

Many surviving Chernobyl victims also suffer from a myriad of psychological disorders, more difficult to identify and treat but every bit as harmful as the physiological effects of radiation.

Sadly, a recent study comparing mortality rates before and after the disaster places the total number of fatalities at roughly 32,000.

Despite these disturbing findings, we really know very little.

Information on radiation exposure is incomplete and unreliable, and many of those affected have moved or relocated hampering study efforts. Others may suffer from yet-to-be diagnosed diseases caused by prolonged exposure to unsafe levels of background radiation.

It is unlikely that we will ever know the true scope of this tragedy.

Though two of Chernobyl's four nuclear units remain operational, I am pleased that President Clinton and Ukrainian President Lenoid Kuchma agreed to an accord earlier this year to close the facility completely by the year 2000.

I am also pleased that the United States is committed to improving international nuclear reactor safety.

I am hopeful that more can be done for the afflicted region, and was heartened by the serious dialog at last week's G-7 nuclear safety summit in Moscow.

These are all important steps toward putting this devastating tragedy behind the Ukrainian people.

I also want to pay tribute to the compassion of the Ukrainian-Americans who have remained steadfast in their support for Chernobyl's victims.

Mr. President, the legacy of the Chernobyl disaster extends beyond nationalistic and ethnic boundaries and reaches all humanity.

Indeed, fallout from the accident affected 5 million people and set off monitors throughout the Northern Hemisphere.

Radiation knows no borders.

Here in the United States, I am comforted by the knowledge that because of our superior design and safety standards a Chernobyl-type event is, for all practicable purposes, an impossibility.

The Chernobyl facility never would have been permitted to open under our regulations.

Nonetheless, we can never be too vigilant in our efforts to ensure that nuclear power plants are operated in the safest possible manner.

As my colleagues in this body know, I have long believed that there exists an inherent conflict of interest in our nuclear regulatory system that requires the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to sit in judgment of itself.

NRC's two functions—providing day-to-day oversight and investigating serious events—are incompatible in my view.

For this reason, I have asked the General Accounting Office to look into

the extent to which this conflict is responsible for events and accidents at nuclear plants.

I also propose that we remove the investigatory functions from the NRC, and give these functions to an impartial, truly independent nuclear safety board.

This watchdog would have broad authority to look into all circumstances surrounding any accident and to lay blame where it rightfully belongs—whether it is the utility, the reactor manufacturer, or the NRC.

By removing the structural conflict which currently exists within the NRC, it is my hope that we can regain the public's confidence and provide the utmost degree of safety to all Americans.

I look forward to working with my colleagues as we strive to restore needed objectivity to the oversight process.

Mr. President, the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster is more than just a reminder of the potential cost of nuclear energy.

It is a call to us, our Nation's elective representatives, to work together to ensure the safe operation of nuclear power, both domestically and internationally, for our children and our grandchildren.

Let us not watch this day pass without thoroughly and carefully examining our current nuclear regulatory system. All of humanity is depending on us. ●

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 166, which has just been received from the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 166) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Washington for Jesus 1996 prayer rally.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be considered and agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 166) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished ranking member of the Rules Committee, Mr. FORD. I raise this matter in my capacity as chairman of the Rules Committee. We did not have time, given the nature of the schedule, to take it up in the Rules Committee but both sides have cleared this.

I also thank the distinguished majority leader and the Senator from Missouri, [Mr. ASHCROFT], for their cooperation and support.

COMMEMORATING THE 1996 NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 251 submitted earlier today by myself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 251) to commemorate and acknowledge the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the resolution (S. Res. 251) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble is as follows:

S. RES. 251

Whereas, the well-being of all citizens of this country is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas, more than 500,000 men and women, at great risk to their personal safety, presently serve their fellow citizens in their capacity as guardians of the peace;

Whereas, peace officers are the front line in preserving our children's right to receive an education in a crime-free environment that is all too often threatened by the insidious fear caused by violence in schools;

Whereas, 162 peace officers lost their lives in the performance of their duty in 1995, and a total of 13,575 men and women have now made that supreme sacrifice;

Whereas, every year 1 in 9 officers is assaulted, 1 in 25 is injured, and 1 in 4,000 is killed in the line of duty;

Whereas, on May 15, 1996, more than 15,000 peace officers are expected to gather in our nation's Capital to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor them and all others before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That May 15, 1996, is hereby designated as "National Peace Officers Memorial Day" for the purpose of recognizing all peace officers slain in the line of duty. The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe this day with the appropriate ceremonies and respect.

CONGRATULATION TO THE SIOUX FALLS SKYFORCE ON WINNING THE 1996 CONTINENTAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 252 submitted earlier today by Senators PRESSLER and DASCHLE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 252) congratulating the Sioux Falls Skyforce, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on winning the 1996 Continental Basketball Association Championship.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, due to a last second shot at the buzzer, South Dakota is home to the newest champions of professional basketball. Last night, the Sioux Falls Skyforce were crowned Champions of the Continental Basketball Association (CBA). The Skyforce dramatically defeated the Fort Wayne (Indiana) Fury, 118-117, after overcoming a 16-point deficit. That is my kind of deficit reduction.

In honor of this event, I am introducing a Senate resolution congratulating the Skyforce, and their fans, for this victory. I am pleased that Senator DASCHLE has also agreed to cosponsor the measure.

At this time, I want to personally extend my congratulations to the owners of the Skyforce, Greg Heineman, Robert J. Correa, and Roger Larson, General Manager Tommy Smith, and the Skyforce staff, for guiding the Skyforce to its first CBA Championship in the team's 7-year history. I also congratulate Head Coach Morris "Mo" McHone, Assistant Coach Paul Woolpert, and the talented Skyforce players, especially Playoff MVP Henry James. Their hard work, sweat, and determination really paid off when it counted. The Skyforce won the championship convincingly, beating Fort Wayne four games to one.

Most of all, I congratulate the people of Sioux Falls and the surrounding area. They have enthusiastically embraced the Skyforce and provided loyal support over the years. The success of the Skyforce, and the CBA as a league, prove that professional basketball can survive and prosper in smaller cities across the Nation. I have been to many Skyforce games. Their games are always very fun and exciting. It is family-oriented entertainment at its best.

Sioux Falls is rapidly becoming a sports mecca in the Midwest. The city's current professional baseball team, the Sioux Falls Canaries, have been playing in the northern league since 1993. But the city has been home

to a number of professional baseball teams since the beginning of the century. Professional teams from other sports would do well to take note of the city's enthusiasm for sports and consider moving to Sioux Falls.

Finally, Mr. President, let me state that I was thrilled to learn of the Skyforce victory for personal reasons. Before the final series began for the CBA Championship, I made a small wager with the Senator from Indiana, Senator COATS. I gambled 12 pounds of South Dakota's finest steak, while my colleague risked 12 gallons of Edy's Grand Ice Cream, made in Fort Wayne. This afternoon, my good friend from Indiana graciously paid off. I will gladly take a scoop or two, but I will be sharing the fruits of this victory with several children's charities in Sioux Falls.

Mr. President, I ask consent that a roster of the Skyforce players and staff, along with a news article about the Skyforce victory, be printed in the RECORD.

I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows.

1995-96 SIOUX FALLS SKYFORCE

PLAYERS

Stevin Smith, Reggie Fox, Trevor Wilson, Henry James, Corey Beck, Carlton McKinney, Emmett Hall, Tony Massop, Rich King, Devin Gray, Mike Williams.

COACHES

Morris "Mo" McHone, Paul Woolpert.

OWNERS

Greg Heineman, Robert J. Correa, Roger Larson.

STAFF

Tommy Smith, John Etrhelm, Renae Sallquist, Tom Savage, Laura Musser, Sandra Hogan, Tim Hoover, Trent Dlugosh, Scott Brako, Scott Johnson.

[From the Sioux Falls Argus-Leader, Apr. 25, 1996]

WE'RE NO. 1—GRAY'S SHOT GIVES SKYFORCE TITLE

(By Stu Whitney)

FORT WAYNE, IND.—If Devin Gray didn't have NBA playoff tickets, the Skyforce might not be the Continental Basketball Association champions today.

But he does. And Sioux Falls has something to scream about.

Gray wanted to end the CBA Finals on Wednesday night so he could catch tonight's first-round game in Indianapolis between the Pacers and Atlanta Hawks. He got front-row tickets from his friend Dale Davis, who plays for Indiana.

The rookie forward made it happen by swishing a leaning 7-footer at the buzzer, giving the Skyforce a 118-117 Game 5 win over the Fort Wayne Fury before 4,377 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

Gray's drive from the right side sealed the fifth consecutive road victory for Sioux Falls, which took the best-of-seven series 4-1.

And after seven years of searching for greatness, this ambitious franchise has finally—and emphatically—reached the top.

"If I had to draw the play up, I'd do it the same way," a beaming Gray said as his teammates eagerly embraced the Jay Ramsdell Trophy with help from owners, wives, girlfriends and fans.

"I was looking to get the rock and go to the hole, and I figured I'd either make it or get fouled. They didn't call the foul, so I'm glad it went in. I was laying on the court when it did."

Playoff MVP Henry James led Sioux Falls (42-26) with 26 points, while Trevor Wilson added 24 and Reggie Fox had 20 behind four 3-pointers.

James was hugged by his mother, Betty, after winning his second CBA title before 75 family members and friends in his hometown.

And he professed faith in the timely touch of Gray.

"I was used as a decoy, and I knew his shot was going in," said James, donning a freshly furnished Skyforce championship cap and T-shirt.

"He was able to lower his shoulder moving along the baseline, and you can't let him do that. He's too strong. We've all seen him make that shot a million times."

But Fort Wayne—which got 29 points from Jaren Jackson and Carl Thomas—refused to end its surprisingly successful season without an admirable and fitting fight.

The Fury (32-38) led by as many as 15 points in the third quarter and nearly forced Game 6 in Sioux Falls with a heroic shot of its own.

Thomas, who struggled mightily in the first four games, gently coaxed in a driving one-hander with 2.9 seconds left to give his team a 117-116 lead that delighted the devoted crowd.

But during the ensuing timeout, Skyforce coach Mo McHone figured that Fort Wayne would be mainly concerned about the Skyforce/See 5C perimeter potency of James and Fox.

Having seen Gray perform with toughness and maturity throughout the playoffs, he called upon his seventh-round draft pick out of Clemson, who finished with 17 points.

Gray had missed two crucial free throws with 35 seconds left, but he had also preceded Thomas' basket with a strong drive that put Sioux Falls briefly ahead by one.

"Devin's been on five for us, and Trevor set him up with a great (inbounds) pass," said McHone, who is the first coach to claim consecutive CBA titles since Bill Musselman won four in a row (1985-88).

"We've been winning games like this, and this was such a great way to end it. We just fought hard all night, because we had to. They pretty much outplayed us."

But never was McHone worried, not with a team that has frequently floored him during a magical playoff run.

By winning three straight to clinch the title on Fort Wayne's floor, the Skyforce once again displayed a maturity that stemmed from having a meaningful mission.

"We were lucky and good—and we came together when it counted," said Wilson, who added 11 rebounds and six assists.

"Earlier in the season, we were trying to win, but guys were also worrying about NBA callups and overseas offers. There was a little more selfishness at that point.

"When the playoffs started, everyone realized there was one common goal, and we did what we had to do."

Both Wilson and Fox said they wanted to return to Sioux Falls, but not for a basketball game. Only for a celebration.

And when the CBA's finest team crooned "We Are The Champions" as cameras captured the moment, it seemed celebrating was the only logical thing to do.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating

to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the resolution (S. Res. 252) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble is as follows:

S. RES. 252

Whereas the Sioux Falls Skyforce are the 1996 Champions of the Continental Basketball Association, a professional basketball league consisting of 12 teams from around the country;

Whereas the Sioux Falls Skyforce defeated the Fort Wayne Fury, of Fort-Wayne, Indiana, 4 games to 1 in the best-of-seven championship series;

Whereas the 1996 Continental Basketball Association Championship is the first championship in the 7-year history of the Sioux Falls Skyforce;

Whereas the Sioux Falls Skyforce players exemplify the virtues of hard work, determination, and a dedication to developing their talents to the highest levels; and

Whereas the people and businesses of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and the surrounding area have demonstrated outstanding loyalty and support for the Sioux Falls Skyforce throughout the 7-year history of the team: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Sioux Falls Skyforce and their loyal fans on winning the 1996 Continental Basketball Association Championship;

(2) recognizes and commends the hard work, determination, and commitment to excellence shown by the Sioux Falls Skyforce owners, coaches, players, and staff throughout the 1996 season; and

(3) recognizes and commends the people of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and the surrounding area for their outstanding loyalty and support of the Sioux Falls Skyforce throughout the 7-year history of the team.

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Con. Res. 56, introduced by Senator LAUTENBERG.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 56) recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator LAUTENBERG in offering this legislation to remember the 10th anniversary of the terrible nuclear accident at Chernobyl. While 10 years have passed since that tragic day, the health and economic consequence of Chernobyl continue to be borne by the Ukrainian people.

I recall quite well how the Chernobyl accident on April 26, 1986 signaled the

inhumanity of the totalitarian system of government. At first, the Soviet Government feebly attempted to deny the incident—with the effect of causing further harm to those who lived in its vicinity. Ultimately, the full scale of the disaster became known, but only after millions in Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and Poland had been exposed to radioactive fallout.

That a government could be so brutal to its people is no surprise to those of us who worked for many years to confront and defeat the totalitarian system. That the Soviet Government could be so brutal to the people of Ukraine was no surprise to a people who endured the forced starvation, massacres, and genocidal policies of Joseph Stalin in the 1930's. The radioactive wasteland around Chernobyl will, unfortunately, serve as a lasting and hideous monument to refute those who would defend such a system, or whose historical memory has faded sufficiently to allow them to forget its evil.

Within the catastrophe at Chernobyl were sown the seeds of the downfall of the Soviet system. A fiercely independent people such as the Ukrainians cannot be subjected forever to such abuse. I am proud of the role that I was able to fulfill in the Congress, in full support of Presidents Reagan and Bush, as the United States prevailed, the Soviet Union collapsed, and Ukraine again became an independent state in the momentous year of 1991. I was proud to sponsor legislation which called for direct United States aid to the republics, rather than through Moscow in 1990. The goal of defeating communism and achieving independence for Ukraine was not easily achieved, it was one that required the combined efforts of many nations and many people, including the Ukraine-American community, who simply refused to accept that communism would prevail over the spirit of Ukrainians.

Democracy is prevailing in Ukraine today, but the Ukrainian people and Government continue to shoulder the burden of the Chernobyl disaster. Just as the United States joined with the Ukrainian people to defeat communism, we work in partnership to overcome the tragic consequences of Chernobyl. I was pleased to support the Republican initiative in Congress to provide Ukraine with \$225 million in assistance this year, including specific assistance to nuclear safety, the development of alternatives to nuclear power and to address the ongoing health problems due to the Chernobyl disaster. I am certain that working together we can bring peace, prosperity, and a better quality of life to the people of Ukraine. I urge my colleagues to support our resolution.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I am pleased to cosponsor Senate Concurrent Resolution 56, which recognizes the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the worst of its kind in

history, and supports efforts to close the Chernobyl nuclear powerplant.

In the early morning hours of April 26, 1986, reactor number 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in northern Ukraine exploded, releasing massive amounts of radioactive substances into the atmosphere. This explosion released 200 times more radioactivity than was released by the atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, profoundly affecting the health of millions of people in the surrounding contaminated areas.

A decade after, Chernobyl's legacy continues and shows no signs of abating. At a hearing earlier this week of the Helsinki Commission, which I co-chair, four experts, including the Ambassadors to the United States from both Ukraine and Belarus, the countries most adversely affected by the explosion, testified eloquently about the environmental, health, social, political, and economic consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. Their testimonies only reinforced the fact that Chernobyl's deadly fallout continues.

Thyroid cancers, especially among children in the contaminated areas in Belarus and Ukraine have risen dramatically. The rate of leukemia, and of birth defects, appears to be increasing. And an article in today's New York Times reports that scientists claim that they have found inherited genetic damage in people exposed to the fallout. While the depressing consequences to human health and the environment are increasingly coming to light, we need to understand more about the ongoing ramifications of the disaster.

Mr. President, Senate Concurrent Resolution 56 addresses the legacy of Chernobyl, recognizing the serious health and socioeconomic consequences for millions of people in Ukraine, Belarus, and western Russia. Ukraine and Belarus, in the process of a painful transition following 60 years of communism, simply are unable to deal with the full consequences of what is, ultimately, a global problem. The resolution calls upon the President to support continued and enhanced assistance to provide medical relief, humanitarian assistance, and hospital development for the countries most afflicted by Chernobyl's aftermath. It also calls upon the President to encourage research efforts into the public health consequences of the disaster, so that the world can benefit from the findings. Importantly, the resolution supports the December 1995 Ukraine—G-7 memorandum of understanding which calls for closing the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and broadening Ukraine's regional energy sources to reduce its dependence on any individual country.

Mr. President, continued and enhanced international cooperation is essential to address the suffering of the millions affected, and to prevent future Chernobyls. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting Senate Concurrent Resolution 56 as an expression of the American people's concern for the victims of Chernobyl.