

those home and abroad most hostile to this nation. A time when talk of American "swagger" and "bullying" comes tripping from the tongue.

For such times John Ashcroft was a target made to order. Devoutly religious, appointee of George Bush, he could scarcely have been a better fit for the bogeyman figure advanced as the greatest threat to our civil liberties—the perfect model to fire up the crowds at marches, and breast-beating festivals. Not for nothing do the Democratic presidential candidates out-do themselves denouncing the attorney general: they know, the candidates do, what has filtered down to their base, their main audience, after all. They all know, as John Kerry does, that he can say whatever he wants about John Ashcroft—that he views, as a nightmare, members of other races, creeds and religions; or anything else the Democratic candidate finds convenient—and it will all be understood, a mark of political virtue.

Mr. Ashcroft's detractors were at no time more infuriated—at least recently—than when he undertook his journey to various states, to speak up in defense of the USA Patriot Act. Indeed, Janet Reno, former attorney general, was sufficiently exercised by Mr. Ashcroft's journeys to come forward to join the denunciations of his policies. Ms. Reno, whose devotion to civil liberties was best exemplified in 1993, when she ordered tanks in to assault the Branch Davidian compound in Waco—which exercise resulted in the deaths of 19 children and 57 adults—has not been heard from for a while. But it is worth remembering that attorney general's notions of due process in a time of emergency. A dangerous situation was becoming more dangerous, Ms. Reno would later explain—there had been word that children had been sexually abused. In went the tanks and the flammable gas canisters. As far as one can tell, the ACLU launched no protests. The 19 children, were, it could be argued, certainly saved from molestation.

Mr. Ashcroft's efforts as attorney general have, as far as anyone knows, resulted in no such mass casualties. Still the hot-eyed demonstrators keep rolling out to shout their denunciations and wave placards saying "R.I.P. Civil Rights" and "Here Lies Your Freedom." Much has been invested in the demagoguery portraying John Ashcroft as the most serious threat to our liberties in memory: an investment that has enriched the ACLU's funding coffers, and delivered priceless publicity. No one should expect it to end any time soon.

MILLWRIGHT LOCAL 1043

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I offer congratulations to some of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated and talented workers. On Friday, September 26, 2003, the Millwright Local 1043 of Burns Harbor, Indiana will honor special members at their Annual Retirement and Awards Banquet at the Avalon Manor in Hobart, Indiana. Devoted to their hard work and dedication, these individuals will be recognized for their many years of service to their union. Members who have served for 20 years or more will be honored, as well as the 2003 retirees. Millwright Apprentice Graduates will also be recognized at this gala event. Finally, the ceremony will include special recognition of members who have passed away in 2003.

Local 1043, led by President Bruce Wright, will celebrate tenures ranging from 20 years to 55 years of service. Those members being honored for 55 years of service include: Nick Christoff, Joseph Drasich, and Steve Kicho. Millwrights who will be honored for 50 years of service include: Whitney Duhon, Robert Erickson, and Alfred N. Salvesen. Members of Local 1043 who will be honored for 45 years of service include: John Cisarik, Archie Fisher, Joe Williams, and Paul D. Maness. Those who will be honored for 40 years of service include: James L. Geer, John Pegg, and Herbert E. Sprinkle. Millwrights honored for 35 years of service include: Dona Banks and Carl Dean Robinson. Those who will be honored for 30 years of service include: Randy Ames, Jerome Bielak, Gary Talcott, Dionisio Trinidad, Louis A. Vendramin, John Vintila, David B. Whitaker, and John Zavalydriga. Local 1043 members who will be honored for 25 years of service include: Michael Adams, Greg Allen, Terrill Crase, Steven J. Kime, Mark Liston, Monie Parker, John R. Smith, Houston L. Stevens, and John Wardell. Finally, those Millwrights being honored for 20 years of service include: Jay Beere, Jay Childress, Jeffery Ludvigson, John E. Naccarato, Paul Pasley, and John Williams.

Local 1043 will also be recognizing and honoring dedicated members who are 2003 retirees. These members include: Jerry Forcht, Fred Miller, Rick Pierce, Gerald Purevich, Sr., and Kenneth Rippe. The Apprentice Graduates of Millwright Local 1043 will be acknowledged for their hard work and dedication. These individuals are Ryan M. Davis, Frank A. Hines, Thomas J. Hoekelberg, Rodney L. Hyatt, Jon P. St. Myer, Gary E. Torbeson, Jr., Mark A. Tuszyński, and Vanessa Vlach. There will also be special recognition in memory of members who have passed away in 2003. These members include: Frank Kark, Lawrence Ray, Donald Janisch, William Kollada, James Dowdy, Thomas Stewart, and Tony Vrbancic.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, hard-working, and honorable members of Millwrights Local 1043 in Burns Harbor, Indiana. They, along with all the other men and women of the Northwest Indian unions, represent the true backbone of our economic community. Their commitment and loyalty to the First Congressional District is worthy of the highest commendation and respect.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes due to personal family reasons, Rollcall vote No. 506 (To H.R. 7, Charitable Giving Act of 2003)—Had I been present I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote No. 507 (To H.R. 7)—Had I been present I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote No. 508 (H.R. 7)—Had I been present I would have voted "yes," and given the following statement which I now include in my extension of remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 7, and am glad to especially support the flat-

tening of the excise tax on the net investment income for private foundations from a two-tiered tax to a single tier of 1 percent. This could be one of the most effective steps Congress could take to spur charitable giving.

Currently, private foundations generally are subject to a 2 percent excise tax on their net investment income.

The tax was originally enacted in the Tax Reform Act of 1969 as a way to offset the cost of government audits of these organizations, in the wake of some unfortunate—and clearly wrong—mismanagement of foundation income. However, excise tax revenues have steadily climbed and IRS audits of private foundations have steadily dropped over the past decade. Specifically, in 1990, the excise tax raised \$204 million and the IRS conducted 1,200 audits of private foundations. In 1999, the last year for which figures are available, the excise tax raised \$499.6 million with the IRS conducting only 191 audits.

Congress reduced this tax in 1978 and 1984. In both instances it was noted that the adjustments were necessary because the revenues collected from the tax exceeded IRS auditing needs. Accordingly, the Joint Committee on Taxation recognized in its April 2001 recommendations the need to repeal this tax. Finally, the tax is inequitable, as other tax-exempt organizations are also audited, however, private foundations are the only tax-exempt organizations that have to fund their own policing.

Repeal of the excise tax would result in dollar for dollar increase in qualifying distributions of hundreds of millions of dollars every year, boosting the ability of charitable organizations to address national priorities across the range of fields that are the focus of some 58,000 private foundations. President Bush has proposed a reduction in this excise tax in his FY2004 budget to 1 percent, and for that I am quite appreciative. If we went further, though, the elimination of this tax would spur additional charitable giving. One of the most compelling arguments I've received comes from foundations pointing out that the money they would save from a repeal won't benefit the foundation officers, trustees, or even any employees. Who will benefit from a repeal of the excise tax? The causes for which each foundation was created. For example, the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund in Hamden, Connecticut writes me: "Congressman (Stearns), the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund would gain nothing from the flattening of this tax. The check we write to the United States Treasury we would instead write to our grantees. Our 2002 excise tax payment was \$22,176. We would prefer to put that money to work where we know it would help—the children and families in Connecticut." Signed, David M. Nee, Executive Director.

Foundations often spring from a corporate beginning. Take Robert W. Woodruff, the President of The Coca-Cola Company from 1923 until his death in 1985. He transformed the fledgling soft drink enterprise and its bottler franchise system into a corporate giant with the world's most widely known trademark. But this was not enough. Mr. Woodruff established a remarkable record as a businessman and philanthropist. Mr. Woodruff gave anonymously to many institutions, a number of which owe their very existence to his generosity. Prominent on Mr. Woodruff's desk was his personal creed: "There is no limit to what

a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit." Last year, the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia, donated more than \$106 million to aid schools, health care, art and cultural activities and the conservation of natural resources.

In my state, The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, the philanthropic arm of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, serves to positively impact Florida's many different health care challenges. This includes a focus on the uninsured and underserved. The Blue Foundation provides aid to charities across the state that provide outreach and care to the underserved and uninsured population, as well as address other pressing health care needs.

This nation was founded on a principle of helping hands, charity, volunteerism, and the free flow of aid and comfort to fellow Americans. The grace of giving where one wants to is one of our precious liberties. Foundations touch the lives of every American—from access to public libraries, development of the polio vaccine, and even leading in the creation of Emergency 911. Let us encourage this and let charitable works thrive.

IN APPRECIATION FOR A
LIFETIME OF DEDICATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank an outstanding and dedicated constituent of mine who is retiring after a lifetime of caring for our nation's most beautiful places.

Roger Giddings is a 42-year veteran of federal service who began his career in 1960 as a seasonal park ranger for Glacier National Park in Montana and Everglades National Park in Florida. Giddings landed his first permanent National Parks Service assignment as a supervisory park guide at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico. He has worked at Colonial National Historic Park in Virginia, Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi, the NPS Headquarters in Washington, DC, and Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona before becoming superintendent of Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas in 1981.

His work in Arkansas has resulted in preservation and restoration of our national treasure, our bathhouses. In the late 1980's he helped to establish the Friends of Fordyce group that worked to get the Fordyce Bathhouse rehabilitated into the Park's Visitor Center. For this effort, the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded the park its highest honor, the Historic Preservation Honor Award.

Giddings's greatest challenge was to save and restore the unique and historic Bathhouse Row in Hot Springs, where an essential stabilization project is already underway. When he arrived at Hot Springs National Park, he set to work not only to revitalize the bathhouses, but all of downtown Hot Springs as well. The results of his efforts can be seen by all who come to visit, and his work has ensured that many more will visit Hot Springs National Park in the future.

On behalf of all who have visited, enjoyed, and shared the beauty of our National Parks,

I want to thank Roger Giddings for his persistent efforts not only at Hot Springs National Park, but also at some of the most amazing places in our great nation.

OPPOSING THE EPA'S FINAL NEW
SOURCE REVIEW RULE

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the EPA's recent decision to gut the Clean Air Act—landmark legislation that protects the public from deadly air toxins.

With one swift blow the Bush Administration has rolled back three decades of environmental protection by allowing some 20,000 of the oldest and dirtiest power plants, oil refineries, incinerators, chemical plants and industrial facilities that were exempted from the Clean Air Act to avoid installing the newest and best available pollution control technologies when they upgrade and modernize their facilities. It is a reckless act that will shower thousands of additional tons of smog and soot from dirty Midwest power plants onto the people and communities of New Jersey, endangering the public health most severely in densely-populated urban areas—such as those in my district—that already suffer the ill-effects of downwind industrial pollution.

The New Source Review program had been the linchpin of our nation's clean air laws. Since the late 1980's—during successive Republican and Democratic Administrations—the EPA and the Department of Justice teamed up to investigate and sue polluters who refused to install "best-available" pollution control technologies when they modernized their plants and increased emissions.

Some 540 "grandfathered" coal-fired power plants nationwide cause 98 percent of the soot emissions that lead to 30,000 premature deaths and 170,000 asthma attacks each year. Through the new source review process, DOJ has filed suit against 53 of these plants that are in violation of the Clean Air Act. Five of the 53 admitted wrongdoing and settled with the federal government—settlements that will result in 393,000 less tons of sulfur dioxide, 175,000 less tons of nitrogen dioxide, and 10.7 million less tons of carbon dioxide being released into the air we breathe each year. Despite this success, in issuing this new rule, the Administration has cast doubt on the pending cases while announcing that it will no longer pursue those polluters who have broken the law for years.

As a downwind state, New Jersey suffers disproportionately from power plants that refuse to clean up their act. New Jersey is hit by increased emissions in the form of acid rain and increased respiratory disorders. In fact, because of these out-of-state polluters, New Jersey has the worst air pollution and the sixth highest rate of asthma in the nation. The societal and economic costs of air pollution come in the form of missed school and work days, more emergency room visits, more heart attacks and strokes.

Unfortunately, this Administration has turned a blind eye to environmental science, the written comments of over 300,000 Americans who opposed the New Source Review rule, and the

enforcement successes of the NSR program in favor of its corporate polluter friends. This is a travesty. And at the same time that the Administration is rewriting the Clean Air Act, it has set about dismantling the EPA's criminal enforcement division. The President's current EPA budget proposal would eliminate 126 EPA enforcement positions over the last three years—a 60 percent decline in civil enforcement and compliance monitoring. Further, a recent GAO report stated that EPA relied heavily on anecdotal evidence to build a case for the New Source Review rule—something Jeffrey Holmstead, Assistant EPA Administrator for Air and Radiation, all but admitted in newspaper reports when he stated that the EPA "wished it had better data." This perhaps explains why EPA tried to catch the American people off guard by signing the final rule two days before the traditional Labor Day holiday when many Americans were enjoying their last few days of summer rest with their families.

Mr. Speaker, I share the view of countless Americans and over 350 newspapers nationwide in calling the Bush Administration's actions an outrage and a devastating blow to public health. I urge all my colleagues in Congress—Republican and Democrat—to disapprove this rule and come together to craft new legislation that sets tough new standards for the dangerous toxic pollutants that will now cloud our air.

TRIBUTE TO TONY AUTORE IN
RECOGNITION OF FOUR DECADES
OF EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY
SERVICE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and achievements of a constituent of mine who is a true asset to his community, Tony Autore.

On Friday, September 26, 2003, the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency Head Start Program Center in Cedarville, Michigan will be designated the Autore Center, in recognition of Tony's many years of devotion to the important work of that agency.

To understand Tony's deep roots in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, you have to go back to the beginning, when Tony was born in Sault Ste. Marie and went through Catholic elementary school and public high school there. He married Ethel Duff in 1949, and over the years they have been blessed with three sons, two daughters and seven grandchildren. Tony also served in the U.S. Army from 1952 through 1954.

Before entering military service, Tony began his career as an employee of the local branch of Standard Oil Company. After coming home from the Army, Tony moved to Cedarville, Michigan and with Ethel purchased Standard Oil's delivery route for oil and propane for the Cedarville/Hessel area. Moving to Cedarville, where they still reside, they began developing the community and business relationships that continue today as a testament to their place in the community.

Tony and Ethel both devoted themselves to building a reputation for customer service that survives today. One of their first innovations