

area's labor unions is an inspiration and example for us all. My congratulations go to Bill Tweet for these significant contributions.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY  
RECOGNIZES AMY B. MANSUE

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2000*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Amy Mansue, who is being honored by Planned Parenthood of Central New Jersey on Tuesday, May 23, 2000.

Ms. Mansue will receive Planned Parenthood's Fred Forrest Community Service Award. This award recognizes people who view their passion for Planned Parenthood in the context of a fundamental commitment to improving their community in many ways.

Amy Mansue has served as a Policy Advisor in the Governor's Office of Management and Policy on health, human services and women's issues. Also, she served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, where she oversaw the Divisions of Youth and Family Services, Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Hospitals, Medical Assistance and Health Services, and the Office of Education.

Currently, Ms. Mansue is the Senior Vice President of Corporate Business Development of HIP Plans. Prior to this she served as President and CEO of HIP Plan of New Jersey, a not-for-profit health plan.

Amy Mansue's commitment to her community is evident by the multitude of boards she has served on, including St. David's Vestry, the University of Alabama School of Social Work Advisory Committee, PAM's List, New Jersey Center for Public Analysis, and the New Jersey Community Development Corporation.

Ms. Mansue's peers have recognized her efforts through the years. She has been honored for her achievements by the New Jersey National Association of Social Workers as Social Worker of the Year, Modern Health Care's 1998 Up and Coming Healthcare Executive, the United Cerebral Palsy Association's Boggs Award and the New Jersey State Nurses Association's President's Award.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication of Amy Mansue serves as an excellent example to the citizens of New Jersey. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Amy Mansue.

INCREASE THE PEACE DAY

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2000*

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing an important resolution which urges the House of Representatives to support "Increase the Peace Day" events throughout the country.

On April 20, 2000, on the one-year anniversary of the tragedy at Columbine High School,

students, teachers, parents, and community leaders from Challenger Middle School in Lake Los Angeles, California hosted an "Increase the Peace Day".

The program featured the formation of a human peace sign and a presentation by a former skinhead who turned his life around and now works with the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance.

The highlight of the day was when the 650 students of Challenger signed an "Increase the Peace Pledge" in order to avoid any similar acts of school violence. Among the promises in the Pledge were to find a peaceful solution to conflicts, to not hit another person, to not threaten another person, to report all rumors of violence to an adult, to celebrate diversity, and to seek help when feeling lonely or confused.

I was proud to join the other supporters of "Increase the Peace Day" and be a part of this incredible event. I would like to take a moment to recognize the outstanding efforts of teacher Bruce Galler who came up with the original idea for "Increase the Peace Day" because he believes that something can be done.

Bruce uses a quote by Edward Everett Hale on all literature to promote the event and I believe it illustrates what each of those students accomplished last month. The quote is as follows, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."

That day, I promised to introduce this resolution in order to show that as one Member of Congress, I can do something to highlight this important event and encourage all Americans to reject anger and hate and instead to promote peace and community.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution and to encourage their local communities to institute a similar program.

SHARING AN ARTICLE FROM  
MARTIN RAPAPORT: "GUILT TRIP"

**HON. TONY P. HALL**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2000*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I share with our colleagues a moving plea written by one of the most respected experts in the diamond industry to other members of the industry.

Martin Rapaport, publisher of one of the top trade publications, traveled to Sierra Leone in the weeks before United Nations peacekeepers were captured. His article, "Guilt Trip," was written to propose a solution to the mayhem war diamonds fuel. It needs no embellishing, and I excerpt it here for my colleagues' review:

I don't know how to tell this story. There are no words to describe what I have seen in Sierra Leone. My mind tells me to block out the really bad stuff, to deny the impossible reality. But the images of the amputee camp haunt me and the voices of the victims cry out. 'Tell them what has happened to us,' say the survivors. 'Show them what the diamonds have done to us.'

"I am angry. I am upset. I am afraid that my words will not be strong enough to convey the suffering and injustice I have witnessed. How do I tell you about Maria, a pretty eight-month-old baby whose arm has been hacked off by the rebels? How can I fully describe the amputee camp with 1,400 people living in huts made of plastic sheets, babies in cardboard boxes, food cooked in open fires on the ground, no electricity or plumbing—everywhere you look someone is missing an arm, a leg or both. What can I say about the tens of thousands that live in displaced persons camps without adequate medicine, food, clothing and shelter.

Friends, members of the diamond trade. Please, stop and think for a minute. Read my words. Perhaps what is happening in Sierra Leone is our problem. Perhaps it is our business.

Sierra Leone is a beautiful country. It has a cornucopia of natural resources and a population that includes many well educated, highly intelligent people. In spite of the wars, which have decimated the population and destroyed the basic infrastructure of the country, the people of Sierra Leone are industrious and kind-hearted. During my visit last week, the capital, Freetown, was bustling with people trying to rebuild their lives and their country.

While there is much to be hopeful and optimistic about, the peace process is moving too slowly. The diamonds are holding up the peace process. The war in Sierra Leone is about power. It is about who controls the country, how they control it and what they do with their control. There is a strong perception that he who controls the diamonds will control the country.

Simply put, Sierra Leone's diamond industry is totally black market, underground, illegal and corrupt. Hundreds of millions of dollars of Sierra Leone diamonds are being traded on the world markets without any benefit going to the government, or people, of Sierra Leone.

The bastards are not just stealing Sierra Leone's diamonds, they are trading them for guns. Guns which are used to kill people to keep the war going, which assures that the government will not be able to control the illegal trade, assuring that the bad guys can continue to steal the diamonds. The real challenge facing Sierra Leone and the world diamond trade, is how to stop this horrific murderous cycle of illegal diamond activity.

The problems of Sierra Leone are so great and discouraging that one hesitates to suggest solutions. . . [but] the situation in Africa is such that we must adopt a pro-active attitude towards the resolution of problems. We cannot sit back and write off the problems of Africa as unsolvable—the human suffering is simply too great.

The diamond industry must address the fact that illegal diamonds from Sierra Leone and other war zones are in fact finding their way into the diamond marketplace. While the industry in general cannot solve Sierra Leone's problems it can, and must, take realistic measures to assure that illegal diamonds are excluded from the marketplace.

The bottom line is that our industry must stop dealing with questionable diamonds. Consider the market for stolen diamonds and jewelry. Now we all know that these markets exist in a limited way, but no decent, legitimate or even semi-honest diamond dealer would ever consider buying stolen diamonds. When you buy a stolen diamond you encourage the thieves to go out and steal another diamond. You endanger your own life and you destroy the security of your business.