

consumed by contributing a great deal of effort to the Colorado Gifted and Talented Enrichment (GATE) program in Canon City. As a member of GATE, Joan is involved in attending monthly meetings and assists with district events and special projects that ensure the continuing operation of the program.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Joan Sindler and recognize her contributions to the educational system. Through people like Joan, children can rely on a quality education that focuses on their special needs and desires to excel in their education. Joan's dedication has brought great credit to herself, her family and her community and I would like to congratulate her for being named Parent of the Year.

PARMA HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Parma Heights Christian Academy, which has been named a 2000-2001 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

Parma Heights Christian Academy is the only private Christian school in the nation to receive the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award this year. In all, only 264 schools in the country earned this prestigious award this year. Blue Ribbon Schools are considered to be models of both excellence and equity where educational excellence for all students is a high priority. Parma Heights Christian Academy had to demonstrate its effectiveness in meeting local, state and national educational goals and had to successfully complete a rigorous application process. Blue Ribbon Schools must offer instructional programs that meet the highest academic standards, have supportive and learning-centered school environments, and demonstrate student outcome results that are significantly above average.

Parma Heights Christian Academy is an outstanding school that is well deserving of this national recognition. Its academic programs and environment will serve as a model for schools across the country. My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating the students, teachers and administration of Parma Heights Christian Academy for their commitment to excellence.

HONORING MR. CHESTER WIL-
LIAMS OF STATESBORO UPON
HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Mr. Chester Williams of Statesboro, GA on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Chester has truly led a remarkable life, and I am proud to be able to celebrate his accomplishments with you today.

Chester Williams was born on December 4th, 1911 in Stapleton, GA. He earned a bach-

elors degree in education from Georgia Teachers College in 1935 and a masters from the University of Georgia in 1950. Throughout his career, he has served as headmaster at four Georgia high schools; they include Reidsville High School, Folkston High School, North Habersham High School, and Metter High School. In addition he served as president of the District High School Principal's Association. Through his life as an educator, Chester has been able to expose young people to the benefits of a strong system of values and a well-rounded life. He continues to maintain daily interactions with the students from Georgia Southern University.

Mr. Williams was also a Lieutenant in the US Naval Reserve, seeing active duty in the Atlantic and Pacific War theaters. During this time he was a recognition and gunnery officer on the USS General W.G. Hann. Williams was a four-sport athlete and letterman at South Georgia Teacher's College, which is now Georgia Southern University. He is best known for earning all conference honors as a basketball guard in 1931 and 1932. He was also a member of the track team for three years, competing in the vault, high jump, and high hurdle events. In 1991 Mr. Williams was inducted into the Georgia Southern University Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Williams served as Speaker of the House in the Georgia Silver Haired Legislature from 1978 to 1981 and four years as a Small Claims Court magistrate judge. He and his wife currently reside in Statesboro, Georgia where he continues to serve on the city's zoning board. He is also a charter member of the Snooky's Restaurant Political Action Committee. Snooky's is Mr. Williams favorite place to eat breakfast, which is evidenced by the fact that he eats their sausage biscuit and grits every morning he is in Statesboro. He has his own special table in the restaurant. Friends come by every morning to tell him hello and receive one of his world famous hugs. Snooky's is located directly across the street from Georgia Southern University and was the location of Mr. Williams 90th birthday party today.

Certainly, Mr. Chester Williams has been a wonderful leader and role model to the many individuals he has touched throughout his life. He has demonstrated the enduring principles of education, health, patriotism, service, and leadership. It is my honor to commend the outstanding life of model citizen Chester Williams and thank him for all that he has done for the State of Georgia.

CLEAN DIAMOND TRADE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 2722. This is good legislation whose time is long past due.

I want to recognize the leadership of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and that of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), and also to compliment the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) for his leadership in the Committee on Ways and Means, and the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) for his

leadership in the Committee on Ways and Means.

I participated last April, along with five other Members, in a Congressional fact-finding trip to Botswana led by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON). Those who accompanied us on that particular delegation trip also included the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Today, I rise in support of this legislation to see how we can indeed rule out the conflict diamonds, the trade system that finances conflict, and the great devastation that is currently happening throughout regions of Africa. As part of our trip to Botswana, we examined first-hand the "secure" diamond industry in Africa and saw in this process how legitimate diamonds are being used in Botswana and other countries in that area. I was pleased to learn that Botswana, through a combination of democratic leadership and its seamless and secure diamond industry, is able to utilize clean diamonds to educate its people, to provide some of the African continent's strongest efforts in the fight against HIV-AIDS pandemic, and to undergird the country's overall economic and social development.

In Botswana, we met with President Mogae and members of his Cabinet. Since then, President Mogae has come to this country because he, too, wants a distinction to be made between clean diamonds and conflict diamonds. During his visit, President Mogae met with Congressional leaders in the House and Senate, Secretary Powell, and members of the Administration to express Botswana's commitment to keeping its diamond industry secure and its strong support for an international agreement on diamond certification through the Kimberley process. President Mogae has been part of the U.N., writing part of their resolution, and has made a statement to that effect that Botswana wants to be part of a clean diamond industry, and wants to be part of the force that makes this distinction.

I am pleased that this legislation is indeed focused on ending diamonds' financing of conflicts in Africa and other parts of the world. It is vitally important, Mr. Speaker, for well-intentioned legislation, such as H.R. 2722, to recognize and safeguard African nations, such as Botswana, which have secure and legitimate diamond industries, and which have no relationship to atrocities and conflicts in other nations on this continent.

I raise this point because it is important, Mr. Speaker. It is for this reason that through the leadership of Congressmen JEFFERSON, PAYNE, and RANGEL, we have worked with the distinguished author of H.R. 2722, Mr. HOUGHTON, to insert specific language recognizing that the provisions of this bill should not harm legitimate diamond-producing countries.

The good intention of this legislation also acknowledges those people who are following the law, and indeed, trying to do the right thing.

Again, I want to compliment everyone involved in this legislation. This legislation is long overdue and has been brought to bear at a time when we know that not only the conflict in Africa but now conflict in other parts of the world is being financed by diamonds. So hopefully this legislation would not only curtail, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) said, the loss of lives, the lives of thousands