

over the past 15 years, from the reform of the savings and loan industry (FIRREA), to the financial modernization bill (Gramm-Leach-Bliley), to debt relief for the poorest countries in the world.

As my colleagues know, the job of a committee staff director is one of the most demanding on Capitol Hill. It requires assuaging the easily bruised egos of the Members, administering a multimillion dollar budget, managing a 50-member professional and support staff, and coordinating with leadership. All this must be accomplished while having at one's finger tips an encyclopedic knowledge of both current statute and the legislative process.

Nobody did it better than Tony.

A consummate professional, Tony was respected by both sides of the aisle and revered by the staff he led by precept and example. A person of grace and good humor, he gave of himself unstintingly to this institution and in so doing to serving the people of the United States.

The House needs the likes of Tony Cole and he will be sorely missed.

It is with profound gratitude that I wish Tony all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

DEFENSE FUNDING

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, throughout our nation's history, our armed forces fought bravely to preserve and protect the liberties we cherish. As of late, we have done much to recognize the accomplishments of the generation that fought the Second World War, and rightly so. But we should not forget the equally impressive job our military forces are doing today. They faced down aggression in Iraq; restored democracy in Haiti; and ended ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia. In short, they have much to be proud of.

However, we are faced with some serious concerns. This increase in deployments and operations occurred during a time of military downsizing. It is clear to many we cannot, in good faith, ask our forces to be engaged around the world when they are stretched so thinly.

We have no choice but to embrace this opportunity and demonstrate our commitment to our military personnel. In this time of peace and budget surpluses, we must prepare for the threats that loom in the not-too-distant future by modernizing our military forces and investing in programs to recruit and retain quality military personnel.

We have done a great deal to ensure that our military forces are the best in the world, but the world is changing before our eyes—we need to do more. As we move through the budget process, let us show our support for these brave men and women by passing a responsible defense budget.

THE WAGE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Workers Access to Accountable Governance in Employment (WAGE) Act. This bill takes a first step toward restoring the rights of freedom of association and equal protection under the law to millions of American workers who are currently denied these rights by federal law.

The WAGE Act simply gives workers the same rights to hold decertification elections as they have to hold certification elections. Currently, while workers in this country are given the right to organize and have union certification elections each year, provided that 30 percent or more of the workforce wish to have them, workers are not given an equal right to have a decertification election, even if the same requirements are met.

As a result of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) created contract-bar rule, if 30 percent or more of a bargaining unit wants to hold an election to decertify a union as their representative, they are prohibited from doing so unless the contract is in at least its third year.

In other words, it does not matter whether or not workers want to continue to have the union as their representative. It does not matter whether or not the union represents the will of the workers. It does not even matter if the majority of the current workforce voted for union representation. They must accept that representation.

Mr. Speaker, this is absurd. The lowest criminal in this country has the right to change their representative in the courtroom. Yet millions of hardworking, law-abiding citizens cannot change their representation in the workplace.

As a result of the passage of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) in 1935 and the action taken by the federally-funded NLRB, workers can be forced to pay union dues or fees for unwanted representation as a condition of employment. Federal law may even force workers to accept union representation against the will of the majority of workers.

Talk about taxation without representation! Mr. Speaker, the WAGE Act takes a step toward returning a freedom to workers that they never should have lost in the first place: the right to choose their own representative. I urge my colleagues to support the nonpartisan, pro-worker WAGE Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOUNT WASHINGTON AMERICAN LEGION POST 484

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of the

Mount Washington American Legion Post 484, which celebrated its 80th anniversary on January 21, 2001.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veterans organization. The Mount Washington American Legion Post 484 opened its chapter 80 years ago, and, since then, it has carried out its mission—to defend and teach the principles of democracy; to uphold the law of the land; to foster patriotism; to venerate, serve and support our veterans; to instill a sense of obligation to the community, state and nation; and to guard the rights and freedoms provided to us by the Constitution.

Post 484 has made a remarkable difference in the Cincinnati community by helping to improve the quality of life for our veterans and for others in the Second Congressional District of Ohio. Post 484 currently has about 400 members, many of whom have dedicated their time at Veterans Administration Hospital and Hospice volunteer programs. Its service also includes: volunteer work in our local schools; donations of blood to the Red Cross; environmental protection and crime prevention programs; and fundraising for crisis intervention and family support programs. Post 484 also has raised funds for the Americanism Youth Conference; the Spirit of Youth Fund; flag etiquette and citizenship programs; the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America; and anti-substance abuse, child safety as well as literacy programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Mount Washington American Legion Post 484 reminds us that one of the best ways to help individuals and communities is through the hard work and dedication of our local volunteers. These volunteers, who have courageously defended our country, have exhibited an unrelenting service to our country. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Post 484 and its members on 80 years of superb service to the Cincinnati area and to our nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES E. CRIST

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles E. Crist. I have had the pleasure of working with Chuck for the past five years in his position as Deputy for Program and Project Management with the St. Paul District of the Corps of Engineers. Quite simply put, he is one of the finest public servants I have had the opportunity to work with.

Throughout his time with the St. Paul District, Chuck has stood out as an individual who could tackle complex, sensitive water resource issues. He is a man of great integrity, with a deep commitment to the issues he works on. His contributions to the Corps are numerous, but one that will always be recognized is his efforts to make the Corps a truly responsive agency to the needs of the communities it serves.

During the devastating flood of 1997, Chuck worked to coordinate emergency response