

yet another step closer to the day when no child goes to bed feeling alone, unloved or unwanted.

#### LYME DISEASE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleague, Senator CHRIS DODD of Connecticut, in lending support to the pressing cause of addressing the ruinous effects of America's most common tick-borne illness, Lyme disease.

I thank the senior Senator from Connecticut for his long involvement and leadership on this most important public health issue. With thousands of Americans contracting Lyme disease each year, it is critical that we work aggressively to wage a comprehensive fight against this devastating tick-borne illness, which costs our country dearly in the way of medical expenditures and human suffering. The current lack of physician knowledge about Lyme and the inadequacies of existing detection methods are particularly problematic, and only serve to compound this growing public health hazard.

Approximately one year ago, I joined with Senator DODD, and Representatives SMITH of New Jersey, PITTS and GOODE to request of the U.S. General Accounting Office a report on some of the current concerns surrounding public and private efforts dedicated to Lyme. We asked about the past and present funding trends within the NIH and CDC and to what projects these resources are being devoted, and we asked about possible conflicts of interest within government agencies related to decisions about the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Lyme.

Although we have not yet received the official report of the GAO, we have received some preliminary findings that Senator DODD and I believed merited the development of new legislation that we are introducing today the Lyme and Infectious Disease Information and Fairness in testing "LIIFT" Act to build upon the solid foundation laid by the Lyme Disease Initiative of 1999.

The GAO's preliminary findings suggest that the CDC and NIH have lost sight of what ultimately matters to the people living with Lyme: Accurate diagnostic tools, access to effective treatment and ultimately a cure. Needless to say, the patient community is not well-served if these areas are not given proper priority at the CDC and NIH.

Between 1991 and 1999, the annual number of reported cases of Lyme disease increased by an astonishing 72 percent. Even as the dramatic increase took place, according to the GAO, funding for Lyme disease at the CDC has increased by only 7 percent over the past 10 years.

Whereas we applaud NIH for its work and we are pleased to see that Congress' efforts to double NIH funding have directly benefited Lyme research,

poor coordination and the lack of proper funding at the CDC has left too many questions unanswered. Senator DODD and I share the frustration of the patient community; why hasn't all of this research translated into better treatment? We similarly believe that the CDC's lack of proper funding and attention to tick-borne disease has stalled progress in the development of more accurate diagnostic tests for Lyme disease.

The LIIFT Act will seek to remedy these issues by ensuring that the proper collaboration is taking place on the Federal level the proper collaboration between the Federal Government and the people it serves. Our bill will also address the funding imbalances for Lyme disease activities at the CDC that has inhibited the development of accurate detection methods and treatment for Lyme.

With this new legislation we are calling for the formation of a Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee that will bring Federal agencies, such as the CDC and the NIH, to the table with patient organizations, clinicians, and members of the scientific community. This Committee will report its recommendations to the Secretary of HHS. It will ensure that all scientific viewpoints are given consideration at NIH and the CDC and will give a voice to the patient community which has often been left out of the dialogue.

The LIIFT Act will also provide an additional \$14 million over the next two years to the CDC to ensure that the Centers work with researchers around the country to develop better diagnostic tests and to increase its efforts to educate the public about Lyme disease. We also call upon the NIH to place an emphasis on funding the neurologic and vascular aspects of Lyme disease and to recruit a larger pool of researchers.

In addition, this legislation authorizes an additional \$7 million to fund the extraordinary research and eradication efforts already underway at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine located in the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

I sincerely hope that our colleagues will join Senator DODD and me in this most worthy cause and cosponsor the LIIFT Act. Lyme disease patients and their families have waited too long for a responsive plan of action to address their suffering and needs.

The Tireless efforts of the Lyme patient and advocacy community have been instrumental in raising awareness and mobilizing support for this issue, and for this both Senator DODD and I thank them. I look forward to working with them, Senator DODD, and our colleagues to synthesize the best ideas from last session's Lyme Disease Initiative and the new LIIFT Act, and to enact into law strong legislation to help correct the mistakes of the past, and to give greater hope for the future

by ensuring patients that the Federal Government is doing everything in its power to provide better treatments and ultimately, a cure.

#### WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Ms. LINCOLN. Mr. President, in anticipation of Memorial Day, I rise to honor the 1.1 million Americans who have given their lives for this country. Their lasting legacy is freedom, both here and abroad.

I hope this Memorial Day will be a special one for the World War II generation. Earlier this week, the Senate cleared the way for the construction of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. The brave men and women of this generation will finally receive the national recognition they deserve.

I want to take time today to acknowledge the contributions of the nearly four million veterans of the Korean War. This issue is a personal one for me. My father is a veteran of the Korean War and I know his generation made tremendous sacrifices. During the course of the war, over 36,000 Americans lost their lives and over 90,000 were wounded.

My father served in Korea as an enlisted man. He left for the 38th Parallel shortly after graduating from high school. When he returned, he married my mother and went to college at the University of Arkansas where he joined the ROTC. Upon graduation, his ROTC unit was activated and Dad left for the Azores for a 12 month assignment.

Like many members of the military, my father didn't endure the sacrifice of service alone. My mother boarded a military flight to the Azores when my sister Mary was only 6 months old to join my father. The military didn't provide housing for married service members on the island and so my father had to make alternative arrangements before my mother and sister could join him. Once reunited, they lived as normal a life as possible in a trailer on an island in the Atlantic thousands of miles from home.

Seldom do we properly recognize the contribution and sacrifice spouses and other family members make when a loved one joins the Armed Forces. So while we honor our nation's veterans on Memorial Day, let us also salute the spouses and other family members who share the sacrifice and burdens of military service.

To commemorate this Memorial Day, I urge my colleagues and all Americans to watch the PBS documentary Korean War Stories. It will air in the evening on Sunday May 27th. This documentary has been sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans as a tribute to those who served during the Korean War.

Our Korean War veterans served this nation with honor, dignity, and dedication, and, in the end, they preserved freedom on the Korean peninsula.

I have the highest respect for the men and women who have served our