The die was already cast, however, and the Carter Administration (having already declined to name public members) simply let the Assay Commission whither away until, in 1980, it expired with the passage of Public Law 96-206 (March 14, 1980). The irony is that, only a short time later, the Mint was once again producing precious metal coinage. As the new millennium is on the verge of commencement, a movement initiated by former commissioners (most of whom are members of the Old Time Assay Commissioner’s Society, O-TACS for short), has talked about proposing revitalization of this old commission. There are reasons why it could succeed, and some reasons why it should. 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 Congress. 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 Commission, 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.

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There are alternative ways of viewing the problems of juvenile justice and alternative methods of solving it. Some of the most compelling are being discussed and tested in Ireland and Northern Ireland right now. One such alternative is restorative justice, a fascinating 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 disadvantaged children.

Kathleen is also the recipient of the 2000–2001 Jeffrey Cole Excellence Award, the Walther and Pauline Adams Scholarship, the Gordon and Norma Geyer Public Policy Internship, 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 National Merit Scholar.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kathleen Romig, a exceptional 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. Speaker, the First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin on St. Luke’s Place will celebrate its 75th anniversary on Sunday, May 20, 2001. The church’s history and the congregation’s contributions to Baldwin and the Long Island community are remarkable and noteworthy.

A new church became a necessity in November 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 community 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-Nassau 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 completed in 1931. Although badly damaged by fire in 1940, it remains the central structure of the church to this day.

By 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 facilities were being used by community groups. A new sanctuary was added in 1961, and considerable 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 Luke’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 Alcoholics and Gamblers Anonymous. The nursery school provides pre-school education for seventy-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, during the past 20 years, Buster has organized over 18,000 hospital visits to Minnesota veterans. 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 outstanding 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 are introducing legislation to extend commuter benefits to bicyclists. This important legislation includes bicycles in the definition of transportation covered by the qualified transportation fringe benefit.

Currently, employers may offer a Transportation Fringe Benefit to their employees for commuting to work. Employees who take advantage of this benefit may receive a tax exemption 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 Commuter Bill would extend these same Transportation 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