This legislation serves as a remembrance to the heroic men and women who have died in the line of duty by requiring the American flag on all federal buildings be lowered to half-staff one day each year on the observance of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. Nearly 1.2 million men and women serve our country as fire and emergency services personnel. Approximately one-third suffer debilitating injuries making it one of the most dangerous jobs in America. Furthermore, approximately 100 men and women die in the line of duty every year—many are volunteers. Since 1981 every state in America, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have lost firefighters serving in the line of duty.

In 1990, Congress designated the national monument in Emmitsburg, Maryland to serve as the official memorial to all fallen firefighters. Since 1981, the names of 2,077 fallen fire heroes have been added to the Roll of Honor. This year, the name of Arnold Blakenship, Jr., of Greenwood Delaware, will be placed on the 2000 memorial plaque along with 85 other firefighters. Sadly Mr. Blakenship is not the first firefighter in Delaware to be memorialized.

Lowering the flag on federal buildings one day a year will remind all Americans of the patriotic service and dedicated efforts of our fire and emergency services personnel. These men and women work tirelessly to protect and preserve the lives and property of their fellow citizens. Through this legislation, we can show our support and respect for America’s fire heroes and those who carry on the noble tradition of service.

We must always remember the contributions of all of our public safety officers. In 1962, Congress passed the Joint Resolution honoring America’s peace officers who died in the line of duty in recognition of their dedicated service to their communities. Today, we take the first step in bestowing the same respect on the 1.2 million fire and emergency services personnel who also serve as public safety officers. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and recognize these heroic men and women.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HARD ROCK CAFE INTERNATIONAL

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Hard Rock Cafe International. June 14th will mark the 30th anniversary of the Hard Rock Cafe’s service to numerous communities throughout the United States. Charteried in 1971, the popular theme restaurant has remained a stronghold in the community throughout the cultural and economic changes that have occurred since it opened its doors.

For the past 30 years, Hard Rock Cafe has embodied the spirit of rock music; and as the originator of theme-restaurant dining, it continues to be a rock connection for music enthusiasts worldwide. Hard Rock Cafe is one of the most globally recognized brands known for rock music memorabilia as showcased throughout its many ventures. Hard Rock Cafe has provided a venue for new and legendary performers through their live cafe performances and concerts.

Another top priority for Hard Rock Cafe is a dedication to a wide variety of philanthropic causes around the world. Their pioneering mission to give something back to the community has not only served as a catalyst to raise funds, but it has enhanced the very profile of corporate charity work and served as an example of the good that can be done when local businesses become community partners. Hard Rock Cafe has also used their visibility to increase awareness of world issues including AIDS, homelessness, environmental conservation, and the care and nurturing of children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Hard Rock Cafe International. As a musician and music enthusiast, I thank them for their outstanding support of the musical art form and the many artists across the world. As a father and a public official, I commend their service to communities throughout the United States and the world.