

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