

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Rich Kolecki for his contributions to the Boy Scouts and the community of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. It is people like Rich, who volunteer their time and effort, who ensures the creation of future leaders for this nation. Keep up the good work Rich and congratulations on your achievement.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF JAMES BEAVER, SERGEANT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of James Beaver. Sergeant Beaver has served with distinction for nearly 30 years as a member of the Police Department at California State University, Long Beach.

Sergeant James Beaver came to the CSULB Police Department after serving our country in Vietnam as a member of the Army. Upon his return, Sergeant Beaver found a calling in public service that appealed to him strongly, and joined the Campus Police on September 6, 1972.

During his tenure, Sergeant Beaver has provided University students, staff and guests with the highest levels of professional police service. He has distinguished himself in perhaps the highest order of being an unparalleled mentor of colleagues and new officers for nearly three decades. Sergeant Beaver has been a model member of both his profession and his community.

Sergeant Beaver will close his professional police career effective December 31, 2001. When he retires, Sergeant Beaver will look back on a career that spanned a period of unprecedented change in our country, and extraordinary dynamic growth in our nation's colleges and universities.

So best wishes to Sergeant Beaver. He will be missed but not forgotten by all those friends and colleagues who will gather on December 22 to wish him the very best for a long, active and healthy retirement.

GENERAL AVIATION INDUSTRY REPARATIONS ACT OF 2001 (H.R. 3347)

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the good work of Aviation Subcommittee Chairman JOHN MICA. Today, he introduced the "General Aviation Industry Reparations Act," in an effort to compensate general aviation businesses that were closed by government edict after the tragic events of September 11. I am pleased to join Chairman MICA as an original cosponsor of this much-needed legislation.

As a result of the terrorist attacks, this segment of the aviation industry was grounded

significantly longer and was saddled with greater flight restrictions than the larger air carriers. In some cases, certain general aviation airports are still unable to operate. On October 17th, the Aviation Subcommittee heard testimony from those affected by the government shutdown, where we learned that direct compensation is the only hope left for man small companies. Drawing from these hearings, Chairman MICA's legislation allows qualified companies that have suffered economic losses due to the government's actions, to ask for reasonable compensation. This legislation directly provides the much-needed cash infusion these small businesses require to stay in business, while making sure only eligible companies receive funds.

This legislation will affect the constituents of almost every Member of Congress, because general aviation operates at more than 5,300 public airports across America. More than 92 percent of the roughly 225,000 civil aircraft registered in the United States are general aviation aircraft. More than 500,000 of the nation's 635,000 pilots fly general aviation aircraft. General aviation is compromised of private business owners, large and small, that rely on our national airspace for their livelihood. Many of these companies are mom and pop flight schools, parachute schools, scenic tour operators, and the people who gas up planes and tie them down at night.

On October 3, I introduced the "General Aviation Small Business Relief Act" to help out the struggling industry. My bill would allow the Small Business Administration to provide direct grants and low-cost loans to general aviation small businesses directly affected by the terrorist attacks to help them make it through this tough time. I am proud to report that 50 of my colleagues, including Chairman MICA, have joined in the effort to provide relief to general aviation businesses.

This is why I am pleased to join with Mr. MICA today, in trying to help out the general aviation industry. Congress acted swiftly to stabilize the large carriers after the tragic events of September 11. It is time to address the financial crisis facing the general aviation industry. I fully support Mr. MICA's efforts and am proud to be an original cosponsor of his legislation.

MEMORIALIZING MAYOR BILL MANNING

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the late Bill Manning, a decorated war hero, a faithful public servant and my friend.

A California native who settled in Tennessee with his wife Jane, Mr. Manning served two tours of duty in Vietnam and was wounded both times. During his second tour in 1968, he lost both his left arm and right hand as a result of a rocket grenade attack. Mr. Manning had a prosthetic left arm and shoulder, and he designed and patented the Accra Hook to replace his right hand so he could maintain its functionality. Those disabilities did 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

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 thee 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 statement 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 American's 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 state of California. Although he was not the final winner, his nomination is a glowing tribute to his service to our children.

CTA President Wayne Johnson's nomination letter includes the following information about Mr. Gomez and his achievements: "CTA conducted a search for nominees for this prestigious award. Many excellent California teachers were nominated, but Mr. Gomez stood head and shoulders above the rest. Not only is he an excellent teacher, but he is also an inspiring one. He created an after-school program called Circle of Little Brothers and Circle

of Little Sisters, where he helps upper-elementary students explore possibilities for their futures. He coordinates an after-school homework center and takes the lead in training staff on English language development standards.

Becoming concerned that there were few males, especially of Latino descent, who were involved in a school with many Latino children, Mr. Gomez, along with another teacher, created a group called "Mi Papa" in the community resource center. This program helps bring fathers into the school community as role models and pairs them with children in educational and art activities.

Despite the fact that he has been a teacher for only six years, Mr. Gomez is active in his local CTA chapter, Chula Vista Educators. He serves on many committees and, as an association representative, he kept teachers in his school informed and focused during recent negotiations with the school district. He is also the chair of the political action committee for his local association. In short, CTA believes that Mr. Gomez exemplifies all the qualities that are present in the best teachers: dedication, caring, innovation and creativity, and teaching excellence."

Both Marilyn Prall, Principal, and Martha Deichler, Associate Principal of his school, who was Mr. Gomez' mentor, attest to his efforts to grow professionally and to become the best teacher possible—asking for advice, taking suggestions, and making them work in his own classroom. They believe that his passion for teaching has enabled him to become the excellent teacher he is today.

Mr. Gomez also works outside the classroom walls with the families of his students. He believes that only as an active social agent in the community can a teacher provide opportunities for students to advance in this competitive society. He participates in literacy nights, harvest carnivals, job-a-thons, and fundraising activities, such as car washes and haunted houses, to make sure that all of his students can go to sixth grade camp. In his "spare time", he also coaches soccer!

Mr. Gomez' public service goes beyond his local community. He and his students are often involved in charitable activities to help victims of natural disasters thousands of miles away. He is compassionate and appreciative of all people and cultures. His students know that he cares deeply about them and their families, and they return year after year to visit Mr. Gomez after their elementary school graduation.

Mr. Gomez is a graduate of San Diego State University (SDSU) and holds a Bilingual Cross-Cultural Language Academic Development multiple subject credential. He will receive his Master's Degree in Latin American studies from SDSU this coming summer. In addition, he regularly attends Saturday workshops, after-school in servicing training, and district workshops. He reads professionally and implements in his classroom the methods and ideas supported by current research.

Mr. Gomez knows the abilities of each and every one of his students and works to help each child achieve his or her full potential. He is proud to be a teacher, and I am proud that he is a teacher in my Congressional District. He will be honored by the National Education Association Foundation for the Improvement of Education in Washington, DC on December 6, 2001.