

are classified as human carcinogens, no threshold for "safe" exposure exists, and the elimination of asbestos use is essential to stop the global epidemic of asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas nearly half of the more than 1,000 screened firefighters, police officers, rescue workers, and volunteers who responded to the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001, have new and persistent respiratory problems;

Whereas the industry groups with the highest incidence rates of asbestos-related diseases, based on 2000 to 2002 figures, were shipyard workers, builders of vehicle bodies (including rail vehicles), pipefitters, carpenters and electricians, construction workers (including insulation and stripping workers), extraction workers, energy and water supply workers, and manufacturing workers;

Whereas the United States has substantially reduced its consumption of asbestos, yet continues to consume almost 2,000 metric tons of the fibrous mineral for use in certain products throughout the Nation;

Whereas asbestos exposures continue, but attention to safety and prevention has reduced significantly and will continue to reduce asbestos exposures and asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas the United States continues to import over \$100,000,000 worth of asbestos products annually, such as brake pads and linings, cement pipe, floor tiles, and other asbestos products from other countries for use throughout the Nation;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases kill 10,000 people in the United States each year, and the numbers are increasing;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, have asbestos-related diseases at a rate 40 to 60 times the national average, and suffer from mesothelioma at a rate 100 times the national average;

Whereas asbestos exposure is responsible for 1 in every 125 deaths of men over the age of 50;

Whereas asbestos has been the largest single cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas asbestos is still a hazard for 1,300,000 workers in the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related deaths have increased greatly in the last 20 years and are expected to continue to increase;

Whereas 30 percent of all victims of asbestos-related diseases were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of virtually all office buildings, public schools, and homes built before 1975;

Whereas safety and prevention will reduce asbestos exposure and asbestos-related diseases; and

Whereas the establishment of "National Asbestos Awareness Week" would raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2007 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week";

(2) urges the Surgeon General, as a public health issue, to warn and educate people that asbestos exposure may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Surgeon General.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise in support of the resolution introduced by Senator BAUCUS to designate the first week of April 2007 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week." It is my hope this resolution will raise public awareness of this dreadful substance and the pain and suffering that it has caused. It

is also a reminder of our responsibility to the victims of asbestos in Nevada, in Libby, MT, and all over America.

We know too well that the effect of exposure can be deadly. Diseases caused by asbestos include cancers of the lung, digestive tract, colon, larynx, esophagus, kidney and some types of lymphoma; pleural disease; asbestosis; and, of course, mesothelioma. These devastating illnesses take the lives of 30 Americans each day and as many as 10,000 Americans each year.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, 1.3 million Americans still face significant asbestos exposure in their workplaces. However, the danger is not confined to the Nation's shipyards, mines, or construction sites. Countless others are exposed in their neighborhoods, in schoolyards and at home; mothers and children who would otherwise have no clue that their very health is in jeopardy from this poisonous substance.

The cases of disease and death caused by asbestos exposure are not abstractions. Real lives are affected and destroyed by this dreadful substance. I have received countless letters from victims of asbestos-related diseases and their families. Each one shares another story of loss and of pain, of sickness and of tragedy.

James Baxter, a retired railroad worker from Carson City, NV, suffers from lung damage and respiratory problems. Richard Strauss from Las Vegas, NV, lost his father 3 years ago from asbestos exposure. Like many others, these two men contacted me seeking help in dealing with the hardship and tragedy they have endured.

Margy Urnberg from Carson City, NV, had a father, Ronald Johnson, who died from asbestos exposure. He worked in a vermiculite mine and received secondhand exposure from living in Libby, MT. Connie Peck-Youso was born and raised in Libby, MT. Although she never worked in a mine, she bares the scarring in her lungs from the same type of secondhand exposure that had such terrible consequences for Mr. Johnson.

Alan Reinstein, the cofounder and former Director of Communications of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, suffered with acute mesothelioma. Alan fought bravely and responded to his illness as a call to action. Sadly, he lost his battle with his terrible disease last year. The Alan Reinstein Memorial Award was created to honor those, like Alan, who have brought awareness to the victims of asbestos. Les Skramstad will be honored posthumously this year.

Last year, the Senate debated a bill to remove asbestos liability cases from the court system and compensate victims from a trust fund. I strongly opposed that bill because it was unfair to asbestos victims. The bill would have made it too difficult for seriously injured victims to recover damages, and the trust fund would have been inadequate. Rather than deprive asbestos

victims of their day in court, we should pass legislation to ban asbestos and heighten public awareness of this fatal disease.

I am also pleased to be a cosponsor of the legislation recently reintroduced by Senator MURRAY, the Ban Asbestos in America Act of 2007, which would ban asbestos by prohibiting asbestos-containing products from being imported, manufactured, processed, or distributed in the United States. While it has been banned in over 40 countries around the world, we continue to import over \$100 million worth of asbestos products annually. This is more than 30 million pounds of asbestos that is imported for use throughout the Nation. Additionally, the bill calls for a public awareness campaign to help educate patients, workers, family members, and health care providers on the dangers of exposure to asbestos, along with possible treatment options. Asbestos is killing far too many people. We can and should do more. Senator MURRAY's bill and the National Asbestos Awareness Week are a step in that direction.

SENATE RESOLUTION 109—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS RIFLE TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2007 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. STEVENS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 109

Whereas, on March 10, 2007, before a crowd of more than 900 fans in Fairbanks, Alaska, the University of Alaska Fairbanks rifle team (referred to in this preamble as the "Nanooks rifle team") earned a combined total of 4,662 points for the performance of the team in the smallbore rifle and air rifle competitions to win the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Rifle Championship (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA Rifle Championship");

Whereas that victory marked the 9th NCAA Rifle Championship won by the Nanooks rifle team since 1994;

Whereas winning the NCAA Rifle Championship was the pinnacle of a remarkable undefeated season for the Nanooks rifle team;

Whereas 6 members of the Nanook rifle team were named National Collegiate Athletic Association All-Americans;

Whereas 2nd-year coach Dan Jordan, along with each member of the Nanooks rifle team, dedicated his or her time and effort to ensuring that the Nanooks rifle team won the NCAA Rifle Championship;

Whereas the families of the shooters, students, alumni, faculty, and all of the supporters of the Nanooks rifle team are to be congratulated for their commitment to, and pride in, the Nanooks rifle team;

Whereas the members of the 2006-2007 Nanooks rifle team are excellent representatives of a fine university that is a leader in higher education and produces many fine student-athletes and other community leaders; and

Whereas the Nanooks rifle team showed tremendous dedication to each other, appreciation for their fans, sportsmanship to their

opponents, and respect for the sport of competitive shooting throughout the 2006-2007 season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the University of Alaska Fairbanks rifle team for winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Rifle Championship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 110—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASEAN-UNITED STATES DIALOGUE AND RELATIONSHIP

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. BOND, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 110

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (referred to in this resolution as "ASEAN"), was established in 1967, with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand as the initial members;

Whereas the membership of ASEAN has expanded to 10 countries since its establishment in 1967, and now includes Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN dialogue and relationship began in 1977;

Whereas the countries of ASEAN constitute the 3rd largest export market for the United States, have received approximately \$90,000,000,000 in direct investment from the United States, and are developing an integrated free trade area;

Whereas trade between the United States and the countries of ASEAN totals nearly \$170,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas ASEAN is committed to accelerated economic growth, social progress, cultural development, and regional peace and stability;

Whereas ASEAN is committed to developing a regional energy security strategy;

Whereas nearly 40,000 students from ASEAN countries are studying in the United States;

Whereas ASEAN countries share common concerns with the United States, including the spread of avian influenza and other diseases, and environmental issues, such as the preservation of biodiversity and illegal logging;

Whereas ASEAN countries continue to partner with the United States against global terrorism;

Whereas the Senate passed legislation authorizing the establishment of the position of United States Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs; and

Whereas United States officials announced in August of 2006 that an Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs will be appointed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the United States and the ASEAN countries should continue implementing the ASEAN-United States Enhanced Partnership, with emphasis on the agreed upon specific priority measures for cooperation in 2007;

(B) the United States should proceed with appointing a United States Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs;

(C) the United States should work with the countries of ASEAN in developing a regional energy strategy;

(D) the United States should provide greater emphasis and support toward encouraging students from ASEAN countries to study in the United States, and American students to study in ASEAN countries; and

(E) the United States should continue to support the work of multilateral financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank in ASEAN countries, and to encourage additional transparency and anticorruption efforts by those institutions, for the benefit of the ASEAN countries where they operate;

(2) the Senate welcomes the initiation of a Fulbright Program for ASEAN scholars; and

(3) the Senate welcomes and encourages planning by the countries of ASEAN and the United States for an ASEAN-United States Summit in 2007.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, since its inception in 1967, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has been a trusted friend of the United States. The original five-member countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, were joined by Brunei Darussalam in 1984. Beginning in the late 1960s, U.S. officials today continue to interact with ASEAN regarding mutual interests in East and Southeast Asia. Vietnam, Laos, Burma and Cambodia joined ASEAN after 1994.

The level of intersects between ASEAN and the United States is immense, including student exchanges, business and trade, and security cooperation. ASEAN is the third largest export destination of American products.

It is important to note that ASEAN is continually changing, with the pursuit of economic integration. As noted by the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN officials hope to create "a stable, prosperous and highly competitive ASEAN economic region in which there is a free flow of goods, services and investment and a freer flow of capital, equitable, economic development and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities in year 2020." Last year alone, there were over 500 meetings of ASEAN officials—it is a vibrant regional structure.

Committed to promoting regional peace and harmony, there has been no armed confrontation among ASEAN member nations, since ASEAN's beginning. An important part of ASEAN's future security lies in the development of a regional energy security strategy. This endeavor is well underway, and the United States looks forward to future dialogue on ways in which meaningful cooperation can occur.

Continued collaboration between ASEAN, the United States and the World Health Organization on addressing major disease challenges, such as Avian influenza is of the essence. All involved must act with vigilance and in a timely way.

While ASEAN and the United States have shared appreciation for the challenges of terrorism, our relationship is far more complex. For the benefit of my colleagues, I point to recent remarks conveyed to me by Singapore's esteemed

Ambassador-at-Large, Tommy Koh, who wrote "ASEAN's re-

lationship with the U.S. is its most important relationship. It is a mutually beneficial relationship. However, ASEAN often feels that it has been treated by the U.S. with benign neglect and viewed solely through the prism of terrorism. We hope, on this 30th anniversary year of the U.S.-ASEAN dialogue relationship, that the U.S. will develop a coherent strategy and policy to engage ASEAN, upgrade our priority and make the U.S. the best friend of ASEAN."

Full implementation of the ASEAN-United States Enhanced Partnership and appointment of the U.S. Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs are important steps in growing this important bilateral relationship.

I am pleased to introduce this resolution commemorating the 30th anniversary of the U.S.-ASEAN dialogue. It is a message of reaffirmation and deep appreciation by the United States Senate. We look forward to an even closer future partnership on many fronts, yielding mutual benefit for the people of ASEAN and the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 20—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT NO FUNDS SHOULD BE CUT OFF OR REDUCED FOR AMERICAN TROOPS IN THE FIELD WHICH WOULD RESULT IN UNDERMINING THEIR SAFETY OR THEIR ABILITY TO COMPLETE THEIR ASSIGNED MISSION

Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 20

Whereas under Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of the United States, the President is the "commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States", and in such capacity the President has the command of the Armed Forces, including the authority to deploy troops and direct military campaigns during wartime;

Whereas under Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States, Congress has the power of the purse specifically as it relates to the Armed Forces, and in such capacity Congress has the responsibility to fully and adequately provide funding for United States military forces, especially when they are at war and are defending the Nation; and

Whereas when United States military forces are in harm's way and are protecting our country, Congress and the Nation should give them all the support they need in order to maintain their safety and accomplish their assigned missions, including the equipment, logistics, and funding necessary to ensure their safety and effectiveness, and such support is the responsibility of both the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch of Government: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that Congress should not take