

companies. The vehicle manufacturers, which operate under closely inter-locking relationships with the Japanese vehicle carriers, continue to insist that the NDF program is a matter between the two respective governments since it addresses defense.

In view of the US role in providing security for our Far East allies, it hardly seems appropriate that defense concerns expressed by our government should not have been met with a more positive response. Our government's repeated representations to the Japanese government have fallen on deaf ears as if the NDF program was without military value, a position that is contradicted by two US Navy reports on the NDF program. Taking note of the extensive military collaboration of our two governments, which it is safe to say has conferred material benefits on Japan, this is not the position that Congress should have expected.

The position that this matter is purely commercial in nature rather than governmental in character is not defensible. Japan, like other nations, supports its merchant marine with financial assistance, including direct construction loans at artificially low rates of interest. This is not the mark of a purely private industry operating under purely commercial conditions.

The real reason our carriers are effectively being excluded from this market is the Japanese kereitsu system of doing business. It is not price, but rather the interwoven industrial and financial structure that closes this market like so many other sectors of the Japanese economy against international competition. The situation, then, is that a fleet of US built and operated ships, commercially competitive and having significant defense value to both nations, has apparently no chance to break through the economic fence encircling the Japanese vehicle trade.

Notwithstanding this state of affairs, I continue to hope that the Government of Japan and the vehicle manufacturers will ultimately see the merit of supporting the NDF program, especially given the longstanding support of the Department of Defense. Recently, the Secretary of Defense and the Director General of the Japanese Self-Defense Agency agreed to establish a regular consultative mechanism to ensure closer cooperation in improving our mutual defense capabilities. I understand the Secretary of Defense suggested that this might be an appropriate mechanism to move the NDF program forward. I agree.

Given past experience, however, we may nonetheless not see the type of action that is by now long overdue. Therefore, along with my colleague from Pennsylvania, I am introducing a bill today that we intend to push later next year if we do not see any movement on the part of the Government of Japan. The bill is very straightforward. It says: If the Federal Maritime Commission finds that vessels built under the NDF program are unable to obtain employment in a particular trade route in the foreign commerce of the United States for which they are designed to operate, and if that sector of the trade route has been dominated historically by citizens of an allied nation, then the Commission shall take action to counteract the restrictive trade practices that have led to this situation.

I trust it will not be necessary to enact legislation to encourage support for a program so

self-evidently in the mutual security interests of our two nations and that as a result of the new consultative mechanism the NDF program can begin the much needed recapitalization of our aging Ready Reserve Force.

ATROCITIES IN SIERRA LEONE

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join many of my colleagues in expressing our outrage with the continuing atrocities in Sierra Leone.

Two weeks ago, seven Sierra Leoneans testified before the House International Relations Committee's Subcommittee on Africa. They told chilling and horrifying tales that I will not soon forget.

Thousands of Sierra Leoneans—men, women, children, and even infants—have had their limbs amputated as part of a campaign of terror by rebels. As the democratically elected government and the rebels battle over control of the nation's lucrative diamond mines, the citizens of Sierra Leone live lives of fear and tragedy. Meanwhile, the international diamond industry continues to purchase enormous quantities of diamonds from Sierra Leone. It does not matter who controls the mines, the rebels or the government, as long as the industry continues to receive its precious commodity.

I want to commend brave Sierra Leoneans who have risked their lives to tell the world about the atrocities in their country. I also want to commend organizations such as the Friends of Sierra Leone. The Friends of Sierra Leone is a non-profit organization made up of Sierra Leone émigrés, former Peace Corps volunteers, and other human rights activists. Without the hard work of the Friends of Sierra Leone and similar organizations, these atrocities would not be receiving the attention of the media and Congress.

One volunteer in particular who educated me on this issue is Massachusetts State Senator David Magnani of Framingham. Senator Magnani spent two years in Sierra Leone and another year in Kenya as a Peace Corps volunteer in the late 1960's. Since then, he has closely followed events both in Sierra Leone and throughout Africa. I appreciate his efforts on this important issue.

Consequently, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 5147, The Carat Act, introduced by Representative TONY HALL. This bill imposes an embargo on diamonds from Sierra Leone and Angola that have not been certified by their governments. Furthermore, it prohibits the shipment of diamonds from known smuggling centers. This legislation would assure that diamonds imported from unknown sources, like those that come from the mines controlled by Sierra Leone's rebels, would be embargoed from importation into the United States.

Legislation like this lets the diamond industry and Sierra Leone's rebels know that we are very serious about not importing diamonds that have come at the cost of innocent lives. It is the responsibility of Congress to take this stand, and I urge your support for this bill.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. NORINE S. GILSTRAP

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary woman and a dear friend—The Honorable Norine S. Gilstrap, Tax Collector from Citrus County, Florida. Mrs. Gilstrap is a very revered and respected tax collector who I'm sorry to say is retiring this year after 26 years of dedicated service to the people of Citrus County.

Mrs. Gilstrap is well known for being a compassionate and dynamic leader.

Even while growing up in Dunnellon during her high school years, Mrs. Gilstrap was an athlete, an artist, an enthusiast and a devoted church goer. She was active in such activities as the girls' basketball team, the theater department, in the girls' cheerleading team and in the Methodist Church Community in Dunnellon.

Ms. Gilstrap maintained high grades while holding a part time job throughout high school. She valued a college degree so much that she worked every day after school and on Saturdays as a cashier at a local food store in order to save for her education. Her work and determination to get an education certainly shows a tremendous commitment and determination.

On October 8, 1950, Norine married Robert N. Gilstrap. It wasn't long before the couple decided to start a family. As a devoted wife and mother of three children, she chose in the early years to focus much of her time to raising her family and community service. But she still longed to further her education by attending college. In 1964, she pursued her goal and enrolled at Central Florida Community College where she studied business. There she received the training that would soon prove extremely valuable to the people of Citrus County.

On December 11, 1974, her beloved husband who was then the Citrus County Tax Collector passed away. Governor Ruben Askew appointed Mrs. Gilstrap to fulfill the final two years of her husband's term. Since then, the people of Citrus County have elected her to serve more than 25 years of service as tax collector of Citrus County.

Mrs. Gilstrap has always worked toward the betterment of our community. Throughout her life, she has participated in and held leadership roles in Altrusa, Beta Sigma Phi, Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Citrus and the Heart Ball Committee.

Her service has been rewarded with such prestigious honors as the First Annual Ten Most Admired Women in Citrus County. She was also one of the first five women inducted into Rotary. Her commitment to our community is well illustrated by her impressive list of prestigious accomplishments.

Sharon Tenbroeck, Mrs. Gilstrap's assistant of 23 years at the Citrus County Tax Collector's office noted Ms. Gilstrap's perseverance and willingness to go the extra mile. "Her high ethics and morals will be hard to replace. Because of her compassion to serving the public in the many capacities which she does, she is

considered a treasure to all that are fortunate enough to meet her," Ms. Tenbroeck said. "Her kindness and compassion have caused all of her employees to consider her family and she will be missed terribly."

Mrs. Gilstrap has touched so many lives during her lifetime of service. One such person is Alida Langley, who views Mrs. Gilstrap as a role model. "From the time the Governor appointed Ms. Gilstrap to office, she has been professional, respected and appreciated by all," Mrs. Langley said. "She is the ideal woman." Norine Gilstrap is the epitome of grace and goodness.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Norine S. Gilstrap, a woman who stands for excellence, integrity and honor. We are all so grateful for her devoted service to Citrus County.

REMEMBERING BROTHER JAMES
L. ROMOND

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to remember Brother James L. Romond, who passed away at the age of 56 on October 9, 2000. Brother James dedicated his entire life to educating and guiding America's youth. He served as Principal at La Salle Institute in Upstate New York since 1982.

Brother James was born on September 9, 1944 in Queens, New York and graduated from St. Joseph's Juniorate High School in Barrytown, New York in 1962. He entered the Brothers of the Christian Schools in 1963 and began a life long career of helping others. Brother James earned a bachelors degree in education from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. in 1967. He received his masters degree from Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York in 1971 and Certification in School Administration and Supervision from Fordham University in 1973.

Brother James believed that every child could achieve and provided the spark required to ignite their creativity, imagination and interest. He was known for teaching his students the value of community service, especially for the poor and needy. Annually from 1991-98, under the leadership of Brother James, La Salle's students contributed more food to an Upstate New York food drive than any other local school. Additionally, he brought the La Salle students together during Christmas for the annual Toy Drive in which they donated over 500 toys each year for the past 15 years. Brother James cared deeply for the disadvantaged and took steps to help them whenever he could.

Brother James was a friend and role model to thousands of youngsters. His presence will be missed in the halls, at the bus stop, and at the school's sporting events. You see, Mr. Speaker, Brother James made it a point to go out to the buses at the end of each school day to give students a few encouraging words and ensure they were safely on their way home. He cheered his students' accomplishments at every sporting event held at the campus. He

arrived in his office by 6:00 am each day—ready to guide students through the days activities. Most importantly, he always made himself available to his students—twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. He created a friendly, kind, and compassionate atmosphere in which students could learn and grow.

La Salle Institute in Troy, New York was twice selected as a National School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education during his tenure as principal for grades 6 through 12. Brother James previously served in several capacities at the Good Shepherd School in New York City. He taught grades 6 through 8, served as assistant principal, and fulfilled the role of principal for grades 5 through 8. He was an extraordinary educator who touched his student's hearts and minds and allowed them to believe in themselves.

Brother James was also a major force in the planning and development of several major construction projects at La Salle. His innovative planning made it possible for the school to add on a new wing of classrooms, a state-of-the-art library and fully equipped computer room. He also laid the groundwork for construction of a new gymnasium, cafeteria, and modern kitchen facility. Brother James was particularly excited about the plans for the kitchen. He enjoyed cooking very much, and prepared meals at all the senior picnics and faculty and staff occasions. I am sure his students will fondly remember his skills in the kitchen whenever they dine in the new facility.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the significant contributions of Brother James L. Romond. Brother James' dedication to religion and education were admirable, as was his desire to see his students succeed. He was a confidante to many young people and will be remembered as an educational icon whose life mission was to instill moral values and a sense of faith in students.

HONORING THE LATE DR. ALICE
SMOTHERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a daughter of Texas, Dr. Alice Smothers. She passed away on Saturday, October 14, 2000, at the age of 104.

The state of Texas, the nation and the world have lost not only a good friend for those in need, but also an outstanding educator and leader. Dr. Smothers, a well-known pioneer to many, provided a place in this world for orphaned Black children. Alongside her husband, the late J.W. Smothers, she founded St. Paul Industrial Training School. Like Dr. Smothers, the school served countless young Texans in providing training in the agricultural, industrial and technical arts for over 60 years throughout the Henderson County community. Dr. Smothers' vision and leadership allowed the St. Paul Industrial Training School to become an entity that awarded educational scholarships to needy college-bound students.

To this day, the scholarship program of the St. Paul Industrial Training School has assisted over 530 students to help them realize their dreams of pursuing a college education.

I am deeply saddened that Texas, the nation and the world have lost such an exceptional and tireless trailblazer of the educational community like Dr. Smothers. I ask the House to join me in remembrance of Dr. Alice Smothers—a true champion for men, women and children everywhere.

FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAMS
IMPROVEMENT AND NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CEN-
TENNIAL ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I supported this bill when the House first considered it, but I did have some concerns about it.

Now, as it comes back to us from the Senate, it is considerably improved and I will support it without the same reservations.

The bill was prompted by the Resources Committee's oversight of the implementation of several important programs under which the federal government assists the state wildlife agencies.

As a result of our committee's review, it became clear that we should revisit the underlying statutes. At the same time, though, it's clear that some of the charges about the actions of the current Administration were exaggerated and that some of the people making those charges failed to point out similar actions that occurred during prior Administrations.

The programs of assistance to state wildlife agencies addressed by this bill are very valuable for Colorado and many other states. And I certainly agree with the bill's sponsors that it would be good to tighten the current law that allows the Interior Department an unusually large degree of discretion in the administration of these programs. However, as originally passed by the House, I was concerned that the bill went overboard in responding to the ways the Interior Department has used that discretion.

I certainly understand the purpose of limiting the amount of money that can be spent on administration, because obviously what's spent that way won't be available for the substantive purposes of the programs. But we need to recognize that administration is necessary, and adequate administration is essential to avoid the risk of misuse of taxpayer funds, either by the Department of the Interior or by other parties.

The Senate amendments would authorize more realistic funding levels for administration, and would allow some additional flexibility for unexpected administrative costs. I think those are definite improvements, and so are some other changes that reduce the extent to which the bill imposes micro-management requirements. Accountability is essential, but excessive paperwork for its own sake can eat up resources that could be put to more productive purposes.