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, Amer-
icans 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 na-
tional 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 assure 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-
perous 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 owing mostly to the sound and
responsible fiscal policies of the Repub-
lican-led Congress. After four decades of wasteful
government spending, raising 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-
mnt 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 un-
precedented level of personal freedom, secu-
ritu, 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 Rossvord 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-
ors help 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: Jo-
sephine Ignasjaki; Milo Louis Bihn; Stanley
Brown; Mary Lou Hohl Caligiuri; Virginia
Craine; Arnold Frautsch; Estelle Heban; Vir-
ginia (Grod) Heban; Arlene Hustwick; Lucille
H. Keeton; Lee Knorre; Frank Kralk; Frank
Newsom; Eleanor Nye (Mary Kralk).

Alisa Valeria Ochenduszeko; Gabriel Palka;
Sister Janice Peor; Rosalie and Steve Peer;
Sally Plcinski; Jim Richards; Maureen Rich-
ards; Ben Schultz; Stan Schultz; Judy Sikor-
ski; Pat Sloan; Charlotte R. Stamos; 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-
thar and mother operated a family grocery in
Rossford when my brother Steve and I were
born. When he and I were growing up, we were
flattered to be asked to include our recollections of Ro.

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.

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, edu-
cation 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-
unity a better place to live.

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