Mr. Chairman, as we begin to wind down the

debate on this defense bill, I wanted to take just a moment to pay

tribute to this dynamic duo that we have--Bill Young and Norm Dicks.

The collective experience, wisdom, and knowledge of this defense bill

and the actions of our military is almost unprecedented in this House.

They have put forward a great bill in the highest bipartisan

traditions of the House, and all of us in this body say ``thank you''

for the great service of these two stalwarts in this body. They have

conducted themselves during this debate in the highest traditions of

this House. They have collaborated together in a bipartisan way to help

defend this country. I think I speak for all Members of the House of

Representatives in saying ``thank you'' to these two great stalwarts of

this body.

This will be the last defense bill that Norm Dicks will take part in.

He is departing this body in retirement, and we will miss his wisdom

and his camaraderie and his knowledge of the needs of our country and

its defense. I think I speak for all of the House when I say ``thank

you'' to Norm Dicks for great service to his country, to this body, and

to the defense of our country especially. We will miss his presence. We

will miss his expertise. We will miss the fact that he is a jolly good

fellow, among other things.

I thank the gentleman, and I can't help but

mention the great service the former chairman of this committee has

rendered to the body, as well.

Mr. Chairman, Chairman Young has mentioned

briefly the service of our friend from California (Mr. Lewis), who, as

we all know, served as chairman of the full committee for a period of

time, and, of course, chairman of this great subcommittee. We're going

to miss his presence because he is seeking greener pastures out there

as well in retirement.

Jerry Lewis has been a stalwart Member of this body for many years

and he has rendered great service to his country, certainly to this

House, and most importantly, I think, on this subcommittee, because

this subcommittee is in charge of defending our country, and there is

no higher calling for any of us than to say we've been a part of that.

Mr. Chairman, I wind my remarks up. We've had some 60 or 70

amendments on this bill, and I think the debate that took place is in

the highest traditions of this body. I wish Mr. Lewis and Mr. Dicks

happy retirements and other pursuits in life, and we wish you Godspeed.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.