

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, as I notified the House, I was unable to be in Washington on November 13, 2001 due to very important obligations in Oklahoma that evening. Unfortunately, I missed recorded votes yesterday, and I ask that the RECORD reflect that I would have voted "aye" on the following: recorded vote No. 436 on H.R. 2330 and recorded vote No. 437 on H.R. 2541.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO UNIFIED INDUSTRIES INC.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Unified Industries Inc. of Howell, Michigan for earning the title of Clean Corporate Citizen in the state of Michigan. Unified Industries' Howell facility manufactures overhead material handling systems used primarily in the automotive industry, and they have done so for nearly 50 years. Unified Industries is Michigan's 40th Clean Corporate Citizen, an honor reserved solely for those businesses which demonstrate extraordinary environmental stewardship.

The Clean Corporate Citizen program was proposed by Governor John Engler in his 1996 State of the State address. Its purpose is to encourage environmentally conscious behavior within Michigan's business community and reward those who demonstrate such behavior.

Mr. Speaker, this honor is a difficult one to earn. Participants must go beyond simply meeting standard environmental requirements. They must show themselves to be a step above the rest, by implementing strong environmental management concepts, and abiding by them in their daily operations. With this honor, Unified Industries has demonstrated their commitment to Michigan's environment.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Unified Industries, its management, and all of its employees for making our environment a priority for their company, and for setting an example for which Michigan can be proud.

AGRICULTURAL BIOTERRORISM COUNTERMEASURES ACT OF 2001

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events of September 11, 2001 have made all Americans appreciate our freedom and democracy more than ever. As we continue to get our lives back to normal, we must also realize how much has changed.

Terrorism does not have to be directed only toward people. It can be directed at our modes of transportation, our communications infrastructure, or even our food supply.

The United States Department of Agriculture along with the Food and Drug Administration is in charge of ensuring that Americans have a safe and abundant food supply.

I would like to make it absolutely clear that because of USDA and FDA Americans enjoy the benefit of the safest food supply in the world. However, USDA and FDA have not had to clearly focus on how to prevent terrorism, bioterrorism, agroterrorism or whatever term you prefer to use in describing threats to America's food supply.

Prevention is the key and long term planning should be the goal to continued food safety. Congress needs to take positive steps to help USDA perform what we ask of it. Today I am dropping a bill to help with prevention and long term planning.

This legislation authorizes money to be spent on USDA's Agriculture Research Service laboratories so that there is adequate plant and animal research being performed to combat bioterrorism. Some of USDA's most important research facilities need to be modernized in order for the U.S. to stand ready in our new fight.

The bill also provides funds to the Oklahoma City Counter Terrorism Institute for research to make sure that USDA, the Department of Justice, and other law enforcement and emergency preparedness organizations cooperate and have the proper techniques in place in the event of bioterrorism events. Further, Oklahoma State is authorized to receive a grant to establish a food safety research center.

The Secretary of Agriculture will develop rapid response field test kits that can be quickly deployed to State and local agencies to determine if an act of bioterrorism has occurred. These are intended to quickly discover and confirm outbreaks of plant or animal diseases, pathogens, or other bioterrorism agents.

The intramural agricultural bioterrorism research and development section of the bill will make USDA's ARS programs focus on enhancing regulatory agencies response time, encouraging academic and private sector partners to work together to maximize research benefits, strengthening linkages with the intelligence community to learn what research needs are most important and encouraging ARS to work with international organizations to control the spread of plant and animal diseases.

The consortium for countermeasures against agricultural bioterrorism is truly valuable. Those colleges and universities that turn out animal and plant doctors will coordinate with Federal Agencies such as USDA to develop the long term program needed to combat bioterrorism. Furthermore, competitive grants will be provided through USDA that are directed toward the protection of the domestic food supply.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will be authorized to receive more funds to increase inspections at points of origin and to improve surveillance at points of entry. They will also be required to develop new and better techniques working with State

and local agencies to control the outbreaks of plant and animal diseases.

The Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) will be charged with enhancing its ability to inspect the safety of meat and poultry products. Like APHIS, FSIS will be expected to work with State and local agencies on creating the best possible means of sharing information and technology in order to reach the best results possible.

This legislation is designed for the long-term benefit of producers and consumers alike.

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD GERAGHTY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Deputy Chief Edward Geraghty of Rockville Centre, NY. On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, Deputy Chief Geraghty and many of his fellow firefighters lost their lives while trying to save victims of the World Trade Center terrorist bombing. Ed and his men from Battalion 9 quickly responded to the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, and they rushed into the bombed buildings to help those trapped inside.

An unknown number of people were saved by firefighters like Ed, who received the posthumous promotion from battalion chief to deputy chief, retroactive to September 10.

More than a thousand mourners gathered at St. Agnes Cathedral to honor Ed on Thursday, October 25. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his three sons, Connor, 14, James, 11, and Colin, 4. Ed also leaves behind his father, Jim, a retired FDNY captain, his mother, Norma, his sisters, Lynn, Janet, and Maureen, and his brothers, Steve and Timmy, both New York City firefighters.

I first met Ed's wife when she was a little girl. Mary grew up across the street from my husband Dennis and I, and as she got older, she began to babysit for our son, Kevin. She deserved the best, and that is exactly what she got when she met Ed. He was a true family man who coached his sons' soccer and baseball teams. Nothing came before his family. He also made countless contributions to the community of Rockville Centre, like starting an infamous running club. On Christmas, Ed's favorite holiday, he volunteered for the Adopt-A-Family program, which distributed gifts to less fortunate children.

Ed joined the New York City Fire Department in November 1978, and he served as a volunteer in both Elmont and Baldwin. Fire safety skills and procedures were important to Ed. He received his masters degree in fire science from John Jay College, and he designed a national safety program called Back to the Basics.

Ed's oldest son Connor eulogized his father with the following, "One goal that I am setting for myself is to follow in your footsteps to be such a great man to my family, my community and the nation just like you." I believe Connor exemplified his father's heroism and courage