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 neighbors 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 neighbors 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.

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 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.

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

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 Mixon, 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 best wishes to them for a memorable Saturday baseball game.

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.

Rearing 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 charters, 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.

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
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS  

June 20, 2000

The Diamond Dealers Club is a trade association of close to 2,000 diamond dealers, brokers and manufacturers. Conceived in 1911, we have since our beginning been located in New York City. Our membership has grown from a few hundred to over 100,000. We are dedicated to providing information about the diamond trade, helping illicit diamonds enter the main- stream of the legitimate trade, and protecting the interests of legitimate diamond dealers

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?”

In the House of Representatives the “Consumer Access to a Responsible Accounting of Trade Act (CARAT)” bill mandates that any diamond sold in the United States must be accompanied by a certificate stating the name of the country in which the diamond was mined. According to the Congressmen 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 man-made conflicts. Each of us has seen photos of the frightened victims of these conflicts, victims who may have been killed or had limbs amputated or who live 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 constant 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 Congressmen’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 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 diamonds reported that it no longer purchases any from conflict areas. In March it announced that it would henceforth provide written guarantees that 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 nations such as Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. In these countries diamonds provide the engine for economic growth and account for a substantial portion 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 supply chain, all interested parties 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 directly involved in helping illicit diamonds enter the mainstream of the legitimate diamond commerce.

The international community has already made significant progress in its efforts to cast light on firms, individuals and countries involved in trading with the rebel...