

600-seat proscenium stage theater to complement the existing 401-seat thrust theater stage.

The second theater will enable the Berkeley Repertory Theatre to continue its more than thirty year tradition of providing the community with eclectic, imaginative, and challenging productions. The new theater will evoke the intimacy and vitality that is characteristic of the current space, but will also provide greater artistic flexibility for the future.

The opening will showcase the new theater, introduce the community to the Berkeley Repertory Theatre's new home, and host a world premiere performance of *The Oresteia*. The theater will better serve the Repertory's ever-increasing 15,000 member audience. The new building was made possible in part by donations from the City of Berkeley and the Ask Jeeves Foundation.

The new Berkeley Repertory Theatre is the cornerstone of downtown Berkeley's emerging Arts District and has become a great source of civic pride for the community. I am proud to congratulate Berkeley Repertory Theatre as it opens its new theater and I look forward to the many years of arts enrichment it will provide to the City of Berkeley.

COMMEMORATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. CRUZ BACA

HON. HILDA SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the proud contributions Mr. Cruz Baca and his decedents have made to the city of Baldwin Park. Mr. Baca was born in Mexico in 1874 and first arrived in Baldwin Park in 1906. In 1909 he returned to Mexico to retrieve his wife and children from the threat of revolution and bring them to Baldwin Park. In the spring of 1910 the Baca family finally settled near Francisquito Avenue in Baldwin Park following a long journey on foot through Texas and parts of Arizona.

Mr. Baca was a prosperous farmer who harvested a variety of crops and raised cows to produce milk and cheese. Realizing a demand for the ingredients for tamales, Mr. Baca became the only supplier of those ingredients in the San Gabriel Valley. But Mr. Baca's legacy is not as a landowner or businessman, it is the humanity he demonstrated to his fellow man, neighbor, and community.

Mr. Baca always lent a helping hand to those in need. During the Great Depression Mr. Baca provided food for the poor, he would park his wagon full of produce at Morgan Park to help feed the community. He also provided transportation to those in need with his horse and wagon, taking people as far as San Gabriel to attend services at the San Gabriel Mission. His efforts to improve the community are many, such as plowing and landscaping the land to develop Morgan Park for free and helping to plow his neighbors land when they were experiencing difficulties. Mr. Baca is also known for his selfless acts of heroism, single-handedly saving a family from a burning home and pulling his neighbors car out of the San

Gabriel Valley River with his horse and wagon during a heavy rainstorm.

Mr. Baca was a dedicated father, husband and citizen and his influence will be everlasting in the City of Baldwin Park. Mr. Baca's legacy continues also with the hundreds of decedents that continue to live, work, and raise families in the City of Baldwin Park.

H.R. 808, THE STEEL REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2001

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 808, the Steel Revitalization Act of 2001.

America's steel industry is in a near crisis state. Beginning in 1997, dumped and subsidized steel imports grew dramatically until they reached almost 40 percent of the U.S. steel market. Steel prices rapidly decreased; steel workers were laid off, steel companies filed for bankruptcy. As a result of the weakened steel industry, the level of imports deemed acceptable by the government increased, and recovery has been difficult.

I believe that this legislation is necessary to help revitalize the steel industry. It provides import relief by imposing five year quotas on the importation of steel and iron ore products in the U.S. The quotas will return the import market share to the levels prior to 1997. This provision is very similar to H.R. 975, which passed the House with strong support in the previous Congress.

In addition, this legislation will augment the Steel Loan Guarantee Program, which provided guaranteed loans to qualified steel companies. Currently, steel companies are finding it almost impossible to raise capital through other sources, especially due to plummeting stock prices and decreasing demand. The Steel Revitalization Act will expand the program by authorizing \$10 billion rather than \$1 billion, guaranteeing 95 percent of the loan rather than 80 percent and extending the terms from five years to fifteen. With this expansion, more companies will be able to take advantage of this worthwhile program.

Mr. Speaker, in the Congressional District I represent, two of our steel companies are seriously distressed. Many of my constituents are at risk of losing their jobs. It is of the utmost importance that we in Congress work hard to keep America's steel industry vital. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 808.

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 333) to amend title 11, United States Code, and for other purposes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 333, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act. I have spent a great deal of time examining the public debate surrounding bankruptcy reform and looking for assurances that H.R. 333 will reduce the number of abusive bankruptcy filings by holding debtors responsible for repaying their debts.

Although bankruptcy filings continued to decrease this past year from the record 1.4 million consumer bankruptcy petitions filed in 1998, they still remain six percent higher than five years ago, when filings first passed the one million mark. Last year, the number of personal bankruptcy filings in Rhode Island decreased by 12 percent from the previous year, but that number is still too high, as the number of personal filings in the state has more than doubled in the last decade. Unfortunately, hardworking consumers shoulder much of the economic burden of these bankruptcies.

While there are many factors contributing to the increased number of bankruptcy filings, statistics have shown that a significant number of individuals are permitted to walk away from their debt by filing under Chapter 7 when they have the ability to repay most, if not all, of their debt. Our bankruptcy system should direct filers to the chapter that best matches their needs and allow them to pay off as much debt as possible.

H.R. 333 will help reestablish a degree of personal responsibility by utilizing a needs-based test to identify debtors making over the median income who have an ability to repay at least a portion of their debts. However, this legislation is by no means perfect and it fails to hold credit card companies accountable for the credit they issue. An increasing number of individuals who have experienced events such as illness, job loss or a recent divorce and have no financial recourse other than bankruptcy are being overwhelmed with misleading and abusive marketing strategies of the credit industry. As a result, too many consumers are prone to predatory lending practices after filing for bankruptcy and are never truly granted a fresh start by the system.

It is for these reasons that I will support the amendment offered by my colleague from Texas, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, and the motion to recommit offered by the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. CONYERS, during consideration of the bill. These provisions would strengthen the bill and address credit card company practices that have contributed to the increasing level of consumer debt and the rise in consumer bankruptcies. Specifically, the Jackson-Lee amendment seeks to modify the means test to allow more flexibility in determining a debtor's expenses, including health insurance premiums, other medical expenses, and the costs relating to the care of foster children, and extend the deadline for filing and confirmation of reorganization plans by small businesses. The motion to recommit would prohibit credit card companies from issuing credit to individuals under the age of 21 unless there is written parental consent or the individual can demonstrate an independent source to pay the debt.

Nonetheless, even if these modifications are not approved, I do intend to support the underlying bill because I believe Congress must do something to address the current state of abuse and overuse of our bankruptcy system. However, Congress should also continue to pursue common-sense reforms that will not only cut down on fraud within the system but also hold credit issuers accountable for their actions while protecting the vulnerable consumer. I would strongly urge the Senate to keep these arguments in mind as it continues to debate its version of the bankruptcy reform bill.

A TRIBUTE TO MILDRED L. BOYCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mildred L. Boyce for her contribution to the education of New York's children. For over 25 years Ms. Boyce has been a dedicated teacher and administrator.

Although Ms. Boyce was born in Manhattan she received all of her education in Brooklyn, attending P.S. 44, P.S. 181, J.H.S. 246, Erasmus Hall High School and Brooklyn College, where she received a B.A. degree, M.S. degree and a professional Diploma in Administration and Supervision.

Ms. Boyce began her career in education as a 6th grade teacher at P.S. 106, in 1965, where she later held the position of Master Teacher and Interim Acting Assistant Principal, before coming to Philippa Schuyler in 1977. Currently, Ms. Boyce serves as the Principal of the Philippa Schuyler Middle School for the Gifted and Talented.

For her devotion, and hard work Ms. Boyce has been the recipient of many awards including the NAACP Educator's Award and the Black Professional Business Women's Educator Award.

In addition to her duties as an educator, Ms. Boyce is an active member of St. Laurence Catholic Church, serving as a Lector, and a member of the Baptismal team. She is also a member and advisor to the President of the Council for Supervisors and Administrators as well as an elected delegate from District 32. She sits on the executive board of District 32's supervisors.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Mildred L. Boyce for her hard work and extraordinary contributions in the field of education.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT MAY

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated work of one of my constituents, Mr. Robert May of Old Town, Florida who has been awarded the Charles P. Ulmer award by the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The Ulmer award recognizes individuals who have worked to honor the memory of those who died serving their country. Robert May has done that and more. He currently serves as a leader within the organization and is actively involved in his community. I commend Robert May for his dedication and commitment to preserving the rich heritage of the South.

The Charles P. Ulmer Award was named for a man who bravely fought in many famous battles during the Civil War, including the battles of Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Perryville, and Murfreesboro. As it's told, on November 25, 1863, during the battle of Missionary Ridge, Corporal Charles P. Ulmer put honor before fear when he picked up the flag from a fallen soldier and charged forward. He served his country proudly as he, too, fell answering the call of duty.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans' "Charles Ulmer Compatriot of the Year Award" is awarded to that person who exemplifies the dedication and duty to country that Mr. Ulmer had shown so long ago, and Robert May is that person.

Mr. Speaker, I join Robert May's family and friends in congratulating him on receiving the "Charles Ulmer Compatriot of the Year Award."

THE CLEAN DIAMONDS ACT

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Clean Diamonds Act. This bill aims to eliminate the trade in diamonds that are used to fund conflict in Africa—wars that have killed more than 2 million people, driven 6.5 million from their homes, and subjected many of the region's 70 million people to horrific atrocities.

The Clean Diamonds Act lends the support of the United States—whose citizens buy 65 percent of the world's diamonds—to multilateral efforts to sever the link between diamonds and war. It implements the diamond industry's July 2000 promise to help block the trade in these diamonds, and gives it a year longer than it said it needed.

Mr. Speaker, I will never forget the two-year-old girl who lost an arm to rebels, or what her fellow war victims told Congressman WOLF and I when we visited Sierra Leone's amputee camp in 1999. When we asked what had happened to each of them, they told nightmarish tales of rebels who lopped off their hand to punish them for voting, or their legs or ears or arms so they would always remember how much the rebels hated the country's elected government. But when we asked why their countrymen were suffering, they gave us a one-word answer: "diamonds."

There is no question that diamonds do a lot of good for a few southern African nations that, because of a quirk of geology, have the ability to secure their mines against takeover by thieves masquerading as rebels. Diamonds also are making the industry wealthy beyond imagination: for example, DeBeers, the mo-

nopoly which buys the overwhelming majority of uncut diamonds, just reported a 73 percent increase in profits in 2000.

But for Sierra Leone, Angola, the Congo, Guinea, and Liberia, diamonds are a curse. They are a magnet for bandits, who seize diamond mines and trade their production for weapons, narcotics they use to numb their fighters to the tasks they demand, and the other materiel these big armies need. Diamonds in those countries are close to the surface and spread over large regions, so it is much harder to patrol mining done there. Because of that, and because the legitimate industry is so willing to help rebels launder their stolen gems, neither these countries nor the United Nations has been able to fend off these rebel forces.

I am convinced that, until this link between diamonds and war is severed, we will continue to see these atrocities—forced amputations, brutal murders of innocent civilians, widespread rapes and other sex crimes, and a generation of youngsters whose only education is as child soldiers. We will see no end to hunger, disease, and the other problems of war. For example, a recent International Rescue Committee survey of people who live in a relatively peaceful, but rebel-controlled, district of Sierra Leone found one in three dies before his or her first birthday—more than twice the country's overall infant mortality rate. And we will continue to watch billions of dollars in aid pour into amputee camps and other humanitarian projects, while tens of billions in conflict diamonds pour out of these same countries.

The Clean Diamonds Act grew out of the diamond industry's own July 2000 promise that it would move swiftly to end the trade in conflict diamonds and establish a system of controls by December 2000. That hasn't happened; without some pressure from US consumers, I doubt any effective solution will be implemented.

In these embattled countries, rebels are committing terrible atrocities every day—and they are doing it with the complicity of a legitimate industry that markets conflict diamonds as tokens of love and commitment. Our bill gives the industry a year more than it said it needed to take the steps it should have begun years ago. It supports the efforts of South Africa and more than 20 other nations, working through the Kimberley Process, to devise an effective response to this problem.

The nations and legitimate businesses that supply the US market are well able to fulfill the reasonable obligations this bill outlines. This bill asks nothing more of our trading partners than that they enforce effective laws against the smuggling of conflict diamonds. Eight months ago, to great fanfare, the diamond industry agreed it would do just that. Three months ago, the U.N. General Assembly unanimously voted on the need for immediate attention to this problem—before it sours consumer interest in diamonds and damages countries that rely on diamond production. I hope the Clean Diamonds Act will add momentum to these promises of action.

I am particularly pleased with some key features of the Clean Diamonds Act:

First, it will bring relief to the victims of these wars for the control of diamonds because it provides that any contraband diamond caught entering the U.S. market shall be