faith. Throughout the years, Annunciation has served as a center of spiritual and religious growth within the community through the rites of Eucharist and Confirmation. Also, Annunciation unites Catholic members of the community through marriage, offers spiritual pardons through confession, as well as memorializes the deceased through Christian burial.

Annunciation has also educated generations of young men, women and children who have passed through the residential school over the last seventy-five years. In addition to teaching children the fundamental academic disciplines, Annunciation has taught the importance of service to the community. Currently, Annunciation is involved in helping to bring the Belaire-Puritas Development Corporation and the Meals-On-Wheels to the area, providing their end of the month Neighborhood Meal, and monthly Food Collection and Hunger Collection, both of which are very supportive of the West Cleveland community.

It is evident that the Annunciation Parish Community has, over the years, played a crucial role in the community, and that its many years of service have been an invaluable contribution to the West Cleveland community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PLEASANTON LIONS CLUB'S CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT SCLERODERMA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a disease known as scleroderma that an estimated 500,000 Americans currently suffer from. Even though more people have this disease than have Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis or Cystic Fibrosis, Scleroderma, unfortunately, is not that well known by the public.

Scleroderma literally means “hard skin” and is a chronic disorder that leads to the overproduction of collagen in the body’s connective tissue. It can also affect internal organs, causing severe damage and serious complications to the body’s digestive, circulatory and immune system. Scleroderma is not contagious or directly hereditary nor is it gender, race or age specific. However, 80% of its victims are women, most in the prime of their lives. Unfortunately, there is no known cause or cure for scleroderma.

I would like to commend the Pleasanton Lions Club within the 10th Congressional District for taking it upon themselves to raise awareness about Scleroderma. Thanks to a request being made by the Pleasanton Lions Club, the Pleasanton City Council on May 18 of this year proclaimed the month of June as “Scleroderma Awareness Month.” Also in conjunction with downtown events in Pleasanton, the Pleasanton Lions Club sponsors a booth offering information about the disease that also involves members from the Scleroderma Support Group in the Bay Area who share their stories with the public.

The Pleasanton Lions Club has also established informational displays along with literature at the Pleasanton Library, the Lion’s Club visitor/ticket office, the Valleycare Library, Valleycare Mental Center, the Pleasanton Senior Center and the Livermore Veterans Hospital.

On June 11, the Pleasanton Lions Club sponsored their 11th annual golf tournament and dinner to help raise money for scleroderma research. I have been told that the tournament and the subsequent dinner were a roaring success.

It is important that scleroderma be given the attention required to raise awareness and the funds needed to fight this chronic disease. The Pleasanton Lions Club have played a major role in this effort and I thank them for it. I hope others will follow their lead and get the word out to the public about why we need to fight scleroderma.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. RON LEWIS
OF KENTUCKY
Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of salaries for Members of Congress.

I have spoken time and again about my frustration of having to deal with the issue of automatic cost of living increases for Members of Congress each year. This year was no exception.

Representing a mostly rural district in Kentucky, I believe that I am fairly compensated for my services. It is an honor for me to represent the Second District.

It is important, at a time like this, for us to not lose sight of the fact that in the past several years we have asked America to sacrifice in order to balance the federal budget. While we, in Congress, have made great strides toward this goal, our job is not yet complete.

I continue to be concerned with the process in which these cost of living adjustments are made. I would rather Congress take an up or down vote on all pay adjustments for Members and have cosponsored legislation to eliminate the cost of living provision all together. This was the manner in which Congress did business for over one hundred and fifty years.

This is the first time in five years I have voted for a cost of living increase. I have to recognize that many of my colleagues are not fortunate enough to live in a low cost area such as the Second District of Kentucky.

This increase is not just for Members of Congress but for the thousands of federal judges and civil service administrators which are leaving at an alarming rate for the private sector. This exodus is depriving the government of some of the best and brightest that we have to offer.

Mr. Speaker, while I supported the increase for these reasons this time, I will not accept it personally. I intend to contribute my share of the cost of living increase to worthwhile causes in the Second District of Kentucky.

HONORING JUDGE FRANK M. JOHNSON, JR.
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, We are a country of strong men united by great philosophies, yet we are divided by realities that built this country by stripping a people of their land in order to call it our own and by enslaving another people to a lifelong labor of blood and sweat to build our homes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the brink of a new millennium, not to point out the immaculate flaws of our cherished American dream. Rather, I rise to salute Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., a man who Time Magazine in 1967 deemed “one of the most important men in America” and whose life exemplifies the Biblical statement “To whom much is given, much is required.”

Judge Johnson is a man who dedicated more than four decades of his life to ensuring...