recently taken command of the 773rd Maintenance Battalion, Louisiana Army National Guard. LTC Vittoria is to be commended for her unselfish and outstanding service to our country and is deserving of our sincere gratitude.

LTC Vittoria began her career defending our country by enlisting in the Connecticut National Guard. After achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant, she attended Officers Candidate School. In January 1985, she received her commission and served as a Platoon Leader in the Virginia National Guard until June, 1986. Upon her transfer to the 123rd Maintenance Company at Fort Irwin, California, she served as the Material Service Officer, Maintenance Control Officer, and Company Commander. In September, 1993, LTC Vittoria was transferred to the 529th Forward Support Battalion in Virginia.

In February, 1998, LTC Vittoria was transferred to Detachment 1, Headquarters STARC where she served as the Administrative Chief until October 1999 when she became the Deputy Commander for the 62nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Team. From August 2000 until January 2002, LTC Vittoria served as the Operations Officer for the 199th Leadership Regiment, LTC Vittoria is a full-time member of the Louisiana National Guard and works as the Operations Officer at the Gillis W. Long Center in Carville, Louisiana.

I am proud that LTC Vittoria is a constituent in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize her achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I know you and all my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating LTC. Cathy Vittoria upon her promotion as Battalion Commander of the 773rd maintenance Battalion, Louisiana Army National Guard.

3M SPECIALTY MATERIALS DIVISION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, 3M was founded 100 years ago in Two Harbors, Minnesota and serves as the world's leading innovative company; and

Whereas, 3M makes and sells thousands of products that improve people's lives; and

Whereas, 3M is a company consisting of 75,000 employees world-wide and 250 at the 3M Specialty Materials Division in Greenville, South Carolina; and.

Whereas, the 3M Specialty Materials Division began operations in Greenville in 1973; and

Whereas, 3M makes valuable contributions to our community through jobs, environmental stewardship, charitable contributions and volunteerism;

Therefore, be it declared that, the 28th day of May 2002, shall be 3M DAY.

CELEBRATING BOB BEIN'S 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Robert W. Bein's 40 years of service and leadership with RBF Consulting, located in Irvine, California. Now the Chief Executive Officer, Bob Bein has dedicated his life to serving his firm and his profession.

RBF Consulting is an engineering, planning, and surveying firm with over 600 employees and offices in California, Arizona, and Nevada. Bob Bein joined RBF in 1962 as a Chief Engineer, and went on to become President of RBF in 1964, and then Chief Executive Officer in 1991. Under Bob Bein's leadership, RBF has provided engineering, planning, and surveying services for land development, urban design, public works, transportation, and water projects throughout the western United States.

In addition to his role as a corporate executive, Bob Bein is a highly respected and nationally known leader in the engineering profession—involving himself extensively in professional, civic, and community organizations at the local and national levels. He is a graduate and distinguished alumnus of the University of Illinois, as well as a United States Navy veteran, and an honorary member of Chi Epsilon. Like his career with RBF, his service to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has been extraordinary. With stints as ASCE's national president, district director, and chair of various committees, his value to his colleagues and dedication to his profession can be measured quite simply by his numerous awards.

Bob Bein is truly an asset to his company and a cornerstone of the civil engineering profession. Its been a pleasure working with him in Congress as an advocate for so many of the county's important public works projects, from the Santa Ana River flood control project, to the Ronald Reagan Federal Courthouse and our county's many miles of interstate highways.

His decades of service in Orange County and around the United States are a testament to his character and abilities as a leader and an engineer. I congratulate Bob on his milestone, and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

H. CON. RES. 410

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Congressmen Ed Royce, Amo Houghton, Frank Wolf, and Don Payne in introducing a resolution supporting peace and democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and an end to the plunder of its natural resources. H. Con. Res. 410 calls on President Bush to press for a United Nations embargo of Congolese diamonds, which are helping to fund a war that has engulfed the heart of Africa since it began in 1998, and plunged its people into a darkness where disease and misery flourish. As the *Washington Post* reported a few months ago:

> Since a rebellion erupted in 1998, Congo, which is roughly the size of Western Europe, has been effectively partitioned into several autonomous regions, each under the control of a foreign army that systematically loots its area of control. As a result, Congo's plentiful resources enrich the leaders of surrounding countries while providing no benefit to the vast majority of Congolese. . . .

Diamonds are not the cause of what has come to be known as Africa's First World War, but they play a crucial role in sustaining it. The most concentrated form of wealth ever known to mankind, diamonds are one of Africa's most liquid resources, the world's easiest commodity to smuggle, and readily available to anyone with power. From individual soldiers; to military commanders who have reoriented their troops toward full-time pillaging; to regimes that depend on standing armies and the chaos of war to stay in power; to Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and other radical groups that have used this resource to inflict terror beyond Africa's shores—all have exploited the Congo's diamonds. They have turned a symbol that Americans treasure into a means for torturing countless thousands of people in Africa. They have put an industry that is important to American and African communities alike under a cloud, and they must be stopped.

EFFECT OF RESOLUTION

Under the terms of the Kimberley Process, the international system that aims to block conflict diamonds from the legitimate trade, conflict diamonds are defined as those embargoed by the United Nations. This means that, until the UN imposes sanctions on diamonds originating in a war zone, trade in the diamonds that fuel conflict there is not checked. The fact that diamonds currently mined in the Congo are not, technically, conflict diamonds creates a huge credibility gap for US and international efforts alike. The international system of controls aims to close that gap, but it would be foolish for the UN Security Council to postpone sanctions in reliance on a global system that is just now being devised.

Instead, the United Nations should impose an embargo similar to those on Sierra Leone and Angola's diamonds immediately. That would contribute needed pressure to regularize the trade in Congolese diamonds, combatting the criminal activities that usually accompany smuggling and compelling other countries to stop abetting this illegal trade. Some 85 percent of Congolese diamonds, worth $854 million a year, are smuggled away; if its government collected taxes on them, some $40 million could be added to this beleaguered country's coffers and used to respond to its people's desperate needs.

Another benefit of an embargo on Congolese diamonds would be to close the enormous loophole that the DRC has become for sanctions-busters. Currently, diamonds mined by Sierra Leonean and Angolan rebels, or trafficked by Liberia, can easily be passed off as Congolese diamonds. To leave so vast a country, which produces significant quantities of diamonds, outside scrutiny dooms international efforts to address the problem of conflict diamonds elsewhere.

Beyond these practical benefits, there is a moral reason to act. Curbing the smuggling of Congolese diamonds and other resources is essential to securing a lasting peace. A cease-