

not stop what would become a long list of great achievements.

When he returned from Vietnam, Mr. Manning was elected Recorder in Gibson County, Tennessee, and later, Governor Ned McWherter appointed him state Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs. During that time, Mr. Manning played an important role in the construction of three retirement homes for veterans and three cemeteries for veterans in Tennessee. The West Tennessee Veterans Cemetery and the state veterans home in Humboldt are named in his honor.

In 1999, Mr. Manning was first elected mayor of Bradford, Tennessee, and has been credited with reinvigorating community spirit in that town. He was elected to his second term in that position in May 2001.

I am honored to have worked alongside Bill Manning, who is truly an American hero. His spirit and determination allowed him to overcome his physical obstacles and become a leader whose good work still benefits the people of Bradford, Gibson County and the state of Tennessee. We have lost an amazing man, a courageous leader and a dear friend. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me today in recognizing my friend, Mr. Bill Manning.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DON
CHAPMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Don Chapman and thank him for his contributions to the community of Paonia, Colorado. Don will always be remembered as a dedicated leader of the community. As he celebrates his retirement, it is a great loss for a town that has relied on Don for his knowledge and wisdom in times of hardship and prosperity.

Don has served the community of Paonia for over forty years. As a member of the business community he and his family owned and operated a service station, garage and machine shop in the area since 1956. Answering a call to public service in 1973, Don entered the field of politics. He was elected that year to the Town Council as a Trustee, a position he held for the next 10 years. This position propelled Don to the Mayor's office a year later. In 1995, following an eleven-year retirement, Don returned to service and was elected to the Town Council once again.

While serving Paonia, Don has been involved in several organizations that have been instrumental in improving the lives of those who reside in Paonia. He has served on the Fire District Board and the Delta County Hospital Board where he served as President. He has held leadership positions in Masonic Lodge 121, helped bring television to the area, as well as promote Paonia fundraisers, events, and services.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize Don Chapman and his contributions to the community of Paonia as he celebrates his retirement from public service. I would like to

thank him for his years of dedication and hard work. His time and dedication are well served. I wish Don the best of luck in his future endeavors and hope he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

MOVING TOWARDS A CLEAN
DIAMOND TRADE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representatives HALL, WOLF and HOUGHTON for putting together this compromise bill with the Administration. It is important that we enact legislation to reform the conflict-driving diamond trade, and this is an important first step.

Mr. Speaker, for years terrorist bands masquerading as political rebels have been using income from the illicit trade in diamonds to fund their attacks on civilian populations. The scars that they have left are deep. They are seen every where on the mangled limbs and faces of men, women and children on the streets of Monrovia and Freetown.

As appalling as the profiteering of these groups, is the commercial support that they have received from brokers in the legitimate diamond trade in what we refer to as the developed world. While some of these traders have dealt unknowingly in these blood diamonds, others have consciously taken advantage of their market position to "launder" these tainted goods. There is a clear need to establish a system which punishes those that are supporting terrorist bands that profit from diamond trading, and prevent dirty diamonds from entering the market which make legitimate dealers unwittingly complicit.

The substitute for H.R. 2722 that we have before us is not perfect, but it is an important first step in creating such a system. Moreover, passing this bill will send a clear signal to those states, industries and NGOs participating in the Kimberly Process, that the United States is serious about Clean Diamonds. I am confident that this bill will help move the Kimberly agenda forward, and that concrete steps to implement a verification system will be agreed to by all participating parties. This, after all, is the key. A verification system will not work unless it has the support of all those concerned.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to continue to work towards making the diamond industry one that supports trade and economic development without compromising human rights.

H.R. 3206, THE "HOME OWNERSHIP
EXPANSION AND OPPORTUNITIES
ACT"

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to make a brief state-

ment about my cosponsorship of H.R. 3206, the "Home Ownership Expansion and Opportunities Act."

By cosponsoring this legislation, I am expressing my support for new ideas to provide additional opportunities for homeownership. This legislation is intended to bring more competition into the secondary mortgage marketplace, the result of which will be more opportunities and lower costs for homebuyers.

The "Home Ownership Expansion and Opportunities Act" would allow the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA) to guarantee the securities of conventional mortgages above the 85 percent loan to value ratio, up to the statutory conventional mortgage limit. In case of default, the participating private mortgage insurance companies (PMIs) would bear the first level of loss.

Of course, our current mortgage financing system works well. After all, homeownership in the United States is at an all time high. Any system can be improved, however, so long as no industry or company is ceded any structural competitive advantage.

Like any legislation, this proposal takes calculated risks to achieve demonstrable gains. First, the federal government will guarantee these mortgages. I see no reason, therefore, why we wouldn't see to it that certain affordable housing goals are met and enforced. In doing so we will ensure that all Americans have access to affordable financing so they can realize their dream of home ownership.

Additionally, because the federal government will be taking on some of the risk associated with these mortgages, we must ensure that the program is managed in the most fiscally prudent manner. That is why the legislation includes a provision that any PMI participant receive an AA rating or better from a nationally recognized rating agency, and must meet additional requirements as determined by the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA). While the PMIs are regulated at the state level, we may want to consider additional safety and soundness mechanisms, to further minimize the risk to taxpayers.

I look forward to working with my colleagues as this proposal moves through the legislative process. This bill serves as a starting point to begin the debate on how best to accomplish our goal of increasing homeownership for all Americans.

GUILLERMO A. GOMEZ: TEACHER
OF EXCELLENCE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise today to recognize and honor Guillermo A. Gomez, a sixth-grade bilingual teacher at Vista Square Elementary School in Chula Vista, California.

Mr. Gomez was nominated by the California Teachers Association (CTA) for the prestigious National Education Association Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. He was the only California teacher, chosen from a pool of more than 300,000 educators, to represent our