first official Thanksgiving celebration in the New World.

Indeed, the colonists had much to be thankful 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 however, the Pilgrims paused to give thanks to God for their divine good fortune and salvation.

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 nation, and new form of government, that would forever change the world.

Americans in 1999 have much to be thankful 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, Americans 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, Congress is once again committed to properly and adequately funding a military structure and national security strategy worthy of our great nation. Only through demonstrated military strength—and the unequivocal to employ it, if necessary—will we have ability to ensure lasting peace and the protection of liberty at home and abroad, well into the next Millennium.

We should be thankful too for our prosperous and growing economy. Currently boasting the longest peace time 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 income, and sales of new homes are all on the rise. The stock market, and the percentage of Americans investing in it, have both grown exponentially over just the past five years.

This success is owing mostly to the sound and responsible fiscal policies of the Republican-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 commitment to continued fiscal responsibility will ensure our ability to foster such economic prosperity well into the next century.

Families this year can be thankful for an unprecedented level of personal freedom, security, and opportunity in their lives. Historic welfare reform legislation passed in 1996 has liberated millions of parents previously trapped in a devastating cycle of government dependence, allowing them to better care for themselves 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 tribute to the extraordinary people of Rossford, Ohio, who have recorded the first hundred years of history of their community in a book entitled, “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 neighbors help neighbors and where people try to live up to the legacies of those who came before them.

The authors of this labor of love include: Josephine Ignasiak; Milo Louis Bihn; Stanley Brown; Mary Lou Hohl Caligiuri; Virginia Crane; Arnold Frautsch; Estelle Heban; Virginia (Grod) Heban; Arlene Hustwick; Lucille H. Keeton; Lee Knorre; Frank Kralk; Frank Newsom; Eleanor Nye (Mary Kralk).

Also Valeria Ochenduszko; Gabriel Palka; Sister Janice Peers; Rosalie and Steve Peer; Sally Pilcinski; Jim Richards; Maureen Richards; Ben Schultz; Stan Schultz; Judy Sikorski; Pat Sloan; Charlotte R. Stahms; 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 father 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