

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 24, 1998, I was present on the House floor during rollcall vote No. 264—final passage of H.R. 4104, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1999. To my knowledge, I voted on final passage of H.R. 4104. Apparently, my vote was not recorded. Had my vote been recorded, it would have been "aye."

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
SANTA MARIA LAWN BOWLING
CLUB**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the 20th anniversary of the Santa Maria Lawn Bowling Club. The club, which was established in 1978 with a grant from the Joslyn Foundation, brings together old and young residents of the Central Coast, allows them to participate in one of the oldest known sports.

The Santa Maria Lawn Bowling Club has more than 100 members and participates in intra club tournaments with neighboring lawn bowling clubs. It has succeeded in popularizing the sport of lawn bowling in Santa Maria, and has enriched the quality of life of this special community.

I ask my colleagues to join with me, the county of Santa Barbara, and the city of Santa Maria in commending the Santa Maria Lawn Bowling Club on its 20th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 22, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 252–256. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all of them.

MINORITY TOBACCO LEGISLATION

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues today in introducing tobacco legislation which addresses many of the concerns of the minority communities.

As Chairman of the Health Task Force of the Hispanic Caucus and Vice Chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American

Caucus, I have been working with a number of public health advocates to develop a proposal by which affected communities would benefit from public health services provided by organizations that have long served minority populations in tobacco-related activities.

There is no doubt that minorities have been targets by the tobacco industry. The effects of tobacco-related illnesses suffered by minorities are well documented in the April 1998 report of the Surgeon General of the United States. Unfortunately, the Surgeon General's report does not have good data on the territories. Guam, for example, has a 41 percent adult smoking rate, but nowhere is this mentioned in the report. Our bill calls for good data collection which would include the territories.

The bill which we are introducing today includes intervention programs designed to accomplish the following priorities: (1) to fund tobacco-related prevention activities in the minority community; (2) to conduct research on tobacco use by minorities; and (3) to enact programs to reduce or stop tobacco use by minorities.

Last year, the tobacco industry and the State Attorneys General agreed to a proposed settlement aimed at the restructuring of tobacco policies, giving us an opportunity to address tobacco control policies seriously and comprehensively. The bill we are introducing today accomplishes some of the goals and objectives in the proposed tobacco settlement agreement.

Recent efforts at reform were attempted through the McCain tobacco bill, which the United States Senate killed last week. The extensive and often contentious debate over the now-defunct McCain bill has demonstrated that even widespread support for anti-tobacco legislation can be forestalled by partisan politics, especially in an election year. In arguing against the bill, many Senators wielded accusations of "tax and spend" policies, playing on their constituencies' wariness of "big government." It is clear that the approximately \$40 million of advertising by the tobacco industry designed to raise doubts about enacting tobacco control legislation helped to kill the McCain bill.

The Republican leadership in the U.S. Congress now have proposed a teen smoking bill as an alternative to the McCain proposal. In my view, this narrowly-crafted proposal by the Republican leadership falls far short of the pressing needs in our minority communities.

Our proposal hinges on a comprehensive plan to create public health interventions aimed at cessation, education, and research programs in the targeted communities. We believe that a proportional amount of funds raised from tobacco legislation should go to the funding of these public health programs.

While the tobacco industry has long been notorious for targeting minorities, especially African Americans and Native Americans, the need for such public health programs grows more and more urgent as the numbers of minority group members who smoke continues to increase at alarming rates.

Teenagers are especially vulnerable to the influence of ubiquitous and alluring advertising aimed at their demographic. This year's Surgeon General Report—the first to focus on minority tobacco issues—evidences just how effective has been the tobacco companies' targeting of minorities.

According to the report, from 1991 to 1997, smoking rates among African American high

School students increased by 80 percent, while smoking rates among Hispanic high school students increased by 34 percent. From 1990 to 1995, smoking by high school students increased by 17 percent among Asian Americans and by 26 percent among American Indian and Alaska Natives. Smoking-related illnesses, such as lung cancer, continue to be a significant cause of death for these groups.

However, the tobacco industry's hold on minority groups involves more than just the pervasiveness of flashy advertising and targeting a niche market. Often, minority organizations are funded indirectly by tobacco companies, and soon come to depend on tobacco companies as primary sources of funding. We believe that national tobacco legislation should address the need to wean organizations away from their dependence on the tobacco industry. Our bill has a provision to accomplish this objective.

The dependence of minority organizations on tobacco funding, as well as the alarming statistics in the Surgeon General's report, together provide compelling evidence for the urgency of our legislation. Our bill utilizes existing public health agencies at the federal, state and local levels. Community-based organizations would be involved in running these programs. Funds would be targeted for cessation, prevention, research or education programs in the minority communities. And the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the Office of Minority Health, would be accountable for the outcomes mandated by the bill. As members of the Hispanic Caucus, Black Caucus, Asian Pacific American Caucus, and Native American Caucus, we believe that our proposal is reasonable and achievable within the context of national tobacco legislation.

Let's be clear on why we are introducing this bill today and why we are seeking support for its enactment. It's about helping our children who have been targeted by the industry, it's about our communities that have suffered, and it's about our resolve to make the tough decisions to prevent another 418,000 individuals from dying each year due to smoking.

We look forward to working with the Republican and Democratic leadership in Congress, as well as with President Clinton, to enact comprehensive tobacco legislation which includes our proposal. It is our duty to act now so that more people will not die as a result of our inaction.

A TRIBUTE TO RONALD L. WILSON

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the fine work and outstanding public service of Mr. Ronald L. Wilson, the recipient of the 1998 Citizen of the Year Award by the California Inland Empire Council of Boy Scouts of America. Ron will be recognized at a dinner in his honor on Saturday, July 11 in Victorville, California.

Ron Wilson was born on October 12, 1953 in Hyden, Kentucky. In 1958, however, Ron and his family moved to Arizona where he

graduated from Cortez High School and Grand Canyon University. It was in Arizona that he first discovered his love for banking.

In 1989, Ron was appointed Executive Vice President/Chief Administrative Officer of Desert Community Bank and President/Chief Executive Officer in 1990. Ronald is very dedicated to the banking business and as acting CEO, he has achieved unprecedented success for Desert Community Bank. In addition, Ron has also received a number of awards which he has shared with the Bank and its employees.

These extraordinary entrepreneurial skills, however, are not all Ron has given to the community. At present, Ron serves on the Board for Victorville Rotary, St. Mary Foundation, Partnership in Academic Excellence Foundation/Academy of Academic Excellence, United Way, Apple Valley Care Center, Victor Valley Union High School District and San Bernardino County Fair Board. Ronald also writes a weekly newspaper column for the Daily Press and hosts a weekly television interview shown on Channel 64 and two cable stations. Clearly, Ronald L. Wilson's service is a model of outstanding citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Ron that make our community a better place to live. I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the California Inland Empire Council of Boy Scouts of America in recognizing Ron Wilson as 1998 Citizen of the Year.

RECOGNIZING ADVANCES IN THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary scientific contribution advances in Microbiological Sciences have made to the United States over the past century. These advances have improved the nation's health, economy and environment for all Americans. I'm recognizing these contributions on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Society for Microbiology, the oldest and largest single life science organization in the world.

Some of the greatest scientific achievements of humankind have come from microbiologists like Harold E. Varmus, J. Michael Bishop, Jonas Salk, Rosalyn Yalow, David Baltimore, Daniel Nathans, Hamilton Smith, Arthur Kornberg, James Watson, Baruj Benacerraf, Paul Berg, Selman Waksman, Joshua Lederberg, and many others. In fact, two thirds of all Nobel Prizes awarded in the past decade in Physiology or Medicine have been awarded in the microbiological sciences.

All life on earth is inextricably intertwined with microorganisms; without microorganisms all other life forms would cease to exist. Our own knowledge of fundamental life processes has been substantially advanced through the study and research of microorganisms.

Microbiological research contributes not only to the treatment, prevention and cure of infectious diseases—the leading cause of death worldwide—but also to treatments and cures for emerging diseases of humans, plants and animals that pose an increasing threat to public health. Microbiological research also has

led to developments in monitoring and improving the safety of our food supply, maintaining the quality of health care delivery, defending against biological weapons, and to the application and development of alternative methods of energy production and waste recycling, biotechnology, bioremediation of environmental problems, and even new sources of food. In addition, microbiological research has led to the development of new antibiotics and vaccines for diseases that have saved millions of lives and billions of dollars.

In addition to the importance of these scientific applications of Microbiology, the economic impact of a wide range of United States employers who rely on the microbiological sciences can not be underestimated. These employers include medical centers and clinical laboratories, pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology firms, food products manufacturers, colleges and universities, government laboratories, and national, state and local agencies have made the United States a world leader in biomedical research and development, and generates a positive balance of trade for our country.

Microbiological research creates high-skill jobs, helps retain U.S. leadership in biomedical research, protects the environment, and provides great hope for effectively treating, curing and preventing disease.

In conclusion, I wish to commend the Microbiological Sciences and in particular the American Society for Microbiology for their contribution to science and public health and congratulate the Society on an enormously successful century of public service.

BEVERLY J. ROHRER, ED.D.: A DISTINGUISHED RECORD AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR THE REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Beverly J. Rohrer on her retirement as Superintendent of Schools for the Redondo Beach, California, Unified School District. Her retirement ends a distinguished and visionary career which began in the classroom in 1960.

Since Beverly became Superintendent in 1990, the Redondo Beach schools have led the nation in innovative approaches to the use of technology in education. For example, she helped create the ADTECH Consortium, a coalition of 12 Los Angeles South Bay School Districts, community colleges, universities and businesses which resulted in an innovative high-technology training and learning center called the "Futures Academy." I was proud to participate in the ribbon-cutting for the Academy, which has become a "technology school-house" for educating teachers, students and the community. Technologically-proficient teachers, in turn, prepare youth for high-skilled, tech-driven jobs of our new economy.

Beverly also instituted many advanced educational programs. Stanford University selected Redondo Beach as the first district in the country to implement their pilot Accelerated School Program. The Getty Education In-

stitute for the Arts chose Redondo Union High School as a County Center of Excellence in Fine Arts. The award-winning Health, Fitness and Sport Academy promotes fitness and career opportunities. And, the Center for the Advancement of Arts and Entertainment is the focal point of the district's visual and performing arts curriculum.

Beverly's leadership inspired invention and confidence among students, parents and teachers. Students manage BeachNet, the district's Wide Area Network. Ninth graders and teachers have laptop computers to begin full high school participation in wireless, wall-free learning. KnowledgeNets is on-line 24 hours a day. And, high school students thousands of miles apart produced a musical, then performed together in Redondo Beach.

Among Bev's other contributions and professional affiliations are membership on the Executive Council of the Technology for Learning Initiative, The National School Board Association Institute for Transfer of Technology to Education, and IBM's ArtsEdTech 100 Conference.

Mr. Speaker, Bev Rohrer will be fondly remembered for her exhaustive efforts to address the challenges of educating adults and teaching young people in a world of constant and demanding change. But most importantly, she can look about the community and see a legacy made of the thousands of children, parents, teachers and administrators whose lives she touched. It is a legacy for which she can be immensely proud.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

The House in a Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4101) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to further clarify my position on the Wildlife Services program at the Department of Agriculture. Today Mr. BASS and Mr. DEFazio offered an amendment to H.R. 4101 which reduces the appropriation for Wildlife Services by \$10 million, to \$28.8 million.

The intention of the Bass-DeFazio amendment is to prevent Wildlife Services from using controversial procedures and inefficient practices for killing predators in western states. The activities that have occurred in western state have been heavily criticized for their indiscriminate killing programs. The program designed to kill coyotes, for example, kills many pets and endangered species. Additionally, the program has been criticized for its wasteful spending practices in the west. In New Mexico, for instance, Wildlife Services spent more than \$2 million to kill predators that had inflicted \$167,000 to ranchers. I oppose these