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 remains low. 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 Medicare, 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 Bihin; Stanley Brown; Mary Lou Hohl Caligiuri; Virginia Craine; Arnold Frautsch; Estelle Heban; Virginia (Grod) Heban; Arlene Hustwick; Lucille H. Keeton; Lee Knorek; Frank Kralik; Frank Newsom; Eleanor Nye (Mary Kralik).

Also Valeria Ochenduszko; Gabriel Palka; Sister Janice Peer; Rosalie and Steve Peer; Sally Plicinski; Jim Richards; Maureen Richards; Ben Schultz; Stan Schultz; Judy Sikorski; Pat Sloan; Charlotte R. Starnes; Audrey Stolar; Dr. Don Thomas; the Tisdale Family; Ed Tucholski; Irene Verboisky; 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
their destination. They were United Nations employees and aid workers serving private charities, police officers taking time off from regular jobs to help build homes in Kosovo, doctors and scientists, and the crew that flew the route regularly for the World Food Programme.

Mr. Speaker, we have discussed on this floor what the onset of winter will mean for refugees who returned to their homes in Kosovo to find only rubble. We have worried over their fate and tried to provide funding for people who would act on our shared concerns—people like those who died Friday.

In a region riven by bitter clashes between ethnic groups, the ethnic background of those who have come to their aid is remarkable for its variety. Those who died personify this coming together for the sole purpose of easing suffering: 12 Italians, three Spaniards, two Britons, an Irishman, a Kenyan, a Bangladeshi, an Australian, a Canadian, an Iraqi, and a German.

Theirs are the faces of the United Nations, faces that signify hope to millions of people around the world. We sometimes forget that the U.N. has a very human face—and a remarkable number of dedicated employees. The World Food Programme, which provides food aid to 75 million people in 80 countries, is just one example of the United Nations at work. Since 1988, this organization has lost 51 employees to work-related accidents, illnesses, and attacks—including three who died last week. They died fighting the hunger that gnaws away the lives of one of every seven people in the world, assisting in projects that too often exacted the heaviest human cost.

Mr. Speaker, as we look forward to our Thanksgiving meals next week, let us pause a moment to reflect on those who died last week trying to eradicate starvation—much as our dear friend and colleague, Congressman Mickey Leland, did 10 years ago.


They all were heroes to the hungry and suffering people of the world, and they all deserve our thanks and our prayers for the families they left too soon.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE STOWERS INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

HON. KAREN McCARThY
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim and Virginia Stowers on the launch of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research located in my district in Kansas City, MO. Their generous support of biotech research will profoundly impact upon the lives of those who suffer from cancer, and benefit the friends and families of those who battle the disease. On this occasion, I salute the Stowers for their selfless contributions to the field of science in establishing their institute to bring “Hope for Life.”

To our community, Jim and Virginia Stowers are local heroes. To those who will one day benefit from their charity, they will no doubt be referred to as saints. Their remarkable story is triumphant and inspirational. In 1958, Jim Stowers founded Twentieth Century Investors and created what would later be known as the American Century Companies. Today, Mr. Stowers heads the company as chairman of a successful multi-billion dollar firm investing in mutual funds across the nation. His wife, Virginia, worked as a nurse to support her growing family and her husband’s dream. She shared her husband’s confidence by working to help her family and those most in need in her nurturing professions as nurse, wife, and mother.

Their commitment to cancer research is derived from their own hardships and personal survival experiences. Mr. Stowers was diagnosed in 1986 with prostate cancer. Mrs. Stowers fought breast cancer in 1993 followed by years of treatment, and their daughter, Kathleen’s current encounter with cancer was the impetus for the creation of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research. Jim Stowers serves as president with Virginia serving as vice president over every aspect of their legacy to scientific research.

The Stowers Institute is attracting the most highly sought researchers in biology, technology, and engineering who want to join in this exciting and worthy venture. World-renowned experts from the University of Washington, the California Institute of Technology, the University of California, Berkeley, the McLaughlin Institute, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City are exploring the make-up of our DNA and analyzing the forthcoming information in a facility where research into life systems will produce a better understanding of the nature of cancer. Scientists and doctors would then be able to use this research in developing treatments, medicine, and ultimately, a cure.

Our community has watched the construction of this facility which is anticipated to be in complete operation next year. It rescues from urban blight the site of the former Menorah Hospital near universities and cultural centers. The Stowers endowed to the Institute a gift of $336 million to fund the ongoing research of scientists so they can dedicate their valuable time to science instead of raising money for their work. Investment of the multi-billion dollar assets in mutual funds, contributions by other donors, and the gift of the estate of Virginia and Jim Stowers is expected to reach $30 billion or more in the next millennium, which will secure financial support for the Institute.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Virginia and Jim Stowers for their tremendous generosity and their ongoing mission for “Hope for Life.” I look forward to the successes of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research and share the same hope they have inspired.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE CAN HELP PARENTS MOVE TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the issue of quality improvements in our nation’s child care centers. As a member of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources with jurisdiction over the federal welfare system, I voted against the 1996 overhaul of our welfare system because of the dangerous effect it would have on the health and well-being of children and families in our country.

Child care was warned by advocates for low-income and poor families that without the proper work supports—health care, food assistance, and child care services—welfare reform’s efforts to push mothers into low-paying, low-skilled jobs could not succeed. Now as more and more families with children are forced to send both parents (or the only parent) to work, the absence of child care hampers the ability of mothers to successfully make that move.

Families are stuck between a rock and a hard place. Child care is in short supply, it is too expensive for many families to afford, and often is of poor quality. When families try to get child care, they encounter long waiting lists—even for crummy programs—or the care available is unaffordable. The message to low-income families is that no matter how hard they work, they won’t be able to get what they need.

Working parents need to feel secure about the arrangements they’ve made for their children during work hours, because the quality of care children receive can make a difference in parents’ ability to work. Evaluations of GAIN, the job-training program for welfare recipients in California, found that mothers on welfare who were worried about the safety of their children and who did not trust their providers were twice as likely to subsequently drop out of the job-training program. We must increase both the quantity and the quality of the care offered. My bill, the Child Care Quality Improvement Act (H.R. 2175), promotes quality child care by providing incentive grants to states to help them set and meet long-term child care quality goals. My bill would base a state’s eligibility for future funding in the program on increasing training for staff, enhancing licensing standards, reducing the number of unlicensed facilities, increasing monitoring and enforcement, reducing caregiver turnover, and promoting higher levels of accreditation.

Congress has wrongly refused to require significant quality standards for the billions in child care dollars we allocate each year. The federal government should give states the resources to improve child care quality at the