as State director of veterans services, where he has served since 1968.

Mr. O'Neill's activities have garnered the attention of the community as well as his peers,