

Channahon FPD as part of my 11th Congressional District. I look forward to serving and working with them in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other institutions in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefited and strengthened America's communities.

CONGRATULATING PRINCIPAL
MICHAEL J. OTTO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, it is with much pride that I rise today to congratulate one of Missouri's educators. With emphasis placed on the need to reform our public schools and ensure that our children receive quality instruction, it pleases me to know that Graden Elementary School is on the right path. I ask that you join me in congratulating Principal Michael J. Otto, recently named a recipient of the 2001 National Distinguished Principals award.

The U.S. Department of Education, along with the National Association of Elementary School Principals, began this program in 1984 to honor those principals that exemplify the vital leadership necessary to guide our school communities. Education Secretary Paige commented that, "Principals today—more than ever before—are critical leaders in the effort to improve America's public schools. I applaud these outstanding principals for their dedication, achievements, tirelessness, and leadership. I look forward to working with principals across the nation . . . to improve the performance of all students so that no child is left behind." I could not agree more with Secretary Paige's comments. I find it admirable that the recipients were nominated by their peers, further demonstrating the effects of their commitment to educational excellence.

I am honored to represent a man who has given so much of himself to provide our schoolchildren not only with excellent instruction, but also inspiration. Again, I congratulate Principal Michael J. Otto and commend him for his diligent work on behalf of our schoolchildren.

RECOGNIZING ROB ATWILL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rob Atwill for being named an Extension Specialist Award finalist by the Friends of Agricultural Extension. The Friends of Agricultural Extension will recognize Rob at their annual awards dinner.

Rob is a Veterinary Medicine Extension Specialist at the U.C. Veterinary Medical Training & Research Center in Tulare, CA. He is conducting research on the subject of "The Interface Between Water Quality, Animal Agriculture, and Human Health—with particular emphasis on the fate and distribution of waterborne pathogens from animal agricultural systems." Rob's efforts to develop responsible

data to determine the extent and risk of microbial movement from dairy lagoons and other such systems has been invaluable to our livestock industry. His work has helped develop responsible handling techniques and provide factual insight on which to base regulatory guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Rob Atwill for being named an Extension Specialist Award finalist by the Friends of Agricultural Extension. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Rob Atwill many more years of continued success.

SCHOOLBUS SAFETY ACT OF 2001

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Schoolbus Safety Act of 2001, legislation designed to close a loophole in federal regulations that can threaten the safety of children who ride a bus to and from school.

As my colleagues may know, the sale of new 15-passenger vans to carry school-age children has been banned since 1974 because they do not have the same safety features as school buses and because the vans are more likely to roll over when carrying many passengers. However, current regulations allow schools to purchase used 15-passenger vans—the loophole my legislation addresses.

School buses and 15-passenger vans are radically different vehicles. A school bus must meet numerous mandated federal safety standards. School buses have multiple horizontal and vertical steel beams bonded together in such a manner that essentially wraps the passengers in a cage of steel. The inside and outside of the bus is further reinforced by thick sheets of steel.

A school bus is generally heavier than a comparable sized passenger vehicle and has exit doors, superior roof structure, an interior aisle, significant interior seat padding, driver visibility, fuel system integrity, and a far superior center of gravity and stability. In addition school buses have special warning light and pedestrian control systems and are generally painted a bright yellow, which are all significant safety features.

The traditional 15-passenger van is structurally and generally a significantly different vehicle. These vans were originally rated as "light trucks" and, as such, were not required to meet passenger safety standards. Therefore, the area behind the driver is anticipated only to carry cargo and does not have side bar protection which accompanies normal passenger vehicles, including mini vans.

The numbers tell the whole story. When evaluating the relative safety of all passenger vehicles and school buses per road mile, studies show that school buses are markedly safer vehicles. In 1994, there were 21,813 deaths in passenger vehicles, which translates to .86 deaths every 100 million miles. In school buses, there were two occupant deaths, which translate into .005 deaths per 100 million road miles. In other words, passenger vehicles per road mile had a fatality rate 170 times higher than school buses.

School buses are the safest form of mechanized transportation that exists. School buses

are 34 times safer than train travel and 4 times safer than commercial aviation.

My legislation removes the nearly 30 year old loophole in the federal regulations that allows used vans to be purchased while new vans are banned. In addition, this bill extends the ban from sale of vans to leasing, renting and buying, thereby making the buyers accountable as well as the seller. These changes will insure that the intent of the 1974 law is finally realized. The bill also would strengthen the penalties on those who violate this important safety provision.

In light of numerous high profile cases involving colleges and universities, my bill extends the definition of "schools" for these provisions to include "postsecondary" institutions.

The legislation raises the prescribed penalty for breaking this law from "not more than \$1000" to "not more than \$25000", thereby giving the enforcement agencies something to make it worth their while to pursue. This provision is important because from 1974 until 1997, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which had responsibility for administering the law, did not initiate one single enforcement proceeding in the entire country.

Finally, the bill mandates that fines collected under this legislation would be pooled into an account under the Secretary of Transportation for use in enforcing these provisions.

Mr. Speaker, as a nation, we long ago decided that the means by which we transport our children to and from school and school-related activities, should be as safe as possible. This bill will go a long way in ensuring that safety for our children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, as I notified the House, I was unable to be in Washington on November 13, 2001 due to very important obligations in Oklahoma that evening. Unfortunately, I missed recorded votes yesterday, and I ask that the RECORD reflect that I would have voted "aye" on the following: recorded vote No. 436 on H.R. 2330 and recorded vote No. 437 on H.R. 2541.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO UNIFIED
INDUSTRIES INC.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Unified Industries Inc. of Howell, Michigan for earning the title of Clean Corporate Citizen in the state of Michigan. Unified Industries' Howell facility manufactures overhead material handling systems used primarily in the automotive industry, and they have done so for nearly 50 years. Unified Industries is Michigan's 40th Clean Corporate Citizen, an honor reserved solely for those businesses which demonstrate extraordinary environmental stewardship.

The Clean Corporate Citizen program was proposed by Governor John Engler in his 1996 State of the State address. Its purpose is to encourage environmentally conscious behavior within Michigan's business community and reward those who demonstrate such behavior.

Mr. Speaker, this honor is a difficult one to earn. Participants must go beyond simply meeting standard environmental requirements. They must show themselves to be a step above the rest, by implementing strong environmental management concepts, and abiding by them in their daily operations. With this honor, Unified Industries has demonstrated their commitment to Michigan's environment.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Unified Industries, its management, and all of its employees for making our environment a priority for their company, and for setting an example for which Michigan can be proud.

AGRICULTURAL BIOTERRORISM COUNTERMEASURES ACT OF 2001

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events of September 11, 2001 have made all Americans appreciate our freedom and democracy more than ever. As we continue to get our lives back to normal, we must also realize how much has changed.

Terrorism does not have to be directed only toward people. It can be directed at our modes of transportation, our communications infrastructure, or even our food supply.

The United States Department of Agriculture along with the Food and Drug Administration is in charge of ensuring that Americans have a safe and abundant food supply.

I would like to make it absolutely clear that because of USDA and FDA Americans enjoy the benefit of the safest food supply in the world. However, USDA and FDA have not had to clearly focus on how to prevent terrorism, bioterrorism, agroterrorism or whatever term you prefer to use in describing threats to America's food supply.

Prevention is the key and long term planning should be the goal to continued food safety. Congress needs to take positive steps to help USDA perform what we ask of it. Today I am dropping a bill to help with prevention and long term planning.

This legislation authorizes money to be spent on USDA's Agriculture Research Service laboratories so that there is adequate plant and animal research being performed to combat bioterrorism. Some of USDA's most important research facilities need to be modernized in order for the U.S. to stand ready in our new fight.

The bill also provides funds to the Oklahoma City Counter Terrorism Institute for research to make sure that USDA, the Department of Justice, and other law enforcement and emergency preparedness organizations cooperate and have the proper techniques in place in the event of bioterrorism events. Further, Oklahoma State is authorized to receive a grant to establish a food safety research center.

The Secretary of Agriculture will develop rapid response field test kits that can be quickly deployed to State and local agencies to determine if an act of bioterrorism has occurred. These are intended to quickly discover and confirm outbreaks of plant or animal diseases, pathogens, or other bioterrorism agents.

The intramural agricultural bioterrorism research and development section of the bill will make USDA's ARS programs focus on enhancing regulatory agencies response time, encouraging academic and private sector partners to work together to maximize research benefits, strengthening linkages with the intelligence community to learn what research needs are most important and encouraging ARS to work with international organizations to control the spread of plant and animal diseases.

The consortium for countermeasures against agricultural bioterrorism is truly valuable. Those colleges and universities that turn out animal and plant doctors will coordinate with Federal Agencies such as USDA to develop the long term program needed to combat bioterrorism. Furthermore, competitive grants will be provided through USDA that are directed toward the protection of the domestic food supply.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will be authorized to receive more funds to increase inspections at points of origin and to improve surveillance at points of entry. They will also be required to develop new and better techniques working with State and local agencies to control the outbreaks of plant and animal diseases.

The Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) will be charged with enhancing its ability to inspect the safety of meat and poultry products. Like APHIS, FSIS will be expected to work with State and local agencies on creating the best possible means of sharing information and technology in order to reach the best results possible.

This legislation is designed for the long-term benefit of producers and consumers alike.

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD GERAGHTY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Deputy Chief Edward Geraghty of Rockville Centre, NY. On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, Deputy Chief Geraghty and many of his fellow firefighters lost their lives while trying to save victims of the World Trade Center terrorist bombing. Ed and his men from Battalion 9 quickly responded to the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, and they rushed into the bombed buildings to help those trapped inside.

An unknown number of people were saved by firefighters like Ed, who received the posthumous promotion from battalion chief to deputy chief, retroactive to September 10.

More than a thousand mourners gathered at St. Agnes Cathedral to honor Ed on Thursday, October 25. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his three sons, Connor, 14, James, 11, and Colin, 4. Ed also leaves behind his father,

Jim, a retired FDNY captain, his mother, Norma, his sisters, Lynn, Janet, and Maureen, and his brothers, Steve and Timmy, both New York City firefighters.

I first met Ed's wife when she was a little girl. Mary grew up across the street from my husband Dennis and I, and as she got older, she began to babysit for our son, Kevin. She deserved the best, and that is exactly what she got when she met Ed. He was a true family man who coached his sons' soccer and baseball teams. Nothing came before his family. He also made countless contributions to the community of Rockville Centre, like starting an infamous running club. On Christmas, Ed's favorite holiday, he volunteered for the Adopt-A-Family program, which distributed gifts to less fortunate children.

Ed joined the New York City Fire Department in November 1978, and he served as a volunteer in both Elmont and Baldwin. Fire safety skills and procedures were important to Ed. He received his masters degree in fire science from John Jay College, and he designed a national safety program called Back to the Basics.

Ed's oldest son Connor eulogized his father with the following, "One goal that I am setting for myself is to follow in your footsteps to be such a great man to my family, my community and the nation just like you." I believe Connor exemplified his father's heroism and courage by circulating a petition to establish a National Firefighters Day on September 11 in honor of his father and all other firefighters.

Today, I honor Ed Geraghty's memory. I know firefighters like Ed are heroes every day of their lives, and they leave a lasting impression all those who cross their paths. Ed's conviction and drive to help those in need is a testament to his family, friends, and coworkers. I know Mary, and I have seen the difference he has made in her life. I know the lessons he taught his sons will live on.

Thank you Connor, for making a difference.

IN HONOR OF PAUL WARNKE

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor the late Paul Warnke, who worked tirelessly to protect our country from the danger of nuclear war and to promote reductions in the world's nuclear arsenals. Paul passed away on October 31, just two weeks prior to the announcements made by President Bush and President Putin that the two superpowers would begin a process of drastic reduction in the number of deployed nuclear weapons. No one worked harder to see such policies implemented than Paul.

Paul Warnke was a son of Massachusetts. Born in Webster in 1920 and growing up in Marlborough, he went to college at Yale University and graduated in 1941. He joined the war effort and served in the U.S. Coast Guard for the next 5 years. After his military duty, he went to law school at Columbia University. A classic story is that his first choice, the journalism school, was full, so he crossed the street to sign up at the law school. But for a quirk of fate, we might instead be celebrating Paul Warnke, the great journalist.