

offset the costs of public schools, roads, and other needs of Colorado residents.

That amount may not be the same in the future, because the bill will revise the formula for distribution of payments so as to reflect the historical allocation of payments, the concentration of public land in a county, and the current economic condition of a recipient county. But Colorado will still benefit from the program.

I do regret that as it comes before the House today the bill does not include provisions dealing with another program of importance to Colorado's counties—the payments in lieu of taxes, or PILT, program. Under PILT, counties in Colorado received more than 17 million dollars last year—but would have received more if the full authorized amount had been appropriated.

As introduced, and as approved by the Natural Resources Committee, the bill would have provided for automatic payments under PILT at 80 percent of the authorized level in 2008, 90 percent in 2009, and 100 percent in 2010 and 2011. That would have meant that payments would not depend on annual appropriations.

I have worked for years to make full PILT payments automatic, so that our counties would be assured that they would receive the full amounts authorized—and I will continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, some of our colleagues have indicated they will oppose this bill because of the inclusion of provisions to reform the "royalty relief" afforded to some companies engaged in development of energy resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

I think those provisions are sound, and deserve support, just as they did when the House approved them last year. They would ensure that the companies pay their fair share of royalties on flawed leases granted in 1998 and 1999. Specifically, companies not currently paying any royalties due to these flawed leases would have to pay new "Conservation of Resource Fees," in order to be eligible for new Federal leases for drilling.

In 1998 and 1999, the Interior Department issued oil and gas leases for drilling offshore in the Gulf of Mexico that mistakenly failed to include "price thresholds," which trigger a requirement for companies to pay royalties to the Federal Government when the price of oil and gas exceeds a certain level. As a result, the companies that got these leases are exempt from paying any royalties at all—and, according to a preliminary estimate by the Government Accountability Office, that could mean that the taxpayers will be shortchanged to the tune of some \$15 billion over the duration of the leases. This bill, like legislation approved in the House last year, corrects that mistake. I urge the bill's approval.

THE RETIREMENT OF PRINCIPAL ARLEN KRINKE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, this Sunday a beloved community leader in Elk River, Minnesota, will be retiring. Arlen Krinke has faithfully served as Principal of St. John

Lutheran School for 34 years, pouring his heart into the school and earning the profound admiration of people throughout the community.

Schools are the fertile ground where young minds are shaped, young hearts are filled with hope, and young dreams are given life. As generations of students can attest, Principal Krinke has made St. John Lutheran a place filled with hopes and dreams, and where mind, body and spirit are nurtured and fulfilled.

There are few greater services one can render than to serve the young. And Principal Arlen Krinke truly has a servant's heart. He has given his all to this school—and made a real and lasting impact on those who walked through its doors.

Most important, Arlen Krinke has helped foster a learning community that values not just facts and statistics and data—but faith and character and values. At a time when so many are trying to pull kids astray, Arlen Krinke helped to lead them down the right path.

And so on this bittersweet occasion, it is my honor to join the families and students of the St. John Lutheran Community in recognizing Arlen Krinke for his 34 years of service and in wishing him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 379, H.R. 3021, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION RESOLVING TO ADDRESS THE COSTLY OBESITY EPIDEMIC BY IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO AND PRO- MOTION OF NUTRITION, PHYS- ICAL ACTIVITY, AND HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF CONGRESS'S WORK

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce a resolution to address the obesity epidemic by identifying opportunities in all of Congress's work to increase access to and promotion of nutrition, physical activity, and healthcare.

According to recent estimates, by the time the 111th Congress takes office, 73 percent of American adults could suffer from excess weight or obesity. Nearly 20 percent of our children already struggle with overweight and obesity. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates the current cost of the epidemic to be almost \$120 billion annually. The impact of this reality is vast and it is clear that the time for action is now.

Obesity is a complex problem and there is no single legislative action that will solve our country's growing epidemic. Instead, addressing obesity will require a wide range of policy,

environmental, cultural, and personal changes to truly affect meaningful change. We are fortunate that opportunities abound to have a positive impact on reversing the current trend thru legislation as diverse as a cap on carbon dioxide emissions, Medicare reform, the tax code, transportation policy, and the reauthorization of "No Child Left Behind."

Congress must work in a bipartisan fashion to identify the opportunities within all major legislative actions to promote health in every policy. In doing so, we can address the obesity epidemic on multiple fronts by improving nutrition, increasing physical activity, and expanding access to care. It is my sincere hope that we can work together to enact legislation that will result in a healthy, active and vibrant society. Please join me in co-sponsoring this resolution and pledging to identify meaningful opportunities to turn the tide on America's obesity epidemic.

MAY AS NEUROFIBROMATOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to state for the record, and bring to my colleague's attention, that the month of May is globally recognized as Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month.

On May 13, 2008, Tami Harbour, her mother Marcia Higgins from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Tami's 94 year-old grandmother Wilma Seely from Owasso, Oklahoma, came to my office with Tami's twin sister Teri to educate my staff and me about Neurofibromatosis (NF).

NF is a genetic disorder that causes tumors to form on the nerves of the body. These tumors are not restricted to any certain portion of the body and can appear anywhere, at any time, at any age. NF type 1 strikes one in every 2,500—3,000 people, without regard to race, sex or age. The first signs of the condition are usually multiple cafe-au-lait colored spots on the skin. Some of the youngest victims of this condition can also be subject to optic gliomas—brain tumors that can cause blindness and can be life-threatening. In addition, bone deformities, including scoliosis at an early age, and plexiform tumors, which can cause severe medical problems and turn cancerous, can also be caused by NF. Learning disabilities occur in more than 65 percent of the individuals with NF type 1.

NF type 2 is a genetically distinct form of NF that causes tumors to form on both acoustic nerves, resulting in deafness. NF type 2 also causes visual problems and muscle weakness. Symptoms of this type of neurofibromatosis include ringing in the ears, balance problems, and reduced hearing; however, these symptoms often do not appear until the late teen years, even if the condition has been present since birth. NF type 2 strikes 1 in 30,000 people and does not discriminate by age, sex or race.

At this time, surgery is the only effective treatment to relieve the problems caused by the symptoms of both forms of NF. There is no pharmaceutical treatment to control the growth of tumors and, unfortunately, there is no known cure. Half of the people with NF do

not have a family history of the disorder; however, a person with NF has a 50 percent chance of passing on NF with each child he or she has.

Although Tami is the only one in her family with NF type 1, she learned in her late teens that she had the disorder called Von Recklinghausen's Disease. However, her tumors did not start multiplying until she was a young adult. She has had a few thousand of tumors removed. She is in constant pain, but the condition does not stop her from performing her duties as a housekeeper at the nursing home where she has worked for the past eleven years.

I am encouraged by the NF research being conducted at the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the National Human Genome Research Institute and medical centers throughout the United States, funded by the National Institutes of Health. With robust federal and privately funded NF research, it is my hope that one day soon we will have a cure for this disease.

TRIBUTE TO TIMILIE WOODRUFF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a wonderful individual from the community of Riverside, Timilie Woodruff, who passed away at her home on May 15, 2008. Timilie was a remarkable woman who was deeply devoted to her family and community.

Timilie was born on November 19, 1940, in Safford, Arizona where she attended Safford High School as well as The University of Arizona. She moved to the City of Riverside in 1969. For the past fourteen years Timilie worked as the Project Coordinator for the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce. Her duties included organizing meetings for ten committees including agendas, notification, reports, minutes, and wanted information. She maintained and produced all correspondence for the President of the Chamber, kept and scheduled his calendar, answered phones and dispensed information to chamber callers. She also put together and choreographed weekly luncheons with major Riverside industries, Chamber Board, and local government officials. Timilie staffed the community leaders "Monday Morning Group" activities and "Leadership Riverside" program and managed schedules, meetings, files, correspondence, and logistics.

Before her job with the Chamber of Commerce, Timilie worked for the University of California, Riverside Office of Alumni and Parent Relations. Timilie handled everything from welcoming new students to serving as an advisor the Student Alumni Association. Timilie also previously worked for the United Way of the Inland Valleys, Riverside and for the American Heart Association, Riverside County Chapter.

Timilie was a valued member of the community and she will be sorely missed. She was a great mother, daughter, grandmother, companion and friend. Timilie is survived by her life partner of 15 years, Paul McAdam; sons,

Lenny and Chris; daughters in-law, Vickie and Debbie; mother, Isabel Nelson; brother, Story Nelson; and 5 grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Timilie will always be remembered for her ready smile, her positive attitude and the joy she brought to the people around her. Thank you and God Bless.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF LAKE RIDGE FELLOWSHIP HOUSE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 25th anniversary of the Lake Ridge Fellowship on June 7, 2008.

Located in Woodbridge, Virginia, this affordable housing development opened its doors in June 1983. Today the Lake Ridge Fellowship House serves over one hundred seniors on fixed incomes. Four out of five residents are women, many are widows who have lost a breadwinner's pension and a lifelong companion. Lake Ridge fills a unique niche in the Woodbridge area by supplying elderly residents with a safe environment in which they can enjoy recreational, educational and community-oriented activities. The Fellowship House is a vibrant example of community activism that should be replicated in other parts of the country.

Additionally, Lake Ridge provides affordable housing to both independent and mobility-impaired individuals. It offers secure and stable residences for seniors, thereby safeguarding citizens who might otherwise be unable to fully fend for themselves. In addition, Lake Ridge hosts arts and crafts, social activities, and boasts quiet reading alcoves. To better assist its mobility-impaired residents, the fellowship house provides transportation to and from local shopping areas.

Lake Ridge is one of only four privately owned fellowship houses in Virginia that are operated by the Fellowship Square Foundation, a subsidiary of the Lutheran Church. Sponsored by the Lutheran Lay Fellowship organization, it is a shining example of how the power of faith is used to fulfill a wide range of needs in our communities.

Madam Speaker, Lake Ridge Fellowship House is more than mere housing; it is the foundation of a rich and meaningful way of life for hundreds of senior citizens. In closing, I would like to congratulate Lake Ridge Fellowship House for providing twenty years of selfless commitment to Northern Virginia, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating their 25th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING JESSICA HERRERA-FLANIGAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jessica

Herrera-Flanigan, Staff Director and General Counsel of the Committee on Homeland Security for her dedication and service. Jessica will be leaving the Committee on Friday, June 6 for the private sector.

When I was the ranking minority member of the then Homeland Security Select Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Science, and Research and Development, Jessica served as the staff director for the subcommittee. Jessica worked tirelessly with me and then Chairman MAC THORNBERRY on the Homeland Security Department Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2004, which elevated the position of head of the department's National Cyber Security Division within the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate to Assistant Secretary. This change was eventually made in the Homeland Security Authorization Act for FY 2006.

The subcommittee, chaired by Congressman THORNBERRY, was a rare scene of bipartisanship in the 108th Congress. Majority and minority staff collaborated just as minority and majority members did. This seamless bipartisanship reflected well upon Jessica, staff director for the subcommittee.

Jessica's commitment to our Nation's security is demonstrated by her service to the Committee on Homeland Security since its inception in 2003. Her knowledge of cybersecurity and critical infrastructure and other homeland security issues over the years has benefited Congress, the Committee on Homeland Security and this Nation and she will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO JAYNE SHAPIRO

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jayne Shapiro, a good friend and a wonderful person. Jayne is being honored at Chabad of The Valley's 35th Annual Banquet with the "Woman of the Year Award" for her outstanding contributions to the health and safety of children in the State of California, to the welfare of the State of Israel and to many charitable organizations.

Soon after Jayne received her masters of public administration from CA State University Northridge, she began to help young and old people from all walks of life regardless of their background, affiliation or financial status. Her professional experience as a nurse and a sexual assault nurse examiner led her to establish a vitally important non-profit organization, KIDS SAFE. Her organization actively advanced numerous educational programs for the protection of children and worked tirelessly to persuade the California State Legislature to introduce the landmark Megan's Law. In 1999, to safeguard school campuses, Jayne established the Los Angeles Task Force on School Safety, bringing together school officials, law enforcement, teachers and parents in an effort to make campuses safer places to learn.

Over the years, Jayne has generously given her time and resources to numerous worthy organizations. She is a member of the National Executive Committee on the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and is the former chairperson of the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of the San Fernando Valley. She was appointed by the