

Our U.S. soldiers continue to serve our nation and the world, from the soaring mountains of Afghanistan to the searing deserts of Iraq. Georgians have played a proud and important role in the war on terror, as have the state's military bases such as Fort Benning in the 11th Congressional District.

Other men and women in uniform, firefighters and police officers in the 11th District [or insert county here] serve us every day on the homefront.

We thank our everyday heroes for all their dedication to their communities and to their country. We honor soldiers, firefighters and police officers today as we remember those who died two years ago.

THE ALMOST FORGOTTEN

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday evening, I had the honor of giving out several medals to WW II Veterans and their families—Nick Cavallaro, Leon Andrews, Frank Barber, and Charlie Giardina in Corning, NY.

On the wall behind us was a battle scene and under it were the words: "The United States is #1 because of its veterans." It was a haunting reminder of how much we owe to those who leave their families, their friends, and go off to defend the idea of freedom which, of course, is the reason for this country being what it is.

There is not a family that has not been touched by some sort of wartime heroism. The flashbacks of those honored veterans of Crystal City Post 524—headed by Doug Herbert and Mike Asiello—still light up the world of those of us coming from WW II. But right now, boys and girls, men and women are fighting for us in Iraq and around the world. We are so proud of them. They embody the same spirit of those older men and women, some of whom went off to war over 60 years ago.

God Bless them—God Bless those who risk everything for this special country of ours.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX MACHASKEE, THE 2003 INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alex Machaskee, President, Publisher, and Chief Executive Officer of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, as the 2003 International Business Executive of the Year.

On Thursday, September 18th, 2003, Mr. Machaskee will be recognized for his ongoing contribution to broadening Northeast Ohio's role in the international community. He has energized the business community by catalyzing civic leaders to attract international companies to Northeast Ohio as well as link Ohio to the people of other nations. I want to take this opportunity before this body to honor him and to say a few words about why he is deserving of this incredible distinction as a global citizen.

Born in Warren, Ohio, Mr. Machaskee worked as a sports reporter and general assignment reporter for the Warren Tribune before joining the Plain Dealer. As President, Publisher and C.E.O., he is responsible for the overall policy, operation, and direction of the newspaper. He is a graduate of Cleveland State University with a bachelor's degree in marketing. Mr. Machaskee was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by both Cleveland State University in 1995 and the University of Akron in 1998. He was recognized for his tireless passion and talent in 2001 with his induction into the Northeast Ohio Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Machaskee has demonstrated unflinching leadership in the improvement of Northeast Ohio. He currently is Vice President of the Musicial Arts Association, serves on both the Board Governance and the Finance and Administration Committees of The Cleveland Foundation, is a member of The Greater Cleveland Roundtable and The Museum Council of The Cleveland Museum of Art, a Corporate Member of The Holden Arboretum and a Board Member of The Ohio Arts Council, Leadership Cleveland, University Circle Inc., Cleveland Tomorrow, The Great Lakes Science Center, The Greater Cleveland Growth Association, Urban League of Greater Cleveland, Crime Stoppers of Cuyahoga County, Inc., St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, in Crestwood, New York, and the national board of the International Orthodox Christian Charities.

Additionally, Mr. Machaskee is committed to improving racial amity and promoting diversity. He is the Chairman of the Board of United Way Services for 2002–2003, and previously served as Chairman of the 2000–2001 United Way Campaign. Mr. Machaskee is past Chairman of the Greater Cleveland Roundtable, a racially and culturally diverse civic forum committed to resolving the human relations challenges confronting the city.

Mr. Machaskee has been a critical community partner for many years through his energetic leadership helping to improve and promote the economy of Northeast Ohio. Many throughout the years have appreciated his service and dedication. Let us congratulate him on being honored as International Business Executive of the Year. This award duly recognizes his commitment and service to Northeast Ohio.

IN MEMORY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, two years ago, we all watched in horror as television cameras brought us the terrible scenes from New York, as we could see the smoke rising from the Pentagon, and as we learned of acts of terrorism and heroism over the skies of Pennsylvania.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends who lost loved ones that day.

September 11th will remain forever seared into our memories. Today, we pause to remember all those who were lost and all those who rushed into burning buildings to try and save those trapped inside.

So may losses, so many funerals, so many families denied even that small consolation.

The losses are so great, it's hard even to comprehend them. One of those lost was Wanda Green, who was a flight attendant on United Flight 93 and a cousin of my chief of staff, Sandre Swanson. I remember Wanda tonight as I remember all those killed that terrible, terrible day.

Most Americans believe that we will face more acts of terrorism. Sadly, I believe they are right.

We have to do all we can to try an ensure our security here at home.

We need to do everything possible to safeguard the world's known stockpiles of chemicals, biological, and, God forbid, nuclear weapons and materials. We need to protect our own plants, bridges, and ports.

And we need to make sure that our first responders have the tools, the equipment, and the training to do their jobs. We ask them to risk their lives for us. The least we can do is to give them the means to do it.

I leave you with the words of Tom Paxton describing both the awful loss and the awesome courage at the World Trade Center and elsewhere that day:

"Now every time I try to sleep I'm haunted by the sound, of firemen pounding up the stairs while we were coming down."

When we ask men and women to pound up the stairs into the face of death and danger, we must give them every bit of support that might help.

In the memory of all those we lost two years ago today, let us renew our commitment to safeguarding our communities.

My thoughts and prayers to out to the parents and children; husbands, wives, and partners; and family and friends of all those who lost loved ones in those awful events.

Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL AND MINOR LEBLOND

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dan and Minor LeBlond, friends and distinguished constituents, who will receive the Jacob E. Davis Volunteer Leadership Award from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) on September 15, 2003. To commemorate the joint 40th anniversaries of GCF and Stepping Stones Center for the Handicapped, four awards will be presented this year honoring volunteers who have played vital roles in the overlapping histories of these outstanding organizations.

Dan is a native Cincinnati, and is being recognized for his 15 years of service to GCF. He joined GCF as an Associate Director in 1988, serving in that role until GCF's volunteer and staffing structure changed in 1994, when he became a member of the new Grants Review Committee and served until 2003.

Among his many community leadership roles, Dan has been a board member of American Red Cross; Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Cincinnati, Inc.; Cincinnati Country Day School; Cincinnati Institute for Fine Arts;