The die was already cast, however, and the Carter Administration (having already de- clined to name public members) simply let the Assay Commission whither away until, in 1980, it expired with the passage of Public Law 96-209 (March 14, 1980). The irony is that, for a time, the Mint was once again producing precious metal coinage. As the new millennium is on the verge of com- mencement, a movement initiated by former commissioners (most of whom are members of the Old Time Assay Commissioner’s Soci- ety, OTACS for short), has talked about pro- posing revitalization of this old commission. There are reasons why it could succeed, and some reasons why it should not. There are a number of reasons why the Assay Commission ought to be reconstituted, and any proposal to do so will require a legislative initiative in Con- gress. Toward that goal, I was asked by an ad hoc advocacy group to try my hand at it. If you’ve got an interest in the Assay Commis- sion, perhaps you’d care to send a note to your Congressman or Senator (U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. zip for the House 20515. Senate 20510) with a copy of this article, and the draft legislation. You can encourage them to do the rest.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN ROMIG OF ROYAL OAK, MI

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Kathleen Romig of Royal Oak, Michigan who has been selected as one of the 12 George J. Mitchell Scholars for 2001. Kathleen was iden- tified in a nationwide competition organized by the United States-Ireland Alliance, a non-par- tisan, non-profit organization based in Wash- ington, DC.

The scholarship is named in honor of Sen- ator Mitchell’s contribution to the Northern Ire- land peace process. Scholars are award- ed to individuals between the ages of 18 and 30 who have demonstrated intellectual distinct- ion, leadership potential and commitment to community service.

I first met Kathleen in 1996 in my congres- sional office where she was introduced to pub- lic service and social action. She was one of our youngest interns, an eager learner, a fine writer, and a compassionate young woman.

Kathleen is a Michigan State University sen- ior and the University’s first recipient of the George J. Mitchell Scholarship. During the one-year program, she will pursue a master’s degree in social policy at the University Col- lege in Cork. She will have formal courses of study, seminars and independent research in her thesis area of social policy.

In her application essay, Kathleen wrote,

There are alternative ways of viewing the problems of juvenile justice and alternative methods of solving them. Some of the most con- cerning are being discussed and tested in Ire- land and Northern Ireland right now. One such alternative is restorative justice, a fas- cinating approach that seeks to balance the needs of offenders, victims and communities.

After graduation, Kathleen hopes to work in Washington, DC, and continue her interest in juvenile justice dealing with the plight of dis- advantaged children.

Kathleen is also the recipient of the 2000– 2001 Jeffrey Cole Excellence Award, the Wal- ter and Pauline Adams Scholarship, the Gor- don and Norma Geyer Public Policy Intern- ship, and the Royal Oak Rotary Club and Oakland County MSU Alumni Association Scholarships. She is a member of the MSU Honors College, Phi Beta Kappa and a Na- tional Merit Scholar.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kathleen Romig, a excep- tional young woman who has a passion for learning and a commitment to social justice. I wish her good health, happiness, and success as she embarks on new challenges as a George J. Mitchell Scholar.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BALDWIN

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speak- er, the First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin on St. Luke’s Place will celebrate its 75th an- niversary on Sunday, May 20, 2001. The church’s history and the congregation’s con- tributions to Baldwin and the Long Island com- munity are remarkable and noteworthy.

A new church became a necessity in No- vember 1923. A development of nearly 300 homes had been built north of the railroad, but the five churches in Baldwin were located south of the railroad. The expanding commu- nity recognized the need for a new church, and they began to use the Fire Department on Baldwin Avenue for Sunday School and church worship services. On May 14th, the church was recognized by the Brooklyn-Nas- sau Presbytery with a charter membership of fifty-nine people.

The congregation and church building went through many changes over the years. In 1926, the congregation held its first worship service in its own portable “building,” which had been moved from Queens to Baldwin. This became too crowded for the growing membership, and the cornerstone for a new church building was laid on November 30, 1930. The St. Luke’s Place building was com- pleted in 1931. Although badly damaged by a fire in 1940, it remains the central structure of the church to this day.

By early 1960, membership was nearing 900. An education building had been built 10 years earlier to accommodate the growing Sunday School. Many organized groups were founded for both adults and children, and church facili- ties were being used by community groups. A new sanctuary was added in 1961, and con- siderable renovations to the original building were made. A church member opened a full- time state licensed nursery school, now in the thirty-seventh year of operation.

Today, the First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin at 717 Lake’s Place is a mini-community of buildings that serves the community not only as a Christian congregation, but as a meeting place for many non-religious groups such as the Girl and Boy Scouts, and Alco- holics and Gamblers Anonymous. The nursery school provides pre-school education for sev- enty-five three and four year olds.

I congratulate the entire congregation, past and present, on their remarkable achievement and contribution to Long Island.

TRIBUTE TO AUSTIN “BUSTER” AND DELORES WORKING

HON. BILL LUTHER
OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity today to recognize Austin “Buster” Working and his wife Delores for their hard work and dedication on behalf of Minnesota’s veterans.

Buster and Delores were recently chosen to lead Pup Tent 11, the Honor Degree of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Their long years of proudly serving Minnesota’s veterans make them uniquely qualified to hold the important positions of Commander and President. They have continuously served our veterans with dedication and commitment. For example, dur- ing the past 20 years, Buster has organized over 18,000 hospital visits to Minnesota vet- erans. Delores has baked and delivered over 31,000 cookies to Minnesota Veterans homes. These tireless efforts, paired with enthusiastic selfless service and a willingness to invest personal time and energy, serve as an out- standing example of the spirit of volunteerism that we should foster today.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of my constituents. Buster and Delores are serving those who served our country. I can think of no better way to show our gratitude to those who risked their lives for our freedom. I thank them for their service.

THE BIKE COMMUTER BILL

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER
OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, Congressman Mark FOLEY and I am intro- ducing legislation to extend commuter benefits to bicyclists. This important legislation includes bicycles in the definition of transportation cov- ered by the qualified transportation fringe ben- efit.

Currently, employers may offer a Transpor- tation Fringe Benefit to their employees for commuting to work. Employees who take ad- vantage of this benefit may receive a tax ex- emption benefit totaling $175 for participating in qualified parking plans or $65 for transit or car-pool expenses. Employees may also opt to take cash compensation instead, which is subject to employment taxes. The Bike Com- muter Bill would extend these same Transpor- tation Fringe Benefits to employees who choose to commute by bicycle.

It’s time to level the playing field for bicycle commuters. At a time when communities