

or AIDS and approximately 25,000 individuals are living with HIV but are not diagnosed.

While the reauthorization principles released by the Administration are a start, more must be done to ensure that health care and treatment is provided for New Yorkers and all people in need.

In urban, rural, and suburban communities in every State and territory, the Ryan White Care Act delivers medical care, prescription drugs, and key support services to uninsured and underinsured people living with HIV/AIDS. Still, there are far too many people without access to quality HIV/AIDS care because of limited resources.

Today, I strongly urge Congress to work together to reauthorize and adequately fund the Ryan Care Act in a timely manner, with the goal of improving the lives of all people living with HIV/AIDS.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ON DISPLAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association for its efforts this past weekend in its 2005 Green Buildings Open House. The Open House consisted of tours of "green" energy facilities in homes and businesses, in all the New England States, as well as in Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

In Vermont, there were tours in Burlington, Cavendish, Hartland, Montpelier, Strafford and White River Junction, as well as in Northern, Central and Southern Vermont. The tours included a great variety of sites, including homes, businesses and schools. Alternative energy sources included solar (active and passive), wind, micro-hydro, as well as alternate construction methods and alternative fuel vehicles.

We are overly dependent on fossil fuels. Not only does dependence pose environmental problems ranging from air pollution to acid rain to global warming, it also puts our national security at risk, requiring foreign policies driven more by the needs of oil companies than by the interests of American families and small businesses.

But there are ways to conserve our environment and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. We can better insulate our homes. The dollars invested in energy conservation pay off over and over again, in reduced energy consumption and reduced costs for heating and cooling. We can find and develop clean and renewable sources of energy like solar, wind, water and geothermal. They are domestically produced, infinitely renewable, and non-polluting. And we can learn to use more energy-efficient appliances in our homes and offices.

Developing sources of alternative energy and conserving the energy we currently use are smart policies, not only because fossil fuel is encumbered with many problems, but because long-term conservation and alternative energy are more efficient. And moving along those lines creates jobs, jobs here at home, good paying jobs.

So I extend my congratulations to the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association and the

many homeowners and building owners, as well as the guides for these tours, who worked to show us all how much can be accomplished if we have a vision of a better and more energy-sustainable future.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE JACKSON-VINTON COMMUNITY ACTION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, the Jackson-Vinton Community Action has dutifully served the citizens of Jackson and Vinton counties for 40 years; and

Whereas, the Jackson-Vinton Community Action gives hope and aid to the Southeastern Ohio Appalachian Region; and

Whereas, the Jackson-Vinton Community Action has consistently provided health, housing, and economic assistance to the people of their community.

Therefore, I join with entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating the Jackson-Vinton Community Action on their 40th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE MYRON THOMPSON

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, because of my tremendous personal admiration and professional respect, I am particularly honored to rise today to introduce a resolution that gives tribute to Judge Myron Thompson's 25-year legacy of upholding the Constitution in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama—considered one of the most important courts of the American civil rights movement. Judge Thompson's tenure on the bench reflects years of honest, diligent, and fair jurisprudence. This resolution documents Judge Thompson's distinguished service to the federal judiciary, the people of Alabama, and to the United States. I am pleased to ask the House to express its gratitude to U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson.

Judge Thompson was appointed to the Federal bench by President Jimmy Carter in 1980 after an already distinguished legal career. A product of Alabama's segregated public schools, he attended Yale University and proceeded directly to Yale Law School, after which, he returned to Alabama to work for the state Attorney General's Office. Judge Thompson went on to private practice, as the only African-American practitioner in Dothan, AL, his mother's hometown. He later became the founding director and Board Chair of the Legal Services Corporation of Alabama.

Once appointed to the Court, Judge Thompson inherited some of the most significant cases in the Middle District. He addressed the needs of mentally-ill residents in the Wyatt case, upholding principles of humane treatment that have become part of the fabric of American law. He addressed the needs of

workers, presiding over numerous employment discrimination cases involving, at times, the claims of hundreds, if not thousands, of employees. Judge Thompson's rulings in voting rights cases broadened the civic participation of Alabama's traditionally disenfranchised. In the Dillard case, Judge Thompson found the Alabama legislature culpable of racial discrimination in fashioning and authorizing at-large election schemes for local jurisdictions. As a result of Dillard, there have been African-American city council members, county commission members, and school board members elected in places where previously there had never been an African-American elected to public office. Judge Thompson upheld the Constitution's promise to insulate every citizen from inhumane conditions while in government custody by finding the conditions at the Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women unconstitutional and pervasively unsafe. These are just some of Judge Thompson's more significant cases.

Judge Thompson's judicial career has thrust him to the forefront of many of the most pressing social and political controversies of the day. His compassion for the marginalized, love of learning, and knowledge of the law are reflected in his courage, insight, and sound judgment. We are fortunate to have Judge Thompson on the federal bench, and America has been a direct beneficiary of his extraordinary service. I ask the House to join me in endorsing this resolution of appreciation and commendation for the service of District Judge Myron Thompson.

PACTOLA RESERVOIR REALLOCA- TION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Pactola Reservoir Reallocation Authorization Act of 2005," a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to reallocate the costs of the Pactola Dam and Reservoir in western South Dakota, in accordance with an agreement that has been reached by the affected parties that rely on that water.

The population in and around Rapid City, South Dakota, has experienced welcome growth in the past several years. As a result, the city is experiencing an increasing demand for municipal water. The city relies upon the Pactola Reservoir, constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in the central Black Hills mountain range approximately 10 miles west of town, for much of its municipal water.

Another group, the Rapid Valley Water Conservancy District (RVWCD), also relies on this reservoir as a source of water for agricultural irrigation. As Rapid City's needs for water has increased, the RVWCD's demands has gone down.

The two entities and the BOR have renegotiated their water service contract and have agreed to reallocate the costs of the Pactola Dam to better reflect the City's growing need for municipal water supply and RVWCD's decreasing need for irrigation.

The BOR is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, part of the Rapid Valley Unit under

the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program (Flood Control Act of 1944, PL 78-534). In 1992, discussions were initiated to renegotiate water supply contracts with Rapid City and the Rapid Valley Conservancy District to meet municipal, industrial, irrigation, recreation, and wildlife needs. An agreement between both parties and the BOR was reached in December 2000. This legislation would reallocate the benefits and costs of Pactola Dam and Reservoir in accordance with that agreement and it must be enacted before the contract can take effect.

My colleague in the Senate, Senator TIM JOHNSON, worked to get the Pactola Reservoir Reallocation Authorization Act through that chamber last week, and I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support this important legislation.

NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and to pay tribute to the more than 250,000 Americans in the Spina Bifida Community, including family members and caregivers. There are an estimated 70,000 people in the United States who are currently living with Spina Bifida, the most common permanently disabling birth defect.

I am proud to be the Co-Chairman, along with Representative BART STUPAK, of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus and encourage all of my colleagues to join the caucus. Together we can help to improve the quality of life of those living with Spina Bifida and their families.

The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA) is the organization that has helped those living with and affected by this debilitating disease for over 30 years. The SBAA was founded in 1973 and is the nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating on

behalf of the Spina Bifida community. Through their almost 60 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBAA brings expectant parents together with those who have a child who suffers from this disease. This interaction helps to answer questions and concerns, but most importantly it lends much needed support. The good news is that due to breakthroughs in research and improvements in health care and treatment, children with Spina Bifida are now living to become adults with Spina Bifida.

Together the SBAA and the SBA of the Tri-State Region work tirelessly to help the families of those living with Spina Bifida meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their children to adulthood. I would like to commend the local chapter of SBAA in my State of New Jersey for all they have done and all that they will continue to do. As we recently were reminded, in the wake of a natural disaster, people with disabilities are the most vulnerable. The SBAA chapter in my State of New Jersey is a partner in the SB Hurricane Emergency Lifesupport Program, which was established to help get vitally needed supplies to the estimated 10,000 people with Spina Bifida and their families who were victims of the hurricanes in the Gulf Region.

Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that happens in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column doesn't close completely. Spina Bifida is a birth defect that can happen to anyone. There are 60 million women at risk of having a baby born with Spina Bifida. Everyday, an average of 8 babies are affected by Spina Bifida or a similar birth defect of the brain and spine. Each year, about 3,000 pregnancies are affected by these birth defects. While we do not know the exact cause of Spina Bifida, research has shown that if a woman takes 400 micrograms of folic acid every day and before she becomes pregnant, she reduces her risk of having a baby with Spina Bifida or another neural tube defect by as much as 70 percent. The cause of the remaining cases is unknown, but it is believed genetics and environment may play a role.

Today, approximately 90 percent of all babies diagnosed with Spina Bifida live into adulthood, approximately 80 percent have normal IQ's, and approximately 75 percent partici-

pate in sports and other recreational activities. With proper medical attention and family care these people can live productive full lives with the assistance of braces and/or a wheelchair. There are breakthroughs every year that benefit the quality of life for those living with Spina Bifida. Research is the key to a better life for those who live with Spina Bifida. Our goals are to develop better treatments, better understanding of causes and new ways to prevent Spina Bifida.

The SBAA has many special events throughout the year to engender greater support for the Spina Bifida community. I congratulate them on occasion of their 17th annual Washington event for the media that is taking place this week. I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering for those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout the nation. We all owe a great debt to the SBAA for what they have done.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING VINTON COUNTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ON ITS NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, the Vinton Local School District is at the forefront for excellence in education in Ohio's 18th District; and

Whereas, the Vinton Local School District is dedicated to ensuring all of its students reach their full potential as both students and young adults; and

Whereas, the Vinton Local School District educators are committed to life long learning in order to provide the best possible experience for the students.

Therefore, I join with the Vinton County Local School District and the 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating the school district on the construction of its new middle school.