California sun, and they moved to Los Angeles, intending to retire.

Instead of retiring, Arthur made a second fortune in real estate. Arthur “never made money just for the sake of making money,” as he liked to say, but he will be remembered not for how he made money, but rather how he spent it. His passion for collecting art came about almost accidentally, while looking for decorations for his new home in Los Angeles. A friend suggested to him that he needed some silver to dress up the living room, so he purchased, in his words, a “schmaltzy cabinet by the 18th century silversmith Paul de Lamerie.” It was also this time that he bought his first micromosaics, which are images created by tiny threads of glass. Arthur became quite enamored with micromosaics, and eventually purchased over 200 pieces.

Mr. Speaker, the New York Times (September 4, 2001) noted in its obituary of Mr. Gilbert that “in time his collection grew to comprise several collections. The silver and silver-gilt items include scores of ornate tankards, dishes, candelabra and cups that once decorated the royal and aristocratic dinner tables of Europe. His gold collection was made up of some 20 gold snuff boxes, which like the 260 micromosaics, and his 80 portrait miniatures, are best appreciated through a magnifying glass.”

Arthur Gilbert was justifiably proud of his collection, and frequently he personally led tours through the museums which housed his collection. As his collection continued to expand, it eventually became too large for the space constraints at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, where it had been housed for some time. In 1996, Arthur accepted an offer to house his collection in the newly renovated Somerset House, an 18th century palace in London, where it is now displayed. He called it “Britain’s heritage regained,” since many of the pieces originally belonged to British aristocrats. The collection—valued at over $200 million—has been open to the public since May of last year. In appreciation of this lavish bequest, Arthur Gilbert, who never renounced his British citizenship, was knighted in 1999.

In addition to his donated art collection, both Arthur and Rosalinde Gilbert were benefactors of numerous charities and organizations. These include the Arthur and Rosalinde Gilbert Center for the Advancement of Scientific Research. They have contributed generously to the February 1941 Foundation—an extraordinary foundation created to thank the Dutch people for assisting Jews fleeing Nazi persecution and downed Allied pilots during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the Los Angeles Times (September 4, 2001) captured the essence of this outstanding philanthropist, when it quoted him: “Whether you collect snuff boxes or matchboxes, don’t buy because it’s going up in value but because you like it or it will enhance your life — then give it away.” I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Sir Arthur Gilbert, an outstanding Californian and a generous philanthropist.

Over the course of the past 50 years, the church has played a vital spiritual and cultural role in Sonoma County and has enriched the lives of thousands of people. The church is an active participant in the Hate-Free cities movement; has provided a home for self-help programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous; has initiated and maintains a four day annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration; has established and supports a community garden; has established and maintains a ministry of outreach to Lytton Ministries, a transition program for people trying to free themselves from addictions; and has established and supports the Second Sunday Morning Breakfasts, a forum for discussing, strategizing, and taking action on issues of civic, social and political importance.

The church also has an active youth program. It founded and runs the Village Project, which helps forge positive adult child relationship and the Rites of Passage program to help adolescents transition into adulthood. The church has also established a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship program and actively supports the 100 Black Men Mentoring program.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of its vibrant history and traditions and its many contributions to Sonoma County, it is appropriate that we acknowledge today this pioneering congregation.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE
THAT WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM PRESENTS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS GLOBAL DISCRIMINATION

SPEECH OF
HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 30, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my severe disappointment regarding the lack of engagement by the United States in the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, August 31—September 7, 2001, in Durban South Africa.

The United States has an extraordinary perspective on racism. It has made great strides towards addressing some of its problems. When the original Constitution was enacted, it declared African-Americans to be three-fifths of a human being. During Reconstruction, this very body initially refused to seat the first African-American Members of Congress. Today, there are thirty-nine African-American Members of Congress and numerous Cabinet officials. Though we have a long way to go with regard to race relations, we have come a long way.

This Nation presided over a slave trade that will go down in world history as one of the most grotesque examples of man’s inhumanity to man. Once slavery was abolished, due in large part to pressure from other nations, parts of the United States then enacted codes designed to deny African-Americans their full citizenship rights. As abhorrent as this pattern