William McDonough has dedicated his professional life to strengthening the economic and spiritual ties between our environment and ourselves. It is therefore fitting that he is being honored with the 2001 Josephine and Frank Duveneck Humanitarian Award. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in honoring this special man who has given so much to our community and our environment. We are indeed a better country, a better planet and a better people because of him.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIREFIGHTERS OF THE THIRTYMILE FIRE

HON. JAY INSLEE
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 20, 2001

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in honor of four heroic individuals from Washington State who gave their lives protecting our precious national forests. On July 10, 2001, Tom Craven, Karen Fitzpatrick, Jessica Johnson, and Devin Weaver died while battling a fire in the Okanogan National Forest. The House of Representatives, rightly so, has already passed a resolution honoring these firefighters, but I would like to share with my colleagues, and indeed the rest of the nation, a little more about these courageous young Americans whose lives were cut far too short.

Tom Craven, of Ellensburg, began working for the Forest Service as a firefighter in 1990. Tom earned 11 letters from Cle Elum High School in football, track, and basketball, and played football at the College of the Redwoods in Eureka, CA. He graduated from Central Washington University in 1997, and was the first member of the Craven family to graduate from college and obtain a degree. A devoted family man, Tom is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and his two children.

Karen Fitzpatrick, of Yakima, had just graduated from West Valley High School where she was an honor student, soccer player, and musician. She was involved in the Department of Ecology's Youth Corps, active in her church and the Kiwanis Key Club, and loved to cook, bake, and sew. Karen is survived by her parents, John and Kathie Fitzpatrick.

Jessica Johnson, of Yakima, graduated from West Valley High School in 1999 and was a junior at Central Washington University majoring in Food Science and Nutrition. She loved the outdoors and was strong in body and spirit. A volunteer at West Valley Fire Department since 1998, Jessica is survived by her parents, Jody Gray and Rick Johnson.

Devin Weaver, of Yakima, was enrolled in Yakima Valley Community College since 1999 and was planning to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Washington. He loved and enjoyed backpacking, hunting, and camping in his free time. Since the eighth grade, Devin worked for his father's silk-flower manufacturing business and always volunteered for extra work assignments. Devin is survived by his parents, Ken and Barbara Weaver.

Firefighters are on the front lines, every single day, saving lives and safeguarding our property and natural resources. While most of us would immediately flee a smoky, fire-engulfed home, building, or forest, these brave souls choose to enter these dangerous places sacrificing their safety for ours. I want to thank them personally for their bravery and their courage. Their heroism is of the same rank as so many other American patriots who have lost their lives in service to our country, Tom, Karen, Jessica, and Devin—you are in our thoughts and prayers.