

June 20, 2000

RECOGNIZING THE CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, Today I rise to recognize the Central Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra as they present the 50th consecutive season of Summer Family Concerts during July at East Park and Institute Park in Worcester, Massachusetts. These concerts, founded by the late Harry Levenson, and his wife Madelyn have always been, and will always be admission-free to the public. Madelyn continues to play a major role in all of the programming, and their son Paul Levenson serves as the Executive Director.

Over the years, the concerts have attracted over 1,000,000 residents and visitors to these performances. The fine classical and pops repertoire is now playing to the third generation of concert-goers. The concerts have become a beloved New England tradition at which all segments of the community, all neighborhoods, and all backgrounds can come together for alfresco entertainment. While walking home past Institute Park, Harry and Madelyn Levenson envisioned an outdoor summer concert. Today neighbors and neighborhoods in the All-American City of Worcester enjoy the fruits of their inspiration on a snowy Worcester evening in 1951.

I am sure my colleagues join me in celebrating a fine Worcester tradition.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENCHANTED HILLS CAMP

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Disabled and the 50th Anniversary of its Enchanted Hills Camp.

The Rose Resnick Lighthouse is the most comprehensive program and advocacy agency serving the blind and visually impaired community in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Enchanted Hills Camp, located in the Napa County foothills, provides the blind with the opportunities of a traditional summer camp, combined with peer support, role models and a philosophy that encourages self-confidence and development.

The Enchanted Hills Camp promotes independence, equality, and self-reliance through rehabilitation training and services such as access to employment, education, government, media, recreation, transportation and the environment. Approximately 120 individuals enroll in the camp each summer, which offers activities for children in elementary through high school, as well as adults and multi-disabled persons. Campers participate in activities ranging from hiking, horseback-riding, and

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

other sports to arts and crafts projects and campfire conversations.

This summer will mark 50 years of camp at Enchanted Hills. Three events are scheduled for counselors and campers to celebrate the 50th Anniversary—an Alumni Retreat, Counselor Reunion, and a 50th Anniversary Party. The Retreat is for adults who attended the camp between 1950 and 1995 and the Counselor Reunion is open to all counselors, camp maintenance and kitchen staff, volunteers, and interns who worked between 1950 and 1995. The 50th Anniversary Party will take place June 25, complete with music, a BBQ lunch, and other special activities.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge the Rose Resnick Lighthouse and the Enchanted Hills Camp for providing visually impaired individuals with vital services and camp memories to last a lifetime. Congratulations to the Enchanted Hills Camp on its 50th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTH ALABAMA VETERANS OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the veterans of the Korean War who now reside in North Alabama. These brave men and women who boldly served their country across the ocean 50 years ago deserve our recognition and our gratitude. This coming Saturday in Huntsville, Alabama, our area veterans, their families and the Korean-American community will be honored at a Huntsville Stars baseball game.

As this nation at large begins its three-year remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, the Redstone-Huntsville AUSA Chapter 3103 has been designated by Secretary Cohen as a Commemorative Community. I believe this distinction reflects the patriotic history of North Alabama and Redstone Arsenal and acknowledges the sacrifices this community has made in the defense of the United States and its freedoms.

Many people refer to the Korean War as "The Forgotten War", but I would like to take this opportunity to thank those in my community who are going to extraordinary efforts to ensure that the Korean War and its veterans are not forgotten. I would like to extend my appreciation to Jim Rountree, the chairman of the commemoration committee, Robert Nixon, Jr. and Ed Banville. I also want to recognize the Grand Marshal of the anniversary festivities, Major General Grayson Tate, a Purple Heart veteran who nearly lost his leg in the battles for democracy and peace that took place 50 years ago in Korea.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I thank the veterans and families of the Korean War and those in my community who are working hard to see them properly honored. We can never afford to forget their victories and their sacrifices lest we take for granted the precious freedoms we enjoy every minute of every day. I would like to extend my

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best wishes to them for a memorable Saturday baseball game.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF SAMUEL R. BACON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish a happy 100th birthday to Samuel R. Bacon of Cookeville, Tennessee. Mr. Bacon is a remarkable man who has lived a successful and rewarding life. He will turn 100 on July 1, 2000.

Reared on a dairy farm just outside of Baltimore, Maryland, Mr. Bacon graduated from the University of Maryland and went to work as a soil scientist. He eventually went to work for the United States Department of Agriculture and traveled the entire nation putting his experience and abilities to good use for a number of communities. After 35 years at the USDA, Mr. Bacon went into business distributing key chains, small tools and the like to about 400 stores. At the age of 91, he finally retired from that second career.

Mr. Bacon and his wife, Reba, now deceased, shared their good fortune with the Cookeville area throughout the years. They contributed to more than 30 charities, and through Mr. Bacon's support, Reba was able to establish an art league in Cookeville. Thanks to the generosity and support of the Bacons, the Cumberland Art Society has flourished into an integral part of the community. Always wanting to help his community, Mr. Bacon delivered Meals on Wheels to the elderly and disabled until he was 98.

An example of this man's extraordinary fortitude was the time he walked, at the age of 74, from Lebanon, Tennessee, to Monterey, Tennessee, a distance of nearly 70 miles. Asked why he wanted to walk such a distance at that age, Bacon replied, "I just wanted to see if I could do it." I congratulate Mr. Bacon for his tremendous contributions to the country and to his fellow man.

TRIBUTE TO ROY BRAUNSTEIN

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate APWU Legislative Director Roy Braunstein on a special achievement of 20 years as a National Legislative Officer.

Roy was first elected in 1980 as the APWU Legislative Aide, and was elected Legislative and Political Director in 1992. He has been elected eight times by the APWU membership. The American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO has more than 350,000 members in every city, town and hamlet in the United States and is the world's largest postal union.

Before he came to Washington, D.C. in 1980, Roy was active in the New Jersey

Shore Area Local where he served as Legislative Director and Shop Stewart. He was also the New Jersey State APWU Legislative Director and Editor. He served in community affairs as a member of the Barnegat, New Jersey Board of Education for three years and as a member of the Ocean County New Jersey Mental Health Board.

In Washington, Roy serves as a lobbyist for the union and has worked on a number of issues important to the membership. During his tenure at APWU, I worked closely with Roy in securing passage of the Hatch Act Reform, legislation which I authored granting greater political freedom for postal and federal employees. Roy also played a key role in the eight-year battle for the Family and Medical Leave Act which President Clinton signed into law in 1993.

Over the years, Roy has worked diligently to help win passage of the Federal Employees Retirement Act, the Spouse Equity Act, the Postal Employees Safety Enhancement Act, the Veterans Employment Opportunity Act and many other legislative initiatives to help working families.

Roy has fought to protect the viability of the Postal Service. He has been a leader in the fight against Postal Privatization, and the movement to take the Postal Service off-budget during the 1980's in an effort to stop congressional attacks on the Postal Service. APWU is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO and Roy has worked closely with other labor leaders for the goals of this nation's working men and women.

Roy's wife of 32 years, Marilyn, is also an APWU member and they are the proud parents of two young men, Rick and Daniel. He has an A.A. Degree from Kinsborough Community College in Brooklyn, New York, and a B.A. Degree from Richmond College in Staten Island, New York.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join in recognizing the very special achievements of Roy Braunstein, whom I have known throughout his career in Washington by virtue of my previous capacity as Chairman of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee and my current role as Ranking Democratic Member of the House Education and Work Force Committee. APWU is well-served to have Roy Braunstein representing their Union before the Congress of the United States.

AFRICAN DIAMONDS

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the enclosed statement into the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF ELI HAAS, PRESIDENT,
DIAMOND DEALERS CLUB

(For the hearing on Africa's Diamonds: Precious, Perilous Too? By the Subcommittee on Africa, Committee on International Relations, U.S. House of Representatives, May 9, 2000)

On behalf of the Diamond Dealers Club we welcome this opportunity to present this statement on "Africa's Diamonds: Precious, Perilous Too?"

The Diamond Dealers Club is a trade association of close to 2,000 diamond dealers, brokers and manufacturers. Conceived in 1931, we have since our beginning been located in New York City. Our members come from more than 30 different countries and import the overwhelming percentage of diamonds that enter the United States. Pursuant to our By-Laws, we early recognized that a key goal of our organization is "to cooperate with governmental agencies." This statement is presented with that goal in mind.

The tragic consequences of the use of diamonds to finance civil wars in Africa, particularly Angola, have in recent months received considerable public and private attention both in the United States and worldwide. The focus of the articles, discussions and meetings on this subject is that diamonds have been used by rebels to pay for weapons in Angola, Sierra Leone and Congo, weapons that have led to the deaths and amputations of limbs of tens of thousands of innocent victims of these conflicts.

Two years ago the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution that prohibited the purchase of diamonds from UNITA forces in Angola. Endorsed by the United States, these sanctions prohibit nations from the "direct or indirect import from Angola" to their territory of all diamonds that are not controlled through certificates provided by Angola's recognized government.

The resolution's basic objective was that without funds generated by such sales the rebel forces led by Jonas Savimbi would no longer be able to continue the campaign of terror and rebellion against Angola's government. Since then, the UN Security Council Committee on Angola, chaired by Canadian Ambassador Robert Fowler, issued a report in March 2000 which found that the UN sanctions are frequently violated.

According to the UN report, UNITA's military activities are sustained by its "ability to sell rough diamonds for cash and to exchange rough diamonds for weapons." The investigation of UNITA'S diamond sales led by the former Swedish ambassador to Angola implicated the presidents of Togo and Burkina Faso as involved in the illegal trading operations with Mr. Savimbi's forces. It also concluded that Bulgarians were shipping arms to UNITA and that the Antwerp diamond industry played a role in the illegal trade.

Several months before the March report, Ohio Congressman Tony Hall, a person long devoted to human rights causes and combating world hunger, introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives the "Consumer Access to a Responsible Accounting of Trade Act (CARAT)" a bill mandating that any diamond "sold in the United States" that retails for more than \$100 be accompanied by a certificate stating the name of the country in which the diamond was mined. According to the Congressman this would encourage consumers to "participate in a global human rights campaign" thus removing the financial support for some of Africa's civil wars.

We feel that Congressman Hall's bill has the worthwhile purpose of protecting innocent people caught in brutal internal conflicts. Each of us has seen photos of the frightened victims of these conflicts, victims who may have been killed or had limbs amputated simply because they were in the path of maniacal, well-armed thugs (often teenagers). All of us deplore these acts of terrorism.

Unfortunately for the innocent victims of these ongoing conflicts, the Hall proposal, however well-intentioned, would neither lead

to the successful implementation of the UN sanctions nor end the ongoing civil wars and the concomitant deaths of innocent civilians. Rather, it would harm the diamond industry worldwide and have serious negative implications for stable and developing countries in southern Africa.

Even if enacted and implemented, the Congressman's proposal would have but negligible impact on the UN sanctions. Diamonds are fungible and tens of millions of them are mined annually. No organization in existence today is qualified to certify that a stone sold in Rwanda was not mined in Angola, two nations which share a porous border several hundred miles long. Furthermore, rampant corruption and fraud easily leads to the fraudulent certification of stones from rebel areas—something which Ambassador Fowler's report documents.

Moreover, mandating that certificates accompany all diamonds "retailing" for more than \$100 would mean that tens of millions of certificates would have to be issued annually. The record keeping for this task would be monumental and costly and would inevitably harm the retail jewelry industry which is dominated by small businesses. It is also important to understand that De Beers, the company that sells most of the world's rough diamonds reported that it no longer purchases any from conflict areas. In March it announced that it would henceforth provide written guarantees that its diamonds do not originate with African rebels.

While there is some discussion of the development of a technology to come up with identifying marks or fingerprints to determine particular countries of origin of diamonds, no such technology is currently available. Indeed, even those involved in this research and development report that at best success is years away. Furthermore, even if country of origin was determinable, it would still not indicate whether a diamond comes from mines in government-held territory or from rebel-held mines.

In fact the proposed legislation would penalize and have a harmful impact on legitimate and responsible African producers of diamonds such as Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. In these countries diamonds provide the engine for economic growth and account for a substantial percentage of the gross domestic product. Diamond production has been so successful for Botswana that it now has one of the most rapidly growing economies in the world.

In South Africa, former President Nelson Mandela has expressed concern that his nation's vital diamond industry is not damaged by "an international campaign." Surely, the U.S. Congress does not wish to retard economic development in friendly developing countries because it is fueled by diamonds. In fact, this "unintended consequence" would follow from this legislation.

The American diamond and jewelry industry is united in both its abhorrence of terrorism in the Congo, Sierra Leone and Angola and in support of the UN sanctions regarding the latter. To successfully keep conflict diamonds out of the world diamond market we believe the problem must be attacked at the source. We feel that the efforts of the international community should be concentrated on the small number of firms and individuals who are actively engaged in helping illicit diamonds enter the mainstream of the legitimate diamond commerce. The international community has already achieved significant positive results with its efforts to cast light on firms, individuals and countries involved in trading with the rebel