

Mr. Speaker, Shirley Klein is, like Franklin Roosevelt, disabled and in a wheelchair and, like Franklin Roosevelt, her heart and mind are strong and vibrant and immensely productive. Knowing they shared this particular challenge, even as a child, she wrote a most beautiful poem in tribute to him. If anyone still believes the Roosevelt Memorial ought not to depict him in his wheelchair, Shirley's poem will surely change their minds. Shirley's poem follows:

MEMORIAL
(By Shirley Klein)

Deny him not his throne of grace.
Its wheels were his wings
On which he flew
To save a world,
To heal a land.
Let ages know
This was a man
Who seated firm,
Towered tall.
And I, a child
Who saw him there,
Knew at last
I too could soar.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT
FORMULA FOR GOVERNMENT
CONTRIBUTIONS TO FEDERAL
EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFIT
PLANS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to set a permanent formula for calculation of the Federal contribution to the Federal employee health benefit plans. My bill would ensure that the Government contribution for civil servants and Federal retirees would remain at approximately 72 percent.

Under existing law, the contribution is set by a formula based on the premiums of five of the largest plans and a sixth, so-called phantom, premiums that represent a large plan that dropped out of FEHBP. This formula, passed in 1989, has held the Federal contribution near 72 percent but will expire at the end of calendar year 1998.

It is estimated that failure to extend or replace this formula would cost an enrollee about \$20 a month or \$240 per year. That is unacceptable—especially at a time when the budget resolution asks Federal employees to pay an additional five tenths of 1 percent into the CSRS and FERS retirement systems.

I want to thank the many people on the House Budget Committee and at the Office of Management and Budget who responded to my strenuous objections to not replacing the current formula. I am pleased that the budget agreement and resolution assume continuation of the 72-percent contribution. This legislation therefore has no budget implications and, according to preliminary OPM cost estimates, may actually save a small amount of money over the budget agreement baseline.

This bill will calculate, each year a weighted average of the subscription charges for all plans. The employee's or retiree's premium for each plan will be calculated by subtracting 72 percent of that weighted average from the total charge. Unlike previous formulas, this bill

establishes a permanent formula that will automatically adjust as carriers enter or leave the FEHBP Program.

The concept of this stable fair share formula was developed by the Office of Personnel Management at my request. It has been refined through extensive discussions with Federal employee organizations, health plan carriers, and other interested parties. I am pleased that Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. FAZIO of California, Mr. FORD, and Mr. DAVIS of Virginia have joined as original cosponsors.

I am hopeful that, working with Mrs. MORELLA and Mr. CUMMINGS, we can add this important legislation to the reconciliation measure as it is marked up in the Government Reform and Oversight Committee. I invite Members who share my concern about protecting this critical benefit for Federal employees and retirees to join us as cosponsors of this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
MILITARY SERVICE OF COL.
PETER HUISKING

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the outstanding military service and contributions to our country of a native of Pomona, CA, on the occasion of his retirement from military service on December 1, 1996: Col. Peter V. Huisling, Military Intelligence Corps, U.S. Army.

Born in Pomona, CA, in 1949, Colonel Huisling attended St. Joseph Elementary School and the Webb School of California, and received an Army Reserve Officer Training Corps [ROTC] scholarship to attend Pomona College in 1967. He was commissioned in field artillery upon graduation from Pomona College in 1971. He served in junior officer positions at the artillery battery level with 2d Battalion, 92d Field Artillery, V Corps, in Giessen, Germany, from 1972 to 1974. As a first lieutenant, he was commander of Battery C, 2d Battalion, 92d Field Artillery.

Colonel Huisling transferred to the Military Intelligence branch in 1974, and served in numerous tactical and strategic intelligence assignments over the next few years: assistant S2, 42d Field Artillery Group, 1974 to 1975; chief, all source production section, 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, TX, 1975 to 1977; commander, Headquarters and Operations Company, 522d Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Hood, TX, 1977 to 1978; and staff and faculty, Defense Intelligence College, Washington, DC, 1979 to 1982.

Other overseas assignments included G2 operations officer, 2d Infantry Division, Republic of Korea, from 1982 to 1983; chief, Intelligence Systems Branch, Headquarters U.S. Army, Europe, Heidelberg, Germany, from 1984 to 1986; deputy G2, 1st Armored Division, Ansbach, Germany, 1986; and executive officer, 501st Military Intelligence Battalion, 1986 to 1988.

Colonel Huisling was assigned to Fort Huachuca, AZ, in 1988, where he served as the manager of the Intelligence-Electronic Warfare Program Office. He later commanded

the 304th Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Huachuca, from 1989 to 1991, and served with Headquarters, United States Armed Forces, Central Command in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during Operation Desert Storm as the G2 plans officer for unmanned aerial vehicles.

Following service as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G2, 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Hood, TX, from 1991 to 1992, Colonel Huisling was assigned as a staff officer in the Directorate of Force Development in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans at Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC, from 1992 to 1993. He later served as the deputy director for planning in the Directorate of Strategy, Plans, and Policy on the Department of the Army staff from 1993 to 1994. Colonel Huisling's last military assignment was Assistant Chief of Staff, G2, for the U.S. Army Signal Command at Fort Huachuca, AZ, from 1994 until his retirement in December 1996.

Colonel Huisling is a graduate of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School, 1972; the Defense Intelligence College, 1979; the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 1984; and the U.S. Army War College, 1996. He also graduated from Georgetown University with a master of arts degree in Government, 1980.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and several service medals including the Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal. He is also a recipient of the U.S. Army Signal Corps Regiment's Order of Mercury. Additionally, Colonel Huisling is authorized to wear the Army staff identification badge.

Colonel Huisling is married to the former Henrietta Hardy of Tucson, AZ. They have three children: Elisabeth, who lives in Virginia; Thomas, a college student in Texas; and Andrea, a student at Smith Middle School, Fort Huachuca, AZ. Colonel Huisling is joining JBL&H Associates of Falls Church, VA, and will work at the U.S. Army Intelligence Center in support of the Directorate of Combat Developments.

Colonel Huisling has served at all military echelons from platoon to the Army staff. He has led American soldiers as a platoon leader, a company commander, and a battalion commander. He served as an intelligence officer in key positions from Artillery Group to Major Army Command. His service has been characterized by his emphasis on two key elements: training for war and taking care of soldiers. This emphasis paid off during the successful deployment of elements of his battalion to Desert Storm. In the words of Maj. Gen. John Stewart, the Assistant Chief of Staff, G2, U.S. Army Forces Central Command, during the gulf war:

Lieutenant Colonel Huisling's tireless, professional, and consistently correct staff work was a major factor in the success of Intelligence and Electronics Warfare during the Persian Gulf War. A great job.

Colonel Huisling was also an outstanding supporter of every military community he lived in, both in the United States and overseas. He was a strong supporter of the Scouting Program, both boys and girls, and served as committee chairman of the Cub Scout programs. His involvement in youth athletics included coaching in youth T-ball and soccer, and service on Catholic parish councils in communities