

States Navy. He now suffers from asbestosis.

These are just a few of the hundreds of citizens of Nevada that are suffering with asbestos-related diseases. Every one of their stories is a tragedy and every one of them could have been prevented with greater awareness and education.

Most Americans think asbestos was banned a long time ago. Nothing could be further from the truth. New asbestos is used every day to insulate water pipes, as insulation, in making ceiling tiles and in many other building materials. When the tiny particles are released, they are invisible, and can't be smelled or tasted. Once inhaled, the particles lodge themselves in the lining of the lungs and remain there, causing irreversible damage for up to 50 years before disease sets in.

A single large dose of asbestos can fill your lungs with enough particles to cause disease. Simply walking by a construction site where asbestos particles are at a heavy concentration could be enough to give you a lethal dose.

Perhaps the most frightening thing about asbestos is that a person can be exposed without knowing it. A New York City police officer told me he worked in an undercover sting as a construction worker. The goal of the sting was to catch individuals who would improperly dispose of asbestos that had been removed from buildings. He told of catching men who tried to illegally dump asbestos in a school yard, where children would have been exposed to its dangers for years to come.

This story underscores the importance of raising public awareness about the dangers of asbestos exposure.

Better awareness and education can reduce exposure. For those who have been exposed, early detection and screening can increase treatment options and improve prognosis.

Asbestos kills—but asbestos education can save lives.

Just as victims and their families joined together to raise awareness of asbestos-related disease by forming the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, the Senate can increase awareness of this silent killer by declaring April 1, 2005 as Asbestos Awareness Day. I hope all senators will join me in this effort.

SENATE RESOLUTION 44—CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 44

Whereas the first African Americans were brought forcibly to these shores as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans were enslaved in the United States and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of basic, fundamental rights;

Whereas in spite of these injustices, African Americans have made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States;

Whereas in the face of these injustices Americans of all races distinguished themselves in their commitment to the ideals on which the United States was founded, and fought for the rights of African Americans;

Whereas the greatness of America is reflected in the contributions of African Americans in all walks of life throughout the history of the United States: in the writings of W.E.B. DuBois, James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, and Alex Haley; in the music of Mahalia Jackson, Billie Holiday, and Duke Ellington; in the resolve of athletes such as Jackie Robinson and Muhammed Ali; in the vision of leaders such as Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, and Martin Luther King, Jr.; and in the bravery of those who stood on the front lines in the battle against oppression such as Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks;

Whereas the United States of America was conceived, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, as a new nation dedicated to the proposition that "all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness";

Whereas the actions of Americans of all races demonstrate their commitment to that proposition: actions such as those of Allan Pinkerton, Thomas Garrett, and the Rev. John Rankin who served as conductors on the Underground Railroad; actions such as those of Harriet Beecher Stowe, who shined a light on the injustices of slavery; actions such as those of President Abraham Lincoln, who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and Senator Lyman Trumbull, who introduced the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; actions such as those of President Lyndon B. Johnson, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Senator Mike Mansfield, and Senator Hubert Humphrey, who fought to end segregation and the denial of civil rights to African Americans; and the thousands of Americans of all races who marched side-by-side with African Americans during the civil rights movement;

Whereas since its founding the United States has been an imperfect work in progress towards these noble goals;

Whereas American History is the story of a people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach them but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure before recommitting themselves to trying again;

Whereas from the beginning of our Nation the most conspicuous and persistent failure of Americans to reach our noble goals has been the enslavement of African Americans and the resulting racism;

Whereas the crime of lynching succeeded slavery as the ultimate expression of racism in the United States following Reconstruction;

Whereas the Federal Government failed to put an end to slavery until the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865, repeatedly failed to enact a federal anti-lynching law, and still struggles to deal with the evils of racism; and

Whereas the fact that 61 percent of African American 4th graders read at a below basic level and only 16 percent of native born African Americans have earned a Bachelor's degree; 50 percent of all new HIV cases are reported in African Americans; and the leading cause of death for African American males ages 15 to 34 is homicide demonstrates that the United States continues to struggle to

reach the high ideal of equal opportunity for all Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the tragedies of slavery, lynching, segregation, and condemns them as an infringement on human liberty and equal opportunity so that they will stand forever as a reminder of what can happen when Americans fail to live up to their noble goals;

(2) honors those Americans who during the time of slavery, lynching, and segregation risked their lives in the underground railway and in other efforts to assist fugitive slaves and other African Americans who might have been targets and victims of lynch mobs and those who have stood beside African Americans in the fight for equal opportunity that continues to this day;

(3) reaffirms its commitment to the founding principles of the United States of America that "all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"; and

(4) commits itself to addressing those situations in which the African American community struggles with disparities in education, health care, and other areas where the Federal Government can play a role in improving conditions for all Americans.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, this is Black History Month.

I look forward to Black History Month each year because it reminds me of my late friend, Alex Haley. Alex Haley died 13 years ago this month. I can still remember his funeral in Memphis and the big crowd there—people from all over America, leaders like Jesse Jackson. I spoke too; lots of us did.

There must have been 300 people in the room who thought they were his best friend. There were thousands of people around America and around the world who thought they were Alex Haley's best friend. He was a remarkable individual.

I remember saying that Alex Haley was God's storyteller, because he could tell a story. I remember saying, too, that I think we just used him up because he was such a generous man with his time.

After the funeral in Memphis, a procession drove to Henning, TN—not so far from Memphis—50 or 60 miles. We were there at the home where Alex Haley stayed in the summers with his grandparents.

This was a Friday. The African flute played a beautiful melody. It was cold. It was cold in February.

After the casket was laid in the grave, the stone was put there. On that stone were the words that Alex Haley lived his life by: "Find the good and praise it."

I remember that afternoon as if it were yesterday, even though it was 13 years ago. I remember Alex Haley as if he were perched here in this room looking us over.

I remember Alex Haley not just because of his death during Black History Month 13 years ago, but because of how he lived his life during Black History Month in the Februaries before 1992. Almost every February would find Alex

Haley on an all-night red-eye flight to Tennessee from a speaking engagement in some distant place so he could drive to some small Tennessee town and fulfill a commitment he made months earlier to a 4th grade teacher to help her students celebrate Black History Month.

Teachers loved Alex Haley's visits because he had wonderful stories to tell, stories of Frederick Douglass, of Thurgood Marshall, of Martin Luther King. Of the heroes and heroines, both black and white of the underground railroad, of Jackie Robinson, Muhammad Ali, W.E.B. Dubois, James Baldwin, and Ralph Ellison.

But the most riveting of all the stories that Alex Haley told those children were the ones Alex learned sitting on the porch steps in Henning, TN, in the summertime, listening to his great-aunts and his grandmother tell stories of his ancestor Kunta Kinte. He used to say his Great-Aunt Plus, rocking on the porch, telling those stories, could knock a firefly out of the air at 15 feet with an accurate stream of tobacco juice.

Once Alex Haley rode across the Atlantic Ocean for 3 weeks in the belly of a freighter to try to imagine what it must have been like for Kunta Kinte to be captured in the Gambia, Africa, and brought to Annapolis and sold as a slave. Alex spent 13 years tracing what had happened between the arrival of Kunta Kinte, his seventh generation grandfather, and Alex's own birth.

Alex Haley discovered one important piece of that puzzle when speaking in Simpson College in Iowa in the early 1970s. He told students and faculty there that he had found the name of the man who had bought Kunta Kinte on the Annapolis dock, but Alex could not trace what had happened after that.

A faculty member arose and said, Mr. Haley, my seventh generation grandfather purchased your seventh generation grandfather. Alex stayed with that faculty member for several weeks and because of that encounter was finally able to weave together the rest of the story of the struggle for freedom which became America's best-watched television miniseries, the story of "Roots."

It is in the spirit of Alex Haley that I offer this resolution celebrating Black History Month. This resolution honors the contributions of African Americans throughout the history of our country. It recommitts the Senate to the goals of liberty and equal opportunity for every American. It condemns the horrors of slavery, of lynching, of segregation, and other instances in which our country has failed to measure up to its noble goals, and it pledges to work harder to improve educational, health, and job opportunities for African Americans and for all Americans.

African Americans were brought forcibly to these shores in the 17th century. From that dark beginning, however, they have overcome great obsta-

cles and continue to do so, to take a prominent place among the many people of diverse backgrounds who have come together here to form a single nation. African Americans have made and continue to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific, and technical advancement of the United States of America.

I have repeatedly emphasized the importance of the study of American history. One of our national tragedies and embarrassments is that our twelfth graders score lower on the national assessment of educational progress on U.S. history than on any other subject. We should be ashamed of that. Senator REID, the Democratic leader, Senator KENNEDY, other Senators on this side, and I have worked together to try to change that.

This is our opportunity—in a month devoted to black history—to especially recognize the history of African Americans in this country and to recognize that it is one of the greatest examples of our national quest to reach the high ideals set for us by our Founding Fathers. The Declaration of Independence dedicated us to the proposition that "all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

Our history is one of striving to reach this lofty ideal. The treatment of African Americans is our most egregious failure. Slavery, lynching, and segregation are all examples of times when this Nation failed African Americans. We failed to live up to our own promise of that fundamental truth that all men are created equal.

However, for every time we have failed, we have struggled to come to terms with that disappointment and we have recommitted ourselves to try again. Where there once was slavery, we passed the thirteenth and fourteenth amendments abolishing slavery and declaring equal protection under the law for all races. Where there was segregation, came Brown v. Board of Education and the Voting Rights Act. There are so many moments like these in our history and it is these moments we also celebrate with this resolution.

In addition, I do not believe we should simply rest on the accomplishments of our past. We celebrate and remember our history so we can learn its lessons and apply them today. Today's wrongs are begging for attention. African Americans in this country face significant and often crippling disparities in education, in health care, in quality of life, and in other areas where the Federal Government can play a role. The best way for each one of us, and for the United States Senate, to commemorate Black History Month is to get to work on legislation that would offer African Americans and other Americans better access to good schools, better access to quality health care, better access to decent jobs.

There is no resolution we can pass today that will teach one more child to read, prevent one more case of AIDS, or stop one more violent crime. However, I hope by joining me and supporting this resolution, the Members of this Senate will also join me in finding ways to look to the future and continue to contribute to this work in progress that is the United States of America.

I don't know what my friend Alex Haley would say about this Senate resolution, the one I am about to introduce, or that Senate resolution. But I do know how he lived his life. I do know how he celebrated Black History Month. He told wonderful stories about African Americans and other Americans who believed in the struggle for freedom and the struggle for equality. He minced no words in describing the terrible injustices they overcame. He said to those children he had flown all night to see that they were living in a wonderful country of great goals, and while many in the past had often failed to reach those goals, that we Americans always recommit ourselves to keep trying.

So, Mr. President, today I introduce a Senate resolution celebrating Black History Month, and it is in the spirit of Alex Haley that I offer it.

SENATE RESOLUTION 45—COMMENDING THE JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY DUKES FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2004 NCAA DIVISION 1-AA NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 45

Whereas the students, alumni, faculty, and supporters of James Madison University are to be congratulated for their commitment and pride in the James Madison University Dukes national champion football team;

Whereas in the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship game against the Montana Grizzlies, the Dukes drove to a 10-to-7 lead at the half on the strength of the 1-yard touchdown by seemingly indefatigable tailback Maurice Fenner and the 28-yard field goal by kicker David Rabil;

Whereas the Dukes won the 2004 NCAA Division I-AA National Football Championship with an outstanding second half performance, rushing for 257 yards and outscoring the Montana Grizzlies 21 to 14, to win the Championship by a score of 31 to 21;

Whereas the Dukes added the NCAA Division I-AA title to their share in the Atlantic Ten Conference title to claim their second championship in 2004;

Whereas every player on the Dukes football team (Nick Adams, Ryan Bache, L.C. Baker, Alvin Banks, Brandon Beach, Antoinne Bolton, D.D. Boxley, Rondell Bradley, Isai Bradshaw, Ardon Bransford, Anderson Braswell, Marvin Brown, Michael Brown, Ryan Brown, Shawn Bryant, George Burns, Robbie Catterton, Frank Cobbs, Sean Connaghan, Jamaal Crowder, Ben Crumlin, Corey Davis, John Michael Deeds, Isaiah Dottin-Carter, Harry Dunn, Sudan Ellington, Nick Englehart, Sid Evans, Maurice Fenner,