

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 29, 1997, at 2 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 1997, for the purpose of a business meeting.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE WOMEN'S HEALTH AND
CANCER RIGHTS ACT OF 1997

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from New York, Senator D'AMATO, along with Senators FEINSTEIN and HOLLINGS, in introducing the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1997. This bill provides key protections to women facing breast cancer, and to all Americans confronting a possible diagnosis of cancer.

Breast cancer is currently one of the major public health crises facing this Nation. In 1997, 180,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in this country, and more than 44,000 women will die from the disease. Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among American women. In my home State of Maine, 900 to 1,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year.

Consider for a moment what it must be like to face a cancer diagnosis. Then imagine what a woman with breast cancer goes through when she loses a breast to this disease. A mastectomy patient may endure great pain resulting from the surgery, and has a large wound with drainage tubes which must be properly cared for. She must also face the emotional pain of losing part or all of a breast, and may struggle with her fear of cancer and what lies ahead. Then try to imagine if she is released from the hospital within hours of surgery.

That is what some health plans are doing today. Yes—some health care plans have issued guidelines requiring mastectomies to be performed on an outpatient basis. The New York Times recently reported that approximately 7 to 8 percent of all mastectomies are performed on an outpatient basis. Doctors may feel pressured by their health care plan to release patients before it is medically appropriate, as health care plans push doctors harder and harder to cut costs. Women who are released from the hospital too early following a mastectomy, lumpectomy, or

lymph node dissection do not have time to recover from the surgery in a supervised setting, or have an adequate opportunity to learn how to properly care for their wound, much less begin to deal with their emotional and physical pain. And some problems or complications from the surgery may not arise within the first hours following the surgery.

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1997 will help ensure that women with breast cancer obtain medically appropriate care. This bill says that women who undergo a mastectomy, lumpectomy, or lymph node dissection can stay in the hospital as long as a doctor deems medically appropriate, in consultation with the patient. The bill does not mandate how long a patient should stay in the hospital, or prescribe an arbitrary time period. Instead, it encourages the highest standard of medical care by allowing a doctor to exercise his best medical judgment in determining how long a patient should remain in the hospital. The bill contains strong protections for doctors to ensure that they are not penalized by insurance companies for prescribing a given length of stay. The procedures could still be performed on an outpatient basis if deemed medically appropriate by the doctor, and agreed to by the patient.

Second, the bill requires insurance companies to cover breast reconstruction following cancer surgery, as well as reconstructive surgery to make breasts symmetrical following cancer surgery. I am extremely pleased that this provision is based on the law in my own State of Maine. Currently, insurance companies treat reconstructive surgery following breast cancer differently than other types of reconstructive surgery. In fact, a recent survey found that 43 percent of the respondents had been denied coverage for follow-up reconstructive symmetry procedures. The availability of reconstructive surgery is important not only for those women who believe it is necessary to return their lives to normal following cancer surgery, but because studies show that the fear of losing a breast is a leading reason why women do not participate in early breast cancer detection programs. If women understand that breast reconstruction is widely available, more might participate in detection programs.

Finally, this bill requires insurance companies to pay full coverage for secondary consultations whenever any cancer has been diagnosed by the patient's primary physician. It also requires a health plan to cover a second opinion even when the specialist finds the patient does not have cancer, and allows the patient to go outside an HMO for consultation by a specialist. This is designed to prevent all Americans from making inappropriate and uninformed decisions regarding medical treatment due to either a false-negative or a false-positive result.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting and securing swift pas-

sage of the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1997.●

EILEEN BUTLER, GIRL SCOUT
GOLD AWARD RECIPIENT

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, each year an elite group of young women rise above the ranks of their peers and confront the challenge of attaining the Girl Scouts of the United States of America's highest rank in scouting, the Girl Scout Gold Award.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize and applaud a young woman from the State of Maryland who is an honored recipient of this most prestigious and time honored award. She is Eileen Butler of Ijamsville, MD, and Girl Scout Troop 1034. She has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Gold Award by Penn Laurel Girl Scout Council in York, PA.

The young women given this highest achievement in Girl Scouting are to be commended on their extraordinary commitment and dedication to their families, their friends, their communities, and to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

The qualities of character, perseverance, and leadership which enabled them to reach this goal will also help them to meet the challenges of the future. They are our inspiration for today and our promise for tomorrow.

I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Eileen Butler. For her Girl Scout Gold Award project, Eileen designed and set up three new exhibits for the Fountain Rock Park, a nature center. Her project addressed the need for a better understanding of the environment and the importance of working to improve the environment around you. She is one of the best and the brightest and serves as an example of character and moral strength for us all to imitate and follow.●

CONGRATULATING RECIPIENTS OF
THE FORUM MAGAZINE'S 1997
PIONEER AWARDS

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, this Sunday the Forum magazine will host the 7th Annual African-American Pioneer Awards in Flint, MI. I rise to pay tribute to the honorees for their great achievements and contributions to the African-American community and, indeed, to all of America.

This year the Forum magazine has assembled a truly impressive list of honorees. They are:

Mr. Darwin Davis, originally from Flint, has been named one of America's 25 most important and powerful black executives by Black Enterprise magazine. His promotion to senior vice president of The Equitable in 1987 was merely the latest in a series of impressive steps within that company. He won three national sales campaigns in 3 years, moved from agent to agency manager in 4½ years and moved from agent to agency vice president in just 9

years. Mr. Davis is a veteran, a former school teacher, and the recipient of two honorary doctorates.

The Velvelettes are one of only three all original Motown groups from the late 1960's and one of the few girl groups still performing today. This group is composed of four women: Flint natives Norma Barbee-Fairhurst and her cousin, Bertha Barbee-McNeal; and two Kalamazoo natives, Mildred Gill-Arbor and her sister, Carolyn Gill-Street. They had a number of successful hit records, including the top ten song, "Needle in a Haystack." All four women are very active in community projects, seeking to better their cities and neighborhoods.

Creative Expressions Dance Studio has operated under the city of Flint's Parks and Recreation Department since 1990. Under the leadership of Director Sheila Miller-Graham and tap dance instructor Alfred Bruce Bradley, Creative Expressions has competed at the local and national levels every year since its inception. The first professional dance troupe from Flint, Creative Expressions entered its first dance competition during its very first year of existence, making an impressive showing by winning two of the nine trophies for the Junior Division in that region. Creative Expressions continues to represent Flint, and to help its citizens develop their talents, skills, and confidence levels.

Mr. Mario J. Daniels is the founding director of Mario J. Daniels & Associates, P.C., the first African-American certified public accounting firm in Flint. A graduate of Flint Northern High School and Albion College, Mr. Daniels is very active in the United Way, NAACP, United Negro College Fund, and mentoring programs. He also has served as president of the National Association of Black Accountants.

Mr. Michael Shumpert founded WOVE radio, the only African-American-owned and operated FM radio station in the Flint/Saginaw area, in 1991. Mr. Shumpert also is an award-winning sales executive in marketing research and advertising sales. He also has produced a documentary film for the Michigan Genealogy Society, produced the Miss Black America pageant for television, and developed media scripts for a number of political campaigns.

Mr. Gregory Jackson is a highly successful General Motors dealer and owner of several businesses in the Flint area. He earned an accounting degree from Morris Brown College in Atlanta, GA, one of the historically black colleges under the United Negro College Fund. He holds an M.B.A. in business administration and Finance from Atlanta University School of Business. Mr. Jackson also is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Beta Gamma Sigma—National Graduate Business Honor Society, and the National Association of black M.B.A.'s.

Dr. Charlie Roberts is the first African-American to be appointed vice president at Mott Community College.

Dr. Roberts holds a Ph.D. in vocational-technical education from Michigan State University. He earned his masters degree in education from Wayne State University and his bachelor of science degree in industrial education and electronics from Norfolk State University in Norfolk, VA. In 1984 he was made dean of vocational-technical education at Mott; four years later he was promoted to dean of the School of Business Technology and Vocational Technical Education. From July 1993 to July 1994 he served as executive dean for continuing education and external affairs. Within a year he was promoted to his current position as vice president for institutional advancement and outreach.

Mr. President, all of these people have made significant contributions to their communities. Their accomplishments deserve the notice they are receiving from the Forum magazine. I congratulate them for being named recipients of the African-American Pioneer Award.●

TRIBUTE TO LESLIANNE SHEDD

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today with great sadness to commemorate the life of an outstanding individual from our State of Washington. Leslieanne Shedd, a member of the United States Foreign Service Corps and a 1990 graduate of the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington, was killed when an Ethiopian Airlines plane crashed in the Indian Ocean last November.

A resident of Washington State since the age of two, Leslieanne graduated with honor from Puyallup High School in 1986. According to family and friends, Leslieanne's lifelong dream was to tour the world. To achieve this goal, she learned four languages, traveled in Europe, Africa, North America, and Thailand, and pursued a career in Foreign Service.

Leslianne was traveling from her post at the United States Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to Nairobi, Kenya to celebrate Thanksgiving with friends when her plane was hijacked and then crashed. A commercial officer in the foreign service, she provided assistance to American companies doing business in the region. Before working in Ethiopia, she spent 2 years in the Ivory Coast in West Africa as a United States vice consul there.

It is no surprise that a young woman who touched so many lives around the globe has been described by her junior high English teacher as "a little ray of light." Her life provides inspiration to all of us by serving as an example of a forward-looking, intellectually curious, and selfless individual.

My thoughts are with Leslieanne's parents Bob and Mickey Shedd, her brother Darin and sister Corinne, her friends, and all those touched by her warmth and kindness. Her work and accomplishments remind us all of the

importance of public service, international awareness, and generosity. Our Nation and our world are better places because of her. I am certain Leslieanne Shedd's legacy of service will be remembered for years to come.

THE DEATH OF PANAMANIAN STATESMAN GABRIEL LEWIS GALINDO

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to the recent death of Garbriel Lewis Galindo, a noted statesman from Panama and friend of the United States of America.

Gabriel Lewis is perhaps best known for his efforts to conclude the Panama Canal Treaty. As Panama's envoy to the United States on this issue he worked closely with the Carter administration to this end. In the process he gained the respect of many people in our Government.

Mr. Lewis continually sought to restore democratic principles to Panama and used the Panamanian-United States negotiations regarding the canal to press Panama's dictator, Omar Torrijos, to move in a more democratic direction. Mr. Lewis' hard work was rewarded as Omar Torrijos eventually granted more freedom to the media and political parties in Panama.

When Gen. Manuel Noriega rose to power in Panama 2 years after the death of Omar Torrijos, he undertook measures to reverse those democratic gains which had been achieved. Gabriel Lewis became an outspoken opponent of Manuel Noriega, a strategy which eventually forced him to leave Panama after he unsuccessfully sought Noriega's removal from power.

Gabriel Lewis was both pragmatic and visionary. He understood the need for a close and productive relationship between the United States and Panama based on respect, dignity, and shared ideals of democracy. Mr. Lewis fought to make this happen. He will be missed.●

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—NOMINATION OF WILLIAM DALEY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 30, the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of the nomination of William Daley to be Secretary of Commerce. I further ask unanimous consent there be 30 minutes of debate on the nomination, equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member, and immediately following the expiration or yielding back of debate time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination.

I finally ask unanimous consent that following the vote on this issue, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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