INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. SUE W. KELLY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the purpose of introducing the Small Business Disaster Assistance Act.

This is a two-part proposal that seeks to provide immediate assistance to viable small businesses and agricultural enterprises when first dealing with the damage wrought by a disaster, and long-term assistance which seeks to provide them with the needed lift as they continue to work towards normalcy.

My bill creates a program whereby eligible small businesses and agricultural enterprises would be eligible for a grant of up to $30,000 in order to provide them with the immediate assistance they need when dealing with a disaster. Additionally, the bill creates a loan program that acknowledges the great difficulties small business owners and farmers encounter during the first year following a disaster by allowing for a one-year deferral on any repayments toward the loan, and, furthermore, allows the recipient to pay back the principal of that loan before the interest.

This is a compassionate, reasonable proposal that seeks to provide small businesses and farmers with assistance during a time when they need it most. I’d like to thank my colleagues from New Jersey, Congressman Bob Franks, for his important contribution in drafting this legislation, and I hope that our colleagues will join us in this effort to assist small business owners and farmers whose lives have been fundamentally diminished by natural disaster.

ROMANIA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Romanian Caucus, I rise today to enter into the record remarks in support of Romania, Mr. Speaker, the Heads of State and Government participating in the Istanbul Summit will designate the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the year 2001.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Romania has been fostering support for its candidacy since 1996, when President Emil Constantinescu articulated Romania’s bid for the OSCE Chair in 2001. Romania enjoys U.S. support and has succeeded to build consensus around its candidacy among full OSCE members. Romania will be entrusted to chair the OSCE in 2001, and it will join Austria and Norway in the OSCE Troika, starting January 2000.

The United States and Romania in 1997, established a strategic partnership resulting in close cooperation and consultations on all issues of common interest, particularly: NATO policies; promoting stability and security in Southeastern Europe, combating non-traditional threats; military and economic reforms in Romania and its region. Romania has also been a key supporter of U.S. and NATO policy in the Kosovo crisis, assisting the U.S. and NATO in actions meant to bring stability to the Balkans.

Romania’s government and Parliament approved without reservation oversight rights for NATO aircraft at the height of the Kosovo conflict. Romania is among the regional countries which observes the embargo against Former Yugoslavia, despite its significant costs. Romania has proven to be a reliable partner of the U.S. and NATO and is consistent in improving its credentials for future integration with NATO. All Romanian political forces, as well as a large majority of the people, support the goals of integration with NATO and the EU. In December 1999, Romania will host the Southeast European Defense Ministerial (SEDM), in which the United States participates.

Within this framework, Romania takes part in efforts to operationalize the Southeast European Multinational Peace Force, the first ever attempt at peaceful military cooperation in the region. Romania is the Chairman in Office of the Southeast European Cooperation Process and, as such, has been instrumental in promoting joint positions and actions of countries neighboring the region.

Active participants in the U.S.-supported Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), Romania has lead the efforts to conclude a regional Agreement for the fight against transborder crime and corruption which was signed in Bucharest, on 26 May 1999. Romania hosts the SECI Regional Center for the fight against transborder crime and corruption. The Center was inaugurated on 16 November 1999 and acts as a critical instrument for promoting a healthy business climate in Southeastern Europe, combating non-traditional threats and transborder crime.

Therefore, it is suggested that: The United States Congress expresses support for Romania’s nomination as OSCE Chair in 2001 and readiness to cooperate with Romania in the exercise of the resulting responsibilities. The United States Congress looks forward to sending a large delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Romania, in July 2000. The United States Congress acknowledges and highlights Romania’s relevance as a regional role-model for inter-ethnic cooperation, steadily evolving towards mature democracy as well as decisive efforts towards a functioning market economy, against the background of difficult challenges of the reform process.

A TRIBUTE TO MARTIN STEIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Lieutenant Martin Stein, a member of the New York City Police Department.

At a time, when police departments around this nation are under attack because of accusations of brutality, wrongful deaths and generally poor community relations, Lt. Stein continues to demonstrate a sense of professionalism and commitment which has made him a credit to law enforcement. He joined the police force in 1981 and has held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility during this time period. With a career that has covered various precincts in Manhattan and Brooklyn, Lieutenant Stein is currently the Special Operations Lieutenant for the 81st precinct. In this capacity, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the precincts specialized units: Anti-Crime; Street Narcotics; Warrants; Field Training and Community Policing Unit. He also ensures that these units work with the patrol force to respond to the calls and needs of the community.

Under Lieutenant Stein’s leadership, the 81st Precinct has seen an overall 53% reduction in crime. It is particularly significant that homicides have been reduced by 37% and shootings by 70%. These statistics indicate a real quality of life improvement for my constituents who reside in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn which is served by the 81st precinct.

Lieutenant Stein was recently married to his wife, Mary, and has a 14 year old son Peter from a previous marriage. After three years at York College in Queens, he is currently pursuing his Bachelor’s degree in the New York State Regents Degree Program. I commend his fine work to the attention of my colleagues.

THANKSGIVING

HON. BOB SCHAFER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, three hundred and seventy-eight years ago, Plymouth Colony Governor William Bradford “sent four men fowling, so they might in a special manner rejoice together after they had gathered the fruit of their labor.” This event marked the
November 19, 1999

first official Thanksgiving celebration in the New World.

Indeed, the colonists had much to be thank-
ful for that winter of 1621. Following a long
and treacherous journey across the Atlantic,
they landed on a bleak New England coast
and endured a year marked by hardship and
hunger in which half of the 101 original
Mayflower passengers died. Finally blessed
with bountiful harvest and warm shelter how-
ever, the Pilgrims paused to give thanks to
God for their divine good fortune and salva-
tion.

The idea of developing a special day to give
thanks for one’s prosperity did not originate
with the Pilgrims—in fact such practices date
back to Greek and Roman times. But that first
Thanksgiving, in what would later become
America, marked the beginning of a new na-
tion, and new form of government, that would
forever change the world.

Americans in 1999 have much to be thank-
ful for too. Prepared to begin a promising new
Millennium, our great nation is the strongest,
freest, and most prosperous in history. Though
we have plenty of hard work ahead of us, Am-
ericans also have much for which to be
thankful and proud.

We should be thankful for the strength and
security of our nation. After years of woeful
neglect and dangerous budgetary cuts, Con-
gress is once again committed to properly
and adequately funding a military structure and
national security strategy worthy of our great na-
tion. Only through demonstrated military
strength—and the unequivocal to employ it, if
necessary—will we have ability to ensure last-
ing peace and the protection of liberty at home
and abroad, well into the next Millennium.

We should be thankful too for our pros-
erous and growing economy. Currently
boasting the longest peacetime expansion in
our nation’s history, and by far the strongest
of any nation in the world, our economy seems
unstoppable. Consumer spending is up, while
unemployment is down. Small businesses and
corporate sector productivity, personal in-
come, and sales of new homes are all on the
rise. The stock market, and the percentage of
Americans investing in it, have both grown ex-
ponentially over just the past five years.

This success is owning mostly to the sound
and responsible fiscal policies of the Repub-
lican-led Congress. After four decades of
wasteful government spending, rising taxes,
and mounting federal debt, Congress reversed
the cycle of unaccountable big government
and balanced the budget, cut taxes, paid
down the debt, and created budget surpluses
as far as the eye can see—all while protecting
the Social Security Trust Fund. Our commit-
ment to continued fiscal responsibility will en-
sure our ability to foster such economic pros-
perity well into the next century.

Families this year can be thankful for an
unprecedented level of personal freedom, secu-
ritv, and opportunity in their lives. Historic wel-
fare reform legislation passed in 1996 has lib-
erated millions of parents previously trapped in
a devastating cycle of government depend-
ence, allowing them to better care for them-
selves and their families. Americans now have
better access to affordable, high quality health
care than anytime in history. And legislation
recently passed will help to strengthen Medi-
care, increase health care access for seniors
and children, and give more flexibility to the
providers who care for them.

This year on Thanksgiving, as our nation
prepares to enter a promising new Millennium,
stronger and more prosperous than ever in
history, we would do well to say a special
word of thanks this Thanksgiving—to God and
to the courageous immigrants at Plymouth
who made it all possible.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
ROSSFORD AND THE AUTHORS
OF "AS I RECALL"

HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Henry James
once said, "it takes a great deal of history to
produce a little literature." Today I rise in trib-
ute to the extraordinary people of Rossford,
Ohio, who have recorded the first hundred
years of history of their community in a book
titled, "As I Recall."

Mr. Speaker, a community is made up of
neighbors who care, whose spirit makes the
community what it is. This book, four years in
the making and written by more than twenty
members of the community, tells the stories of
these neighbors, their triumphs and tragedies.
It is their history that made Rossford the place
it is today. And, as we see how life has
changed since then, it’s also a comfort to
know that some things just don’t change in
Rossford—it’s still a community where neigh-
borship helps neighbors and where people try
to live up to the legacies of those who came be-
fore them.

The authors of this labor of love include:
Joséphine Ignesia; Milo Louis Bihn; Stanley
Brown; Mary Lou Hohl Caligiuri; Virginia
Craine; Arnold Frautschi; Estelle Heban; Vir-
ginia (Grod) Heban; Arlene Hustwick; Lucille
H. Keeton; Lee Knorek; Frank Krakl; Frank
Newson; Eleanor Nye (Mary Krakl).

Also Valeria Ochenduszko; Gabriel Palka;
Sister Janice Peer; Rosalie and Steve Peer;
Sally Pilcinski; Jim Richards; Maureen Rich-
ards; Ben Schultz; Stan Schultz; Judy Sikor-
ski; Pat Sloan; Charlotte R. Stanes; Audrey
Stolar; Dr. Don Thomas; the Tisdale Family;
Ed Tucholski; Irene Verbosky; Kim Werner;
and Marjorie Wilbarger.

For me this book is very special as our fa-
mother and mother operated a family grocery
in Rossford when my brother Steve and I were
growing up. We were flattered to be asked to
include our recollections of Rossford.

Mr. Speaker, may we congratulate Rossford
reaching this milestone and be inspired by the
people who gave so much of themselves so
that our history would forever be preserved.

HUMANITARIAN WORK'S HEAVY
TOLL

HON. TONY P. HALL
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today
in memory and in honor of 24 people who lost
their lives last week trying to help those who
are suffering in Kosovo.

These aid workers and others were on a
flight between Rome and Pristina. Wreckage
of their plane was found only a few miles from

HONORING UAW LOCAL 599
REUTHER AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great
pleasure to pay tribute to 25 members of UAW
Local 599, who will be recipients of the Walter
P. Reuther Distinguished Service Award. On
Saturday, November 6, 1999, these individuals
were honored at the 19th Annual Walter and
May Reuther Twenty Year Award Banquet.

Local 599 has always had a special place in
my heart because my father was one of its
original members. Over the years, Local 599
has developed a strong and proud tradition of
supporting the rights of working people in our
community, and improving the quality of life for
its membership. This year marked the 60th
anniversary of the local’s charter, and its com-
mitment to working for decent wages, educa-
tion and training, and civil and human rights.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to recog-
nize these special individuals who have dili-
gently served their union and community. Dur-
ing this time, each one of these UAW mem-
bers has held various elected positions in the
union. And there is no question they have rep-
resented their brothers and sisters well.

It is very fitting that these 25 people be re-
cipients of the Walter P. Reuther Distinguished
Service Award. Walter Reuther was a man
who believed in helping working people, and
he believed in human dignity and social justice
for all Americans. The recipients of this award
have committed themselves to the ideals and
principles of Walter Reuther. They are out-
standing men and women who come from
every part of our community, and they share
the common bond of unwavering commitment
and service.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues in
the House of Representatives to join me in
honoring Robert Aird, David Aiken, Dale
Bingley, Dennis Carl, Jessie Collins, Russell
W. Cook, Harvey DeGroot, Patrick Dolan,
Larry Farlin, Maurice Felling, Ted Henderson,
James Yaklin, Ken Mead, Don Wilson, Frank
Molina, Shirley Prater, Gene Ridley, John D.
Rogers, Dale Scanlon, G. Jean Garza-Smith,
Robbie Stevens, Nick Vuckovich, Jerry J.
Ward, Greg Wheeler, and Tom Worden. I
want to congratulate these fine people for all
of the work they have done to make our com-
munity a better place to live.