TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. MONToya —

HON. BOB SCHAFFER
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude and congratulations to one of Colorado's outstanding public servants, Trinidad Police Chief James A. Montoya, who recently announced his retirement. Chief Montoya is a true professional who has performed his duties with the highest degree of excellence. His leadership as Chief of Police will be greatly missed.

For 23 years James Montoya served as a distinguished public servant carrying out both his personal and professional life with dignity, respect and dedication. His reflections in a recent edition of The Pueblo Chieftain convey the gratefulness James has for being Police Chief. "I want to express my genuine gratitude for the opportunities afforded me during my career with the city of Trinidad. I am proud of the department's many accomplishments and the advancements we've made. I leave a staff genuinely dedicated to the mission, ethics and ideas of policing. I will always consider it a privilege to have served this community," Chief Montoya said.

A constituent of the Fourth Congressional District in Colorado, Chief Montoya not only makes his community proud but also his State and country. He has taken the responsibilities and standards of his job to a higher level and I applaud him. On behalf of the citizens of Colorado, I ask the House to join me in extending congratulations to Chief Montoya on his commendable accomplishments.

BOB BIRD: GENTLEMAN, ADVOCATE, AND FRIEND

HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. Speaker, our friends at the other cereal company may think they have something that's "Grrreat", but for nearly 25 years, true greatness has been present at General Mills in the form of one outstanding gentleman, Mr. Bob Bird. Bob is retiring after more heart-felt skirmishes than some of our greatest generals, and is being feted by friends and colleagues this evening for a career that is worthy of admiration.

From his early days as a copyboy at The New York Post through his years with the Baltimore Sun and then writing for Jack Anderson and Drew Pearson, Bob Bird has had a keen appreciation for news. He went from reporting to creating it during his days with Sargent Shriver at the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, then director of governmental relations for the National Center for Resource Recovery, and then with the Senate Subcommittee on Executive Reorganization under Senator Abraham Ribicoff.

Many of our colleagues know Bob Bird from his stellar days with General Mills, where he has worked to represent one of our Nation's finest food companies in a most responsible and successful fashion. In particular, Bob's efforts on behalf of General Mills to support food assistance programs to critically at risk women, infants, and children, have earned him the respect and praise of colleagues, of food program advocates, and respected members of the nutrition community. Acting always as a true professional, no one could doubt that this gentleman of good humor was always acting in an honorable and forthright fashion.

Bob likes to mention that a lesson he learned early in his career is that it is most important to listen, to hear the ideas of others, and to evaluate all information that may be at hand. This method of operation has allowed him to act as a well-informed advocate for General Mills who is welcomed by those who agree with him, as well as those who may have other views. A man of honor who knows how to operate in an honorable fashion is a precious commodity, so I assure you that he will be truly missed by all of us who have come to depend on him as an advisor. And those of us who may be fortunate enough to call him a friend will look forward to more contacts with him in the years to come, but will still miss having him come by as frequently as he had in the past.

With his wonderful wife Lillian, and his family, perhaps Bob will have a better chance to continue his love of jazz, his voracious reading of horse racing. These relaxations are well earned. But I am also certain that this man of breeding will continue his love of jazz, his voracious reading, or his skilled appreciation for thoroughbred horse racing. These relaxations are well earned. But I am also certain that this man of skills and commitment will have many more opportunities to leave his impression on important policy matters.

So from one member who represents the Cheyenne Capitol of the World, Toledo, OH, let me say to the man who helped make this Capitol cheerier on many days, Bob, thank you. We are blessed to have known and worked with you. We wish you the best and look forward to seeing your smiling self for many days to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JIM GOLDSMITH

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jim Goldsmith on his new position as National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

After he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1965, Jim served his country with distinction for eighteen months in Vietnam as a member of the 84th Engineering Battalion, returning home in 1967. Since that time no job has been too small for Jim at his local VFW Post 5666, from holding public office to working evening fish fries. In his new position as National Commander, Jim will likely travel more than 300 days per year working on behalf of veterans.

Jim's lasting commitment to his country and his fellow veterans must not go unrecognized. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Jim Goldsmith for his continued devotion to those who sacrificed their lives protecting all our freedoms.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on September 10 due to important district business, and I was out of the country on September 11, 12, and 13, 2001. If I was present for rollcall votes for the following bills:

336 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1766—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4270 John Marr Drive in Annandale, Virginia, as the "Stan Parris Post Office Building";

337 on motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended H.R. 1761—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8588 Richmond Highway in Alexandria, Virginia, as the "Herb E. Harris Post Office Building";

338 on passage of H.J. Res. 61—Expressing the sense of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001;

339 on passage of H.R. 2882—To provide for the expedited payment of certain benefits for a public safety officer who was killed or suffered a catastrophic injury as a direct result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty in connection with the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001;

340 on passage of H.R. 2884—Victims of Terrorism Relief Act of 2001; and


I would have voted "yea" to all of these bills.