

His life in ruin, Reverend Sherriff borrowed money to buy a restaurant. This venture eventually expanded to five extremely successful eateries. During this time, he also financed a homosexual hotline in Spokane, Washington, taught nursing for the state of Washington, and volunteered his time to help the needy and hungry.

In 1983, Reverend Sherriff attended a service at Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church in Spokane, Washington. Because of this open and caring environment, he was convinced to rejoin the ministry.

Reverend Sherriff briefly served as a pastor of the MCC church in Boise, Idaho, and he served as District Coordinator of the Northwest District, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches from 1987–1992. From 1990 to 1992, Reverend Sherriff served as Executive Director of the Hope House, a low-rent residence facility operated by Loaves and Fishes.

Edward Sherriff began his tenure as Associate Pastor of River City Metropolitan Community Church in Sacramento in 1987. His office was located in the church building in Oak Park, a multicultural community in a depressed area of Sacramento. He made a practice of inviting cold and hungry people off the street to come in for a cup of hot coffee. As the news spread, more and more people began to flock to the Reverend's door.

Due to his nursing background and interest in feeding the needy, nutritional concerns were of utmost importance in formulating his outreach to the community. In 1990, he began cooking a pot of soup for the 10 or 20 hungry people who had nowhere else to go for a warm meal.

In the early 1990's Reverend Sherriff and MCC began the Samaritan Center to provide help for the needy regardless of religious affiliation, race, creed, sex, or sexual orientation. The Samaritan Center used volunteers and the church's kitchen to prepare the meals and used the church's social hall to serve the meals. The number of hungry people continued to grow, and in 1992, Reverend Sherriff resigned his District Coordinator position and dedicated his time to the Samaritan Center.

In 1994, MCC's Activities Building, which housed the Samaritan Center, burned to the ground. At the time, the Samaritan Center was providing about 400 hot meals per day. As a result, the center was promptly moved to a new location and continued the services to the community. In September of 1999, the Samaritan's Food Bank program, together with Reverend Sherriff's coffee shop, had helped feed over 4,200 people.

Mr. Speaker, as the community of Sacramento gathers to mourn the loss of one of its finest citizens, I am honored to pay tribute to Reverend Edward R. Sherriff. His tireless service to the community and people of Sacramento will be dearly missed. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in mourning his loss and celebrating his achievements.

HONORING WWI VETERAN, JOHN STRONG

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World War I veteran, John

Strong, Mess Attendant 3rd Class, U.S. Navy. The Government of France has approved Mr. Strong for the award of The National Order of the Legion of Honor.

The National Order of the Legion of Honor is the highest honor France bestows on its citizens and foreign nationals. It is presented in gratitude for the American valor in France during World War I and in recognition of the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

John Strong is 101 years old, and a long time resident of Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley. He served as a Mess Attendant 3rd Class with the U.S. Navy in World War I. He left for Brest, France on the U.S.S. *Passtora* and served aboard a submarine in France. John Strong vividly remembers surviving a torpedo missile attack by the Germans. The torpedo landed three or four feet away from the submarine that he was on and many sailors were killed as a result of the attack. Mess Attendant 3rd Class Strong was one of the few fortunate sailors to survive and he has never forgotten this incident. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy on September 25, 1919.

John Strong has since been a minister of the Gospel of the Jesus Christ Church. He entered into the ministry in 1929 and over the years has pastored in five churches. He was an active minister until 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the Reverend Strong for his dedication to the U.S. Navy. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing John Strong many more years of continued success in life.

TRIBUTE TO WINSOME McLEAN-DAVIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention the achievements of Ms. Winsome McLean-Davis.

Ms. McLean-Davis is currently the administrator for the Bishop Henry B. Hucles Episcopal Nursing Home which is a 240-bed skilled nursing facility in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. Through her leadership and pioneering spirit, the facility opened an adult day care program in April of this year. The Episcopal Nursing Home has also received a deficiency-free assessment from the Department of Health.

Winsome's contributions to our community go beyond her accomplishments in the successful operation of this nursing facility. As Vice President of her local block association, Winsome has focused on improving her community. In an attempt to develop community support groups, Winsome organized a summer program for children and youth. Currently, Winsome also serves as the Vice President of the Black Long Term Care Administrators' Association (BLTCA).

Our community has greatly benefited from Winsome's strong moral commitments. She credits her father, Curlin Thomas McLean, a trade union leader in Jamaica with instilling in her the principle that "investing in another's life is the real sign of true service." Her mother, Ruby, by example, continues to enforce

these values. Winsome completed her undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of the West Indies and Howard University. She completed post-graduate studies in gerontology at the Brookdale Center on Aging of the City University of New York.

Winsome is married to Kenneth Davis and they have a five-year-old son, Andrew. Ms. McLean-Davis is truly an inspiration to her fellow administrators and a pillar in her community. I commend her to my colleagues as an outstanding example of a community leader.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE C. STEWART, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Claude C. Stewart, Jr. Although he is no longer with us, his life stands as a testament to the value of hard work and a strong commitment to family. However, "June," as he is fondly known, liked to believe that he led an ordinary life.

He was born on September 7, 1923 in Union County, South Carolina. He was the 18th child of Claude C. Stewart, Sr. and Janie Means Stewart. Other than a 22 month stint serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, June spent most of his childhood and adult life in Columbia.

For more than 40 years, he worked for Johnson's Funeral Home and Palmer Memorial Chapel. However, "June" is best remembered for his service to the Columbia, South Carolina, Fire Department. In 1953, he was selected one of the first eight African Americans to work at the department. Hard work and dedication enabled June to rise through the ranks and become the first black Engineer, Captain, Battalion Chief and Assistant Chief. In June 1989, he retired as Assistant Chief after 36 years of service.

Outside work, "June" was a dedicated member of Second Calvary Baptist Church where he served on the Deacon Board. He was also a member of Masonic Lodge #47 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Until his death, June was married to Bertha Williams Stewart for 46 years. They had two children. Their son, Claude David, predeceased his father. Their daughter, Claudette, married Leonard Hampton and has one son, Terrance Claude Hampton, whom "June" affectionately called his "Man."

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me and my fellow South Carolinians from the Columbia area as we pay tribute to Claude C. Stewart, Jr. "June" showed us how to turn the glory in an ordinary life into the extraordinary. He will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO ANN MELLON

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of a great American, Ann Mellon, from my hometown, Worcester, Massachusetts. Ann was an amazing woman. She

was known throughout the community as mother to all those in need, loving all children no matter whose they were.

Working with Catholic Charities she served as a foster mother to over 116 children whom she loved with all her heart and being. It is my opinion that the whole world is a better place because of her work.

A loving wife and mother, Ann was a nurse and caregiver to all those who needed care. She gave enduringly of herself, always with compassion and most of all love. She was a happy person, always laughing with the children she loved so dearly. Her door was always opened to the hungry. She was always able to provide them with a meal, a laugh, and a good dose of the best medicine of all, the medicine of the heart. Mr. Speaker, today I join her family and friends, as well as the entire Worcester community, in mourning her passing.

CONSUMER ACCESS TO A RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OF TRADE ACT

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Consumer Access to a Responsible Accounting of Trade Act of 2000.

This bill aims to give Americans the same information about diamonds that they have about other products they buy. I believe it is information that may be of increasing interest to them, as attention focuses on some regions' reliance on diamonds to fuel wars there. This link between dirty diamonds and war is at the root of much evil in Africa today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that war—and not diamonds—is the root of these evils. Botswana went from the poorest country in the world to become one of Africa's greatest success stories—a success built on the careful investment of diamond revenues in the nation's people. In Namibia and South Africa, too, diamonds have been the fuel for tremendous progress.

Sadly, and especially so for those of us who have hoped and worked for a brighter future for all Africans, fighting is again overshadowing prospects for progress in several other African nations. In two—Liberia and Sierra Leone—peace agreements have stopped most of the fighting; in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a fragile cease-fire is holding so far; and in Angola, war threatens to drag on for some time. In all four countries, revenues from diamond mining have fueled these wars and made their continuation possible.

Sierra Leone is a dramatic example: Rebels there went from a rag-tag bunch of 400 soldiers, to a formidable force numbering more than 20,000. The revenues from the diamond mines they seized ensured they never wanted for the best in weapons or gear, and they enabled these butchers to cut off the hands and arms of civilians in punishment for casting ballots. In all, \$200 million a year in diamond exports funded the bloodshed that killed 50,000 people in Sierra Leone this decade.

Angola's seemingly endless war is another example. Rebels again are waging the war that has cost a million people their lives, has

driven more than a million from their homes in the past year, and now threatens two million with famine. Their weapons, including land mines that make Angola the deadliest place in the world, are purchased with diamond revenues totaling nearly \$4 billion this decade.

Through their greed and craven brutality, rebels and dealers in dirty diamonds risk tarnishing the appeal of diamonds to consumers, and their promise to impoverished African nations. I believe the CARAT Act will help protect these democracies from the shame that these outlaws are bringing to the diamond trade.

The information my bill provides to consumers can be given without hesitation by those trading in diamonds mined in Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, Canada, Australia, and Russia. It will reassure Americans that the symbols of love and commitment they cherish were never darkened by the shadows of machetes or land mines, and that their investment was not used to buy guns or bombs.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the efforts of Global Witness, a coalition of human rights organizations working to draw worldwide attention to the link between the illicit trade in diamonds and wars in Africa. The "Fatal Transactions" campaign they have launched is a responsible effort, one that aims to shield those engaged in legitimate trade from public outrage. That is very important, because activists will play a crucial role in shaping public opinion about the diamond trade. If diamonds go the way of fur—if they become a pariah product in the eyes of many consumers—democracy in Southern Africa could be shaken, and regional stability put at risk. I am heartened that Global Witness' member organizations are exercising greater caution to ensure this does not happen. I hope that, by giving consumers information they can use to understand this issue, my bill will provide another safeguard.

I also hope this legislation will support work on this issue by policymakers, and I commend to our colleagues' attention the efforts of our State Department, of Secretary Albright, of Britain's Robin Cook, of Canada's Robert Fowler, and of the many experts in government, non-government, and business organizations working to sever the link between war and gems.

The supply-side approach they are taking offers the promise of a global solution, and I hope they succeed. In the meantime, however, the United States can play a bigger role in this noble effort. In fact, the way to have the most constructive impact might be by exercising our purchasing power wisely.

Mr. Speaker, Americans buy 65 percent of the gem-quality diamonds sold worldwide, making us a force the market must reckon with. Insisting that our consumers are informed of the original source of diamonds sold to them will send a wake-up call to the diamond industry. It will encourage countries and businesses in Africa to use their influence to end the wars that wreak so much havoc on that continent before those wars give diamonds a bad name. And it will help protect the democratic nations that are using their diamond revenues for the good of their people.

Mr. Speaker, in the past decade our Nation has spent nearly \$2 billion in humanitarian aid to people who live in the nations where "conflict diamonds" are fueling wars. Over the same period, at least three times that much was siphoned away from those same nations'

diamond mines; too much of it was spent on weapons that cost millions of Africans their lives and limbs, and reversed years of economic progress their countries had made.

Where would these nations be without those wars? The contrast between Botswana, which invested its diamonds in its people, and Sierra Leone, which invested them in war, is striking.

Africans in Botswana live to age 52, on average; in Sierra Leone, they die at age 35.

In Botswana, 7 in 10 people can read; in Sierra Leone, 7 in 10 cannot.

In Botswana, annual per capita income is nearly \$6,000; in Sierra Leone, it is just over \$600.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we have a civic responsibility to invest our taxpayers' money wisely. We also have a moral duty to help those who Scriptures call "the least of these." Neither allows us to ignore the root cause of the terrible suffering that this legislation seeks to address. We should not rush into enacting any ill-advised sanctions; but neither should we continue to look away from a problem we could do so much to eliminate.

In this decade, we have had no opportunity to get to the root of this evil like the one we have today. The hideous war in Sierra Leone has ended; Liberia is rebuilding its economy and society; and United Nations sanctions block the sale of diamonds by UNITA rebels in Angola. Only in the Democratic Republic of Congo do illicit sales of diamonds threaten peace. Now is the time to take preventive action to sever one of the key lifelines of war in Africa.

In preparing this bill, I have learned that diamonds are judged by what experts call "the four C's"—cut, color, clarity, and carat weight. I believe the day is coming when diamonds also are judged by a fifth C—their country of origin. The CARAT Act will ensure consumers know all five C's, and help them—if they choose to do so—use their purchasing power to support those who are using diamond revenues to wage war against their people.

My bill is a simple one, Mr. Speaker. It simply requires gem-quality diamonds imported into the U.S. market to be accompanied by a certificate listing where they were mined. But it will also remind those who depend on our business that Americans are powerful and responsible consumers. It will protect the democratic nations in Africa that depend on diamond revenues. And it enables American consumers to choose not to support the oppressors of African people who have paid too dearly, and for too long, the price of war.

TRIBUTE TO THE TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Torrance Unified School District. This school district has taken the initiative in addressing youth violence by implementing a systemwide program for conflict resolution.

Highlighting themes of compassion, respect, and character, this program works with the