erature 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.

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

Mrs. TAUSCHER. 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 balanced 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.