

breathed that dust in. Everyday I carried that deadly dust home on my clothes. I took it into our house and I contaminated my own wife and each of my babies with it too. I just don't know how to live with the pain of what I have done to them.

If we can make something good come of this, maybe I'll stick around to see that, maybe that could make this worthwhile.

I told him I would do all that I could, that I wouldn't back down, and that I wouldn't give up. Les accepted my offer and then pointed his finger and said to me: I'll be watching, Senator.

I have kept my promise to Les and I have worked hard to help people in Libby. I will continue to do all I can to help Libby.

I know that now even though Les is not with us today he is still watching. Les is my inspiration.

Because of Les's work and other advocates in Libby, we launched the Center for Asbestos Related Diseases in Libby—called the CARD clinic. CARD has screened and provided health care to hundreds of Libby residents.

Screening is an essential part of making sure people get the help they need. Spreading the word about asbestos exposure is also vital to ensure that people who are sick get the treatment they deserve.

The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization is a leader in this fight. They work tirelessly to advocate on behalf of asbestos victims so that thousands more in the future should not suffer the same fate.

Along with the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, others in the Libby community such as Gayla Benefield and Dr. Brad Black have worked to educate people about the dangers of asbestos exposure.

Then there are also those who have left Libby, but continue to advocate on behalf of asbestos victims such as Margy Urnberg and Kenny and Karen Moss, all former residents of Libby and remarkable volunteers.

An asbestos awareness week will help spread the word about the deadliness of these fibers and bring relief to those who suffer from asbestos-related diseases. I will continue to fight for those like Les, whose lives have been taken by asbestos. I made a promise to Les and I won't stop until I have fulfilled that promise.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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 be printed in the RECORD as if given, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 131) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 131

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas these fibers can cause mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the expected survival time for those diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally little is known about late stage treatment and there is no cure for asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve their prognosis;

Whereas the United States has substantially reduced its consumption of asbestos yet continues to consume almost 7,000 metric tons of the fibrous mineral for use in certain products throughout the Nation;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas asbestos exposures continue and safety and prevention will reduce and has reduced significantly asbestos exposure and asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas asbestos has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana have asbestos-related diseases at a significantly higher rate than the national average and suffer from mesothelioma at a significantly higher rate than the national average; and

Whereas the establishment of a "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.

TRAUMA CARE SYSTEMS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 727.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (H.R. 727) to amend the Public Health Service Act to add requirements regarding trauma care, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD as if read, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 727) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to H.R. 1132.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1132) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers.

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

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the passage of H.R. 1132, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Reauthorization Act of 2007, a program that the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and I have worked closely to reauthorize. H.R. 1132, like our companion bill S. 624, reauthorizes the successful Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The legislation authorizes increased funding for this program to \$275 million over 5 years and provides States with greater flexibility to reach priority, hard to reach populations including women living in rural areas and racial and ethnic minorities.

Senator HUTCHISON and I would like to clarify with the chairman and ranking member the intent of the new waiver demonstration project. The legislation authorizes the establishment of a waiver demonstration project that will allow States to leverage non-Federal funds for breast and cervical cancer screening and follow-up services, reduce barriers to screening, and increase the number of women served. Non-Federal funds for breast and cervical cancer services/activities are available in some States through State or local government sources and private sources. Leveraging these non-Federal funds will augment limited available Federal funding and thus enable the efficient and effective utilization of resources to provide education and outreach to screen more women. It is Congress's intent that the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, will administer the described demonstration project as part of its overall management of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Program.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I thank my good friend from Maryland for her support and partnership in reauthorizing this very important piece of legislation, and I appreciate the assistance we received from Chairman KENNEDY and Ranking Member ENZI, as well as the administration and our House colleagues. Early detection of breast and cervical cancers saves lives

and is essential to our fight against these devastating diseases. The national early detection program has given millions of disadvantaged women access to vitally important cancer screenings, and I am proud of our commitment to continuing the Federal investment in these services. I hope that the new waiver demonstration project will provide the small number of States seeking to fully leverage private contributions the ability to capitalize on those funds to expand access and services to even more women. I also look forward to the information CDC gathers in its report to help guide us in ensuring we provide the most screenings for our Federal investment. I thank my colleagues for working with us to expand this important program in our fight to reduce the number of cancer deaths in the United States.

Mr. KENNEDY. I commend Senators MIKULSKI and HUTCHISON for their leadership on this issue and thank Senator ENZI for his hard work to get this bill through the Senate. I agree with Senator MIKULSKI that it is the intent of Congress that the Secretary, acting through the Director, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, will administer the described demonstration project as part of its overall management of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Program.

Mr. ENZI. I want to thank all of the key members—Senator HUTCHISON, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator KENNEDY and others for their ongoing work and dedication to this program. I am glad that we have been able to complete our work today and send this bill to the President. I also agree that it is our intent that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention administer the new waiver authority which is added to the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Program as part of this reauthorization process. The waiver authority is integral to the overall program implementation. As such, it should remain within the purview of the CDC.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 1132) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EDWARD WILLIAM BROOKE III CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 682 and the Senate proceed to the consideration of this matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 682) to award a congressional gold medal to Edward William Brooke III in recognition of his unprecedented and enduring service to our Nation.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the award of a Congressional Gold Medal to our former colleague, Senator Ed Brooke, is eminently well-deserved, and I urge the Senate to approve this legislation.

To all of us who know Ed Brooke, he was an outstanding Senator, a true statesman, a champion of equal justice and opportunity for all, and a man of great conscience and compassion.

Senator Brooke was born in Washington, DC, not far from these Chambers on Capitol Hill, and he graduated from Howard University. He had studied medicine, intending to become a physician, but realized that he was more at home in the fields of literature, political science, and history.

After finishing his degree at Howard, he served our country in World War II as a captain in the Army's segregated 366th Infantry Regiment, which fought with great courage in the Italian theater. During his service, he distinguished himself not only as a gifted leader, but as a skilled defense counsel in court martial proceedings.

Returning from the war, he enrolled in Boston University Law School and became editor of the Law Review. After graduating, he began a successful law practice in Massachusetts and continued his commitment to public service as well. He chaired the Finance Commission of Boston, and specialized in rooting out public corruption. His ability, energy, and dedication won him renown, and he was elected attorney general of Massachusetts, becoming the first African American in the Nation to hold such a position.

In his two terms as attorney general, he became a leader in the battle against organized crime.

In 1966, he was elected to the Senate from Massachusetts, the first African-American Senator since Reconstruction. I vividly remember escorting him down the center aisle of this Chamber for his swearing in. At that time, the Senate was deeply involved in enacting the historic civil rights legislation of the 1960s, and I was touched by the magnitude and immense symbolism of that moment for Ed and his family, for African Americans, for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for the Nation as a whole.

When people question Ed about his significant place in history, his response is always spirited and unchanging. He didn't want to be remembered only as the Senate's African-American Member. During his campaign for attorney general, he had said, "I'm not running as a Negro. I never have. I'm trying to show that people can be elected on the basis of their qualifications and not their race."

Ed always saw himself in this light. Despite his other "firsts," he was first

and foremost an American and a son of Massachusetts, and it was important to him that his accomplishments and talents speak louder than the color of his skin.

Needless to say, his heritage uniquely qualified him to combat social injustice and stand as an eloquent voice for America's oppressed. He served on President Johnson's Commission on Civil Disorders, which investigated the causes of the race riots in American cities at the time, and the committee's recommendations became a central part of the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

When he spoke on the Senate floor in support of the extending the Voting Rights Act in 1975, he addressed this body with inspiring candor and sincerity. In a time of great turmoil and division, he was a symbol of hope for Americans of color throughout our Nation—hope that our country was changing, hope that the American dream was still alive.

Those who were intent on defeating the Voting Rights Act could not avoid pangs of conscience as Ed declared, "I cannot believe that in 1975, on the floor of the U.S. Senate, we are ready to say to the American people, black and white, red and brown, that they cannot be assured of the basic right to vote!" His point was irresistible, and the very next day, the Senate passed the bill.

Ed was passionate about opportunity for all. In his two terms with us, he set a high standard for public service and was a model of senatorial independence, supporting measures on both sides of the aisle that he felt strengthened our country, and improved the lives of all Americans. He was a champion of the minimum wage, a strong voice for Medicare and Social Security, and an effective defender of women's rights. The title of his autobiography, "Bridging the Divide," published earlier this year, says it all. He bridged race, he bridged parties, and defied any conventional categorization.

I remember Ed discussing the difficulty of providing a home for his family after his return from World War II, at a time when race disqualified him from considering certain properties. His plight was characteristic of the struggle experienced by millions of Americans at that time. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 is a tribute to his leadership as a Senator, and long after he left the Senate, he continued the battle for fair housing and opportunity as leader of the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "We must come to see that the end we seek is a society of peace. That will be the day not of the white man, not the black man. That will be the day of man as man." Edward Brooke is the embodiment of Dr. King's vision. He was a great Senator among us, he is still a caring public servant. He is a great American, and he certainly deserves this very special tribute from Congress. I urge my colleagues to approve this award of the Congressional Gold Medal to our former colleague, Ed Brooke.