

Many women believe that heart disease is a man's disease, so they fail to perceive it as a serious health threat. Every year since 1984, cardiovascular diseases have claimed the lives of more women than men. And, the gap between male and female deaths continues to grow wider. The national statistics are even more startling. Heart disease is the number one killer of women in the United States, claiming more than 250,000 women per year.

Sadly, an American dies from cardiovascular disease approximately every 33 seconds. More than 61 million Americans—one in five males and females—suffer from heart disease, stroke or another cardiovascular disease. Stroke is the third leading cause of death in Missouri and in the United States. Almost 4,000 people in Missouri died of stroke in 1999. Heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases claim more lives each year than the next five leading causes of death combined.

We know the causes of cardiovascular disease—one of them is high blood cholesterol. High cholesterol is a leading risk factor for heart disease and stroke. Approximately 42 million Americans have total blood cholesterol levels of 240 milligrams per deciliter and higher. These individuals are considered at high risk for developing coronary heart disease, which leads to heart attack.

I know that something can be done to combat heart disease and save American lives, and that is why I joined Senator DORGAN in cosponsoring of The Medicare Cholesterol Screening Coverage Act of 2003. This legislation adds blood cholesterol screening as a covered benefit for Medicare beneficiaries, at a frequency and in a manner determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, (HHS). This is consistent with guidelines issued by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, which recommend that all Americans over the age of 20 be screened for high cholesterol at least once every five years. Currently, Medicare only covers cholesterol and other lipid testing for patients who already suffer from known disease such as heart disease, stroke, or other disorders associated with elevated cholesterol levels.

This bill also provides flexibility to allow the Secretary of HHS to cover future cardiovascular screening tests that might become the standard of care in the future, so that Medicare can keep pace with changes in medicine. Congress has already acted to cover other screening tests such as bone mass measurement, glaucoma screenings, and screenings for colorectal, prostate, and breast cancer. Now is the time to also extend Medicare coverage for cholesterol screening.

In recognizing February as American Heart Month, I urge my colleagues to act on The Medicare Cholesterol Screening Coverage Act of 2003, and I thank Senator DORGAN for his leadership on this issue. I also urge my col-

leagues to join me to prioritize legislation to help prevent heart disease.

JOANNE HULS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today in both sadness and celebration because my longtime staff person friend JoAnne Huls has decided to leave the Senate.

I am sad because I am losing my trusted and valued deputy chief of staff who has been with me for a decade.

I celebrate because I am happy to see a dear friend move on to new challenges and I wish her the best of luck.

JoAnne—a native Michiganian—joined me as a college intern in 1993 when I was in the Michigan Senate.

She has been with me in a number of capacities, including during my tenure in the House of Representatives.

Then JoAnne came with me to the Senate, serving as my scheduler and my deputy chief of staff. She has also been with me through four campaigns, with the usual long hours, tense days and junk food.

All of us appreciate the work our staff does for us. They become like family. We often ask them to work long into the night and into the weekend for salaries far less than they could command in the private sector.

Why do they do it? I think that people like JoAnne Huls come to this institution and work hard every day out of a sense of dedication to their State and country.

And JoAnne also came here out of a sense of loyalty and dedication to me and to the issues we care deeply about.

I will forever be grateful to her for her hard work, commitment and friendship.

So thank you, JoAnne, good luck. I know you will make a difference wherever you are and I know you will continue to care deeply about our democratic process.

We are fortunate that people such as JoAnne Huls are willing to be in public service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR RICHARD C. LEE

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, and a wonderful friend, former New Haven Mayor Richard Lee, who passed away last week at the age of 86.

My most heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Ellen Griffin Lee, their three children, Sarah, Tara, and David, and the entire Lee family.

I share the grief of so many from my state of Connecticut, and from around the country, who knew Dick Lee as the heart and soul of New Haven, and as a visionary leader who transformed urban politics nationwide.

Mayor Lee will be best remembered as the man whose innovative urban re-

newal initiatives in the 1950's and 1960's engendered the rebirth of the city of New Haven. His pioneering efforts not only improved the lives of the people of Connecticut, they served as a model for city revitalization projects across America. Generations of Americans have benefitted from the keen mind and passionate public service of Dick Lee.

Born and raised in the working-class Newhallville section of New Haven, Dick Lee never went to college. Nonetheless, he moved swiftly through the ranks of New Haven city government. In 1954, at the age of 37, he became the youngest mayor in New Haven's 365-year history. Despite his youth and lack of formal education, Dick Lee quickly became nationally known as one of the most savvy and sophisticated politicians of his time. He is now remembered as one of the most effective mayors in American history.

Under Mayor Lee's stewardship, New Haven became the recipient of more Federal aid per capita than any other city in the country. He used this influx of Federal resources to create a national blueprint for America's war on poverty, and to showcase innovative urban renewal initiatives, which were desperately needed in hundreds of cities nationwide.

In the early 1960s, Dick Lee launched Head Start, and dozens of equal opportunity and anti-poverty programs in New Haven, long before other cities across America began thinking of ways to combat urban blight and improve the lives of inner-city residents.

John Lindsay, Mayor of New York City, who called Dick Lee the "dean of mayors in this country," once said, "Sometimes my biggest problem is to develop something in New York that Dick Lee hasn't thought of first."

None of us will ever lose sight of that side of Dick Lee—the tireless visionary, extraordinarily effective leader, and dedicated public servant. But many of us also had the great good fortune to call Dick Lee a personal friend. And he was truly a wonderful friend. My father Thomas Dodd, myself, and the entire Dodd family have known the Lee family for generations. We will always treasure our many memories.

Mr. President, Dick Lee could have done many things with his life—he could have run for governor of Connecticut; he could have run for Congress; he could have taken a Cabinet position.

He chose to stay home—he chose to stay in New Haven. That's because Dick Lee embraced his city of new Haven as a beloved family member whom he could never leave. I speak for many when I say it is nearly impossible to imagine the Elm City without Dick Lee.

Dick Lee ultimately served 16 years as mayor of New Haven, 1954 through 1970, making him the longest serving mayor in the city's history. Through those years, he never lost sight of his