

of this impressive organization, past and present, deserve great credit for their continuing successful commitment to fight lung disease for the past 100 years. From its inception as a community-based organization formed to eradicate tuberculosis to its current initiatives to reduce smoking, improve environmental health, reduce asthma incidence, and support research on preventing and treating lung disease, the Association has been an extraordinary leader in public education and public advocacy.

The American Lung Association early mission was to combat the growing public health threat of tuberculosis a century ago. Even in 1904, the association had the creativity and vision-ary thinking to develop the nation's first health campaign to deal with this threat. The association developed new ways to diagnose and treat the disease and prevent its spread. Through public outreach efforts, it brought the best available technology to communities throughout the United States. In fact, the association funded the research that led to the discovery of isoniazid in 1952, which was the first drug for children with the disease and is still widely used today. The American Lung Association has long had an indispensable role in controlling the spread of tuberculosis and preventing epidemics of this disease. The Nation is very grateful for its immense contributions to public health.

In its long and distinguished history, the association has risen to the challenge of many other health threats. In 1960, the board of directors issued a policy statement warning that "Cigarette smoking is a major cause of lung cancer." The statement came 4 years before the landmark "Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health," and the association became an effective leader in the battle we are still waging to this day against smoking. The association had the skill and foresight to develop needed smoking cessation programs and youth smoking prevention programs, and it did so decades before the public and the Federal Government called for them.

An additional high priority of the association today is reducing the heavy burden of asthma in our society. Based on its outstanding successes with tuberculosis and smoking cessation, I have no doubt that it will lead the way to make our environments safer for asthma sufferers.

On this special anniversary, I commend the American Lung Association for a century of leadership in improving the health of millions of Americans every year, and I wish them great success in their important mission in the years ahead.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, it is my tremendous honor to rise today to recognize a very special birthday. Over the last 100 years, the American Lung Association has distinguished itself in numerous and meaningful ways. It has made significant contributions to mod-

ern health science and has been a force for successful political action. Most importantly, the American Lung Association is responsible for saving millions of lives through its constant and dedicated efforts to educate the public to the dangers of lung disease and to promote both preventive care and treatment for this terrible illness.

The American Lung Association has been especially active over the past 40 years in bringing the health concerns of smoking to the national policy agenda and aggressively promoting the principles behind the Clean Air Act in relation to pollution's effect on the human body and to those individuals with existing lung illnesses.

Its work in the field of asthma is equally exemplary. The American Lung Association has pioneered research efforts to determine the causes and treatment of childhood and adult asthma, calling for needed funding and government support. It has also spearheaded efforts to teach children with asthma how to better manage their disease so as to reduce complications, hospitalizations, and in some cases, deaths.

With the knowledge that lung disease is responsible for one in seven deaths annually, there is no doubt of the critical nature of the efforts of the American Lung Association. It is certainly appropriate that this body recognize this dedicated organization for a century of remarkable efforts to improve the health and lives of all Americans, and wish its members many more years of continued success. When they succeed, we all do indeed breathe easier.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I congratulate the American Lung Association, ALA, on its 100th anniversary. Since its inception in 1904, as the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, the American Lung Association has served as a champion for those affected by lung disease.

Lung disease is America's number three killer, responsible for one in seven deaths. Every year, close to 342,000 Americans die of lung diseases. However, lung disease is not only a killer, most lung disease is chronic. More than 35 million Americans are now living with chronic lung disease. I applaud ALA's commitment to fighting lung disease in all its forms, with special emphasis on asthma, tobacco control and environmental health.

One of the main focuses of the American Lung Association is the reduction of tobacco use in order to combat lung disease. Smoking is responsible for 90 percent of all cancer deaths. Four years before the publication of the landmark 1964 Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health the American Lung Association established the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer.

As the author of the law banning smoking on airplanes and in all Federal buildings I am tirelessly committed to protecting individuals from

deadly secondhand smoke and developing regulations to protect children from the dangers of tobacco use. I am proud to call ALA my partner in this effort.

In addition to the outstanding progress ALA has achieved in its anti-tobacco work the association is also recognized as a leader in the clean air movement. Americans have ALA to thank for developing the crucial health basis for the Nation's clear air standards that led to passage and implementation of the landmark 1970 Clean Air Act and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 and 1990.

I commend the ALA for its outstanding achievements over the past century, and I offer by best wishes for a successful future.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On December 22, 2001, in Lake Elsinore, CA, two men, ages 19 and 22, and a 20-year old woman, allegedly beat and made defamatory remarks to two people they perceived to be gay.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. By passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY AAMODT

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, it is no secret that those of us who are privileged to serve in the U.S. Senate could not do so without the support of the hard working and dedicated staff. And I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most valuable members of my staff, who will be retiring at the end of May.

For the past 7½ years, anyone who has called or visited my Portland office has probably talked with Nancy Aamodt. Indeed, from her post at the office's front desk, Nancy is usually the first person who answers the phone, and the first person who greets visitors. I have long believed in the wisdom of the old saying that "first impressions are the most important ones," and I know that when Oregonians talk with or meet Nancy, their first impression will be of a kind, caring, and courteous individual. She treats all callers and visitors with hospitality and courtesy, and leaves everyone knowing that they were treated with great respect.

The Bible tells us that "God loves a cheerful giver," and I can't think of a better description of Nancy. She truly

is a "cheerful giver," as she constantly reaches out and offers kind words and support to those who need it most.

The commitment to helping others and interest in current events that Nancy exhibits at the office also extends to her personal life, as well. For many years, Nancy has been a respected leader in both the Oregon and National Federations of Republican Women. She has served as President of the OFRW, and is a member of the NFRW Legislative Committee.

I am very proud to call Nancy and her husband, Dave, my friends, and wish her the very best as she retires from service to the U.S. Senate.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING BETTY BENJAMIN

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I congratulate and honor my friend, Betty Benjamin from Minneapolis, who last Saturday celebrated her 80th birthday. She has lived an extraordinary and outstanding 80 years.

Raised on a farm near Redwood Falls, MN, Betty studied social work at Hamline University, where she met her future husband, Robert Benjamin, a pre-med student from Pipestone, MN. During the mid- to late 1960s, Betty was busy raising her family, but somehow she found time to become a committed leader in the local movement to reform the existing abortion laws. Recognizing her determination and natural leadership, her friends and colleagues asked her to become the president of two women's organizations; the Edina League of Women Voters and the Minnesota Organization for the Repeal of Abortion Laws. The latter organization later became the Minnesota Chapter of the National Abortion Rights Action League.

When Betty became the leader of Minnesota's pro-choice community, abortion was an illegal procedure. Driven by her professional experience as a social worker and her deeply held belief that women should have the freedom to make their own decisions about their own bodies and lives, Betty was committed to see the abortion laws repealed. With her family by her side, Betty dedicated everything to the movement—her time, her energy, and even her home. To save valuable resources, the organization met in a spare room at the Benjamins' house in suburban Minneapolis for more than 5 years. Opening her home to other abortion rights advocates allowed Betty to stay connected to the statewide, grassroots organizing plan she shaped. At one point, Betty organized a Board of Directors that featured a resident from each of Minnesota's 67 legislative districts. Most importantly, making the organization's base of operations her home enabled Betty to be a loving and devoted mother. And what a role model she was to her three children! Day after day, she demonstrated the values of hard work and persistence and that one person can truly make an imprint on social policy.

While the organization eventually outgrew the Benjamins' spare room, Betty has never outgrown the organization and the fight. A steady source of inspiration and encouragement to all in the movement, Betty continues to serve on the Minnesota NARL Foundation Board of Directors.

At 80 years of age, Betty's activism and passion still spill out of the boardroom and onto the streets. Two weeks ago, she flew from Minneapolis to Washington, DC, to participate in the largest march ever for women's reproductive rights. Once again, she stood strong with her fellow Americans, this time over a million, to protect the rights she fought to secure for women more than 30 years ago.

I stand here on the Senate floor today to honor Mrs. Betty Benjamin on her 80th birthday and to thank her for her continued commitment and dedication. May God grace us with her presence and her passion for many years to come.●

OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to speak about osteoporosis and to remind my colleagues that May is Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month. Osteoporosis today is a major public health threat for an estimated 44 million Americans, or 55 percent of the population age 50 and over. At least ten million Americans are estimated to have osteoporosis and almost 34 million more are estimated to have low bone mass, placing them at increased risk for the disease.

Of the 10 million Americans estimated to have osteoporosis, 20 percent are men. Current statistics show that one in two women and one in four men over age 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in her or his lifetime. To put this into perspective, as I look around this chamber, these statistics mean that more than 25 of our group of 100 Senators could develop osteoporosis. And, while osteoporosis is thought of as an older person's disease, it strikes men and women of all ethnic groups at any age.

The literal meaning of the word "osteoporosis" is "porous bone." Osteoporosis is a devastating disease that causes bones to thin and break easily—especially bones in the hip, spine and wrist. It is known as a silent disease because most people don't even know that they have osteoporosis until after they have broken a bone.

Not only are these bone fractures very painful and devastating to an individual's quality of life, but they can also be life-threatening, especially for older men. Nearly one in four hip fracture patients who are age 50 and over, and average of 24 percent, die in the year following their fracture. And the 80,000 men who suffer hip fractures each year are nearly twice as likely to die in the year after the fracture as women their age.

Apart from the severe life-or-death and quality of life consequences that

bone fractures can have, osteoporosis has become a major health care expense. In 2001, osteoporosis cost the country \$17 billion, or \$47 million a day in direct costs, according to a report of the National Osteoporosis Foundation, "America's Bone Health: The State of Osteoporosis and Low Bone Mass in Our Nation," issued 2 years ago. Of course, those figures would be even higher today.

The ramifications of osteoporosis go beyond our country's health care system and are truly international in scope. The World Health Organization considers osteoporosis to be the second leading health problem in the world.

In spite of these alarming statistics, we are making progress and developing a growing awareness and commitment to confronting this disease. Twenty years ago, few people understood the terms "osteoporosis," and no medical therapy existed to treat the disease or help prevent its onset. Today, osteoporosis research and education are helping us make great strides. People are far better informed about the causes of this disease and steps to take for prevention and treatment.

Building strong bones during childhood, adolescence and as young adults can help individuals avoid the disease later in life. Four simple steps can help prevent osteoporosis and optimize bone health: Eating a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D; doing weight-bearing exercises on a regular basis; leading a healthy lifestyle without smoking or excessive alcohol; and having bone density tests and treating low bone mass, as recommended. Preventive measures and treatment—even after a fracture—will minimize further bone loss and help prevent future disability.

Along those lines, I have introduced two bills, the Osteoporosis Federal Employee Health Benefits Standardization Act of 2003, S. 417, which ensures that coverage of bone mass measurements is provided under the Federal health benefits program, and the Medicare Osteoporosis Measurement Act of 2003, S. 419, which amends Medicare to include coverage of bone mass measurements under Medicare part B for all individuals, including estrogen-deficient women, at clinical risk for osteoporosis. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and working towards passage of these bills this year.

Injuries and death from bone fractures can be greatly reduced with prevention, early detection, and the new forms of treatment that are now available. We should all take the initiative and keep one thought foremost in our minds: It's never too early or too late to start.●

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Cover the Uninsured Week. I take this opportunity to highlight the crisis of the uninsured in the United States and to underscore the significant impact that this crisis has on our population.