

The award encompasses several categories of management—leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, information and analysis, human resources, process management and business results.

Patton said officers in Washington were particularly impressed with the local office's newly developed risk assessment plan.

"We needed that information after 9-11," he told the members "When emergency situations arise, we need a frame of reference to measure our use of personnel, money and assets. You have no idea what your plan is doing for us back in Washington."

Patton compared the accomplishments of the local unit—one of the smallest of 45 marine safety offices nationwide—to the heroics of the outmanned and outgunned crew of the "tiny, dinky" revenue cutter Eagle, which was driven ashore in Long Island Sound in October 1814 in an encounter with the British brig Dispatch. The crew dragged their few weapons up a bluff and continued the battle, using log books for cartridges and returning the enemy's small shells that had lodged in the Eagle's hull.

Cmdr. Lincoln Stroh, commanding officer of the local office, also honored U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member James Perry of Huntington, the local office's communications officer, for improving its pager, cell phone and voice mail systems.

Stroh also praised Perry for working extra hours to help the office meet increased port safety and security responsibilities following the terrorist attacks.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GAYLE POTTER'S EIGHTH GRADE CLASS AT DURAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of eighth grade students from Durand Middle School in Durand, Michigan. These students along with their teacher, Gayle Potter, have taken the initiative to send to my office their own ideas for helping rebuild vital areas of our economy after the tragic events of September 11th.

The events of September 11th were meant to create fear in every American, especially our children. Yet, the terrorists who carried out those evil acts have succeeded in only strengthening our resolve as Americans. It is also clear, through these students' great example, that our nation's greatest resource, our youth, is as strong, brave, and as bright as they have ever been.

Mr. Speaker, this group of students truly exemplifies the spirit of all Americans at this time in our history. They have set a wonderful example that every American can follow. I ask that my colleagues join with me in saluting their devotion to our country and its continued prosperity.

WISHING WELL TO MR. NORMAN BRINKER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a great Dallas-Fort Worth resident. Mr. Norman Brinker is a trailblazer and trendsetter. He has been a pioneer in business and a great friend to our community.

There is perhaps no more amazing restaurateur than Mr. Brinker. He revolutionized the combination of good food, reasonable cost and great customer service through his Steak and Ale restaurant chain. He built the chain to 100 units before The Pillsbury Company, of which Mr. Brinker later became Chairman, bought it.

As Chairman of The Pillsbury Company, he oversaw the world's second largest restaurant organization, presiding over sales of \$4 billion. Never one to rest on his laurels, Mr. Brinker soon ventured out on his own again, buying Dallas based chain Chili's. Under his leadership, the 23 operating units of Chili's became Brinker International, a world restaurant power with hundreds of operating units and over \$2 billion in sales. Brinker International now owns Chili's, On the Border, Macaroni Grill, Cozymel's, Corner Bakery, Big Bowl and Eatzi's restaurant chains.

Brinker International is an extraordinarily important corporate citizen of the Dallas-Fort Worth area, but just as important is Mr. Brinker's leadership in the industry and society. The leaders of Outback Steakhouse, Houston's, Red Lobster and Boston Market all spent time under Mr. Brinker's tutelage. In addition, he has been a trendsetter in philanthropy, encouraging entrepreneurs to pair their financial donations with donations of time, and helping to start the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation with his wife Nancy.

Mr. Speaker, Norman Brinker has relinquished his position as Chairman of Brinker International and is engaged in a new challenge—defeating his own cancer ailment. As he approaches this new challenge with the same zeal as the other challenges in his life, Dallas-Fort Worth looks forward to his leadership for years to come. I ask that the Congress and the country join the citizens of Dallas-Fort Worth in wishing him well.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, weeks ago the House acted on President Bush's request for an economic stimulus package. We knew then what has now been confirmed—America is in a recession. And, here in New Jersey, the economic slowdown has been especially acute as many New Jersey residents lost their jobs, many as a result of the tragic events of September 11, and others because

our economic slowdown began well before September. First and foremost, we need to help the victims and families of the terrorist attacks and the many workers who have lost their jobs. And, with the \$40 billion in emergency assistance already approved by Congress, President Bush and his Administration are doing just that. Under the emergency federal assistance provided to our state, workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the attacks are eligible for unemployment and health insurance for up to 26 weeks—that's through at least March of next year. And these benefits have been extended to the self-employed and others who are not otherwise eligible for this assistance.

After addressing these immediate, emergency needs, the House acted quickly to take steps to get our economy moving again. Those steps focused on helping to restore consumer confidence and encouraging private sector investment and expansion to help replace lost jobs and to add more, new jobs. The House has acted on just such a plan. My colleagues in the other body must act now on an economic security bill to help our economy, and those who have lost their jobs.

While most Americans heard recent news reports that said our nation is now "officially" in a recession, it didn't take a headline in the newspaper or "Breaking News" on CNN for far too many New Jerseyans to realize that these are hard times in America. Even before September 11 changed our lives forever, layoffs at some of New Jersey's largest, most established companies, like Lucent, AT&T and Honeywell, for example, were taking their toll. Alarming, 27,000 jobs were lost in the first nine months of this year in New Jersey. Our state's unemployment rate rose to 4.8 percent in October, up from 4.5 percent in September.

It's time for the other body to act and I call on the other body to reject their plans to expand federal programs and increase federal spending beyond our budget agreement with the Administration. More government spending, to my mind, will not serve to stimulate our economy.

Let's face it—the only answer for job loss is to create new jobs. And with the exception of the newly federalized baggage screeners, the Federal Government does not create jobs or economic activity. In fact, the more we "grow" government, the more dollars we take out of the private sector, away from the taxpayer and out of our economy. That is why the House version of the economic stimulus provides rapid tax relief to businesses, large and small, to continue to invest, to purchase equipment, expand production and promote job hiring. While some have criticized the House bill as corporate welfare, we need companies to stop layoffs and hire again! Our proposal is critical to the success of New Jersey business. According to the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, even before the September 11 terror attacks, New Jersey employers as a group had lost their confidence in our economy. Two-thirds of 1,600 employers participating in the Association's 2002 Business Outlook Survey said their industries were already in a recession or heading into one at the time of the attacks. We've got to turn that thinking around and provide the incentives to New Jersey's companies to start growing their businesses again.