HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 29, 2001
Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an individual, Ernest Pepples, for his significant efforts on behalf of a valuable yet ever more challenged industry. Ernie has had a distinguished and honorable career within the global and U.S. tobacco industry and deserves the recognition of Congress at the time of his retirement.

Mr. Ernest Pepples joined Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation in 1972 and was appointed vice president and general counsel and became a member of the company’s board of directors in 1975. He was named senior vice president in 1980. At the time of his retirement, he was responsible for the company’s legislative representation and government affairs efforts including its relations with Congress.

Prior to joining Brown & Williamson, he was partner in the Louisville, Kentucky, law firm of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs. A native of Louisville, Mr. Pepples is a graduate of Yale University and the University of Virginia Law School. He also is a member of the American, Kentucky, and Louisville Bar Associations.

Throughout his career, Ernie has served in leadership positions for a variety of boards and councils including the board of directors of the Tobacco Merchants Association of Princeton, New Jersey, and the Kentucky Tobacco Research Board of Lexington, Kentucky.

Now, in recognition of his retirement from Brown & Williamson and the tobacco industry after 30 years of service, I believe he should be duly recognized by this body for his integrity and personal efforts to find common ground on many difficult issues. Indeed, Ernie developed a reputation as a leading expert on regulatory and business issues involving not only tobacco manufacturers but also tobacco growers, suppliers, consumers, wholesalers and retailers. My district in Georgia has been a direct beneficiary of Ernie’s talent.

It is with this background that I say thank you Ernie for your dedication and service over the years and congratulate him on an outstanding career. He has worked to build his empire in the apparel field.

HONORING OSCAR FELDENKREIS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 29, 2001
Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is my very great pleasure to warmly congratulate Oscar Feldenkrais on being honored for receiving the National Community Service Award by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Oscar Feldenkrais has become a successful entrepreneur and civic leader in the South Florida community. Following the wonderful example of success established by his father, Simon Wiesenthal Center Trustee and Miami leader, George Feldenkrais, Oscar diligently worked to build his empire in the apparel field. He began his career while still a student in high school, first in retail sales and then working at the headquarters of Supreme International, the company his father started. He has been President and Chief Operating Officer of Perry Ellis International since 1992.

Oscar is actively involved with the State of Israel Bonds for which he has served as president of the Cuban Hebrew Division. He has devoted his time and attention to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Temple Menorah and the Lehman Day School and is currently the chairman of the Florida Israeli Chamber of Commerce.

First and foremost of all his accomplishments, he is the proud and loving father of three beautiful daughters (Jennifer, Erica and Stephanie) and is deeply devoted to his wife, Ellen. I want to join with his family, friends, and colleagues in celebrating this outstanding honor and wish him every future success.

A TRIBUTE TO PHILIP COYLE,
PENTAGON TESTING CHIEF

HON. JERRY LEWIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 29, 2001
Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Mr. Philip E. Coyle III, who recently left government service after six years as Director of Operational Test and Evaluation in the Department of Defense. Since he was confirmed in 1994, Mr. Coyle provided the leadership that sought to ensure that our men and women in uniform can feel confident in their safety while using the increasingly complex and deadly weapons systems being developed for the 21st Century.

Before joining the Pentagon in 1994, Mr. Coyle spent 33 years in service at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, where he was involved in the nuclear weapons testing program. From 1981 to 1984, he was named Associate Director for Test, and from 1987–93 he served as Laboratory Associate Director and Deputy to the Laboratory Director. He was also Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs in the Department of Energy under President Carter.

Since taking over the chief tester job, Mr. Coyle made a reputation for being pragmatic, balanced, knowledgeable, and candid. He has been called upon to effectively test jet fighters that can turn tighter, fly faster and be more stealthy than anything produced by this nation in the past. He has worked with the designers of our National Missile Defense program to devise tests that can gauge the success rate of a system that is often referred to as “hitting a bullet with a bullet.” And he has helped ensure that a myriad of other planes, ships and land vehicles operate as effectively and safely as possible, both during training and in actual engagements.

The American military is the most advanced, strongest and best trained in history. Our soldiers, sailors, Marines and pilots are always ready to put their lives on the line to defend our nation and to protect freedom around the world. Their dedication and professionalism is respected and emulated by friend and foe alike. To a very great degree, their confidence in taking up the cause of freedom is based on their faith in the equipment we have provided them. And that faith is based on the knowledge that Mr. Coyle and his testers have done everything in their power to ensure that this equipment will respond when it is most needed.

Mr. Speaker, Philip Coyle has been named the recipient of the “Beyond the Headlines” award by the Project on Government Oversight public interest group, honoring his years of public service behind the scenes. His dedication to the safety and success of those who defend our nation surely makes him deserving of such an award. I ask my colleagues to join me in similarly recognizing him as a valuable public servant, and wish him well in his future endeavors.