

In the meantime, they can pray and take solace that there will be a time for peace.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BREAST
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month on behalf of the Hampshire County Cancer Coalition. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a disease that will kill an estimated thirty-nine thousand, eight hundred women along with four hundred men in the year 2003 alone. It is through the extensive work of medical experts, as well as awareness groups like the Hampshire County Cancer Coalition, that there is hope to extinguish this horrible disease.

I am proud to recognize two Hampshire County residents, Clara Belle Lee and Nellie Lew, who are the two oldest living breast cancer survivors in our state of West Virginia. Ms. Lee has been a survivor for fifty-two years, and Ms. Lew has been a survivor for fifty-seven years. I was honored to have met these women, along with the rest of the Coalition, at the fourth Annual Breast Cancer Survivors Luncheon and wreath hanging ceremony. Their passion and their enthusiasm for life are characteristics of these two incredible women, who have beaten the odds of this fatal disease.

I would like to take some time to recognize the Hampshire County Cancer Coalition and their work. This organization has been instrumental in the state of West Virginia with educating the general public about cancer, as well as striving to initiate the early detection of cancers among women.

The Hampshire County Cancer Coalition was formed in 1993 under the direction of the Appalachia Leadership Initiative on Cancer, a cooperative agreement between the National Cancer Institute and Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, to address cancer control issues in our county. The Coalition has sought to increase public awareness and promote early detection of breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer throughout Hampshire County.

The Coalition has collaborated with various community entities in its cancer awareness efforts. Shortly after its formation, the Coalition sponsored two "Friend to Friend Summits," with one held in Romney and one in Capon Bridge. These summits brought together community members, cancer survivors, doctors and nurses for a sharing of the latest information regarding breast cancer awareness, prevention and treatment.

The Coalition has sponsored the Tower of Hope, which is a photo display of county breast cancer survivors dedicated to a charter member of the Coalition who is now deceased. The Tower is displayed in churches, libraries and the courthouse as a testimony to a courageous fight against a powerful disease.

Another focus area has been community education. Placemats with the warning signs of cancer were used in about twenty restaurants around the county. Business owners as well as patrons reported positive feedback.

In addition, the Coalition recently joined forces with the Tobacco Control Coalition to increase opportunities for promoting awareness.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and pride that I honor this wonderful organization as well as these incredible women and their strides to beat this disease. This disease is the leading cancer sited in women, yet with proper awareness and prevention, this disease does not have to be the leading cause of cancer deaths among women between the ages of forty and fifty-nine years of age. With organizations like the Hampshire County Cancer Coalition, and amazing women survivors, there are rays of hope for people diagnosed with breast cancer.

OCTOBER AS NATIONAL BREAST
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I am proud that October can be dedicated to raising awareness of the need for regular mammograms and doctor's visits. A member of my staff has come face to face with this disease, and I am proud to share her story. Hannah's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1990 at the age of 38. Hannah was only 11 years old, with one older brother and two younger sisters, but she remembers being frightened when her parents told her about her mother's cancer. The doctor had found the lump, which was too small for her to feel. If she had not gone to the doctor, it would have spread fast and deadly.

Fortunately, because of awareness, Hannah's mother's cancer was found early, surgery was performed, and she has done great ever since. Fortunately, because of awareness, Hannah only remembers being frightened, but she doesn't have to remember losing her mother to breast cancer because that did not happen. This story is only one of many which emphasize the need for breast cancer awareness. We all need to insist that our mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, wives, and daughters need to get regular mammograms and talk to their doctors about this disease. It is absolutely essential that the information gets out to these women, and that the cancer is caught early. Hannah is grateful that her mother paid attention and has since fostered this awareness in Hannah and her two sisters.

I support reauthorization for the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Breast cancer remains the second highest cause of death for women today. This is a reality that can stop only through awareness.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor victims, survivors, volunteers, and pro-

fessionals, who combat breast cancer each day.

The facts are grim, every 2½ minutes someone is diagnosed with breast cancer. An estimated 211,300 women and 1,300 men, in the United States will be diagnosed this year with breast cancer. An estimated 40,200 deaths are anticipated this year from breast cancer. In my home state of Louisiana, 3,800 new female breast cancer cases will be diagnosed this year, and 700 hundred women will lose their battle against the disease.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month provides a special opportunity to recognize these valiant fighters and to educate the public about the importance of monthly breast self-examinations and annual mammograms. Early detection greatly increases victims' chances of survival.

There is hope. When breast cancer is found early, the five-year survival rate is 96 percent. Monthly breast self-examinations and mammograms are the key components of early detection. I join my House colleagues in saluting the breast cancer survivors alive today in the United States.

I salute the volunteers across the country, including the Louisiana Breast Cancer Task Force, for their work to help educate people about the important life-saving measures of early detection. Thank you for taking time today to honor all the victims, survivors, volunteers, and professionals, who combat breast cancer each day.

REGARDING BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, every 12 minutes a woman in America dies of breast cancer. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but I am not sure that awareness is the right word. Unfortunately, many of us are painfully aware. Many, if not all of us have known someone who has fought against this devastating disease. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the many soldiers in the battle against breast cancer. There are too many to name right now, but their dedication and tireless efforts are critical and so deeply appreciated by us all.

A recent study found that the presence of mutated BRCA-1 or BRCA-2 genes made cancer risk soar. This information proves that passage of legislation such as the Genetic Non-Discrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act is imperative. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation, which has 230 cosponsors. By not acting on this legislation, we are placing women's health in jeopardy on a daily basis. Women are not being tested because they fear they will be discriminated against by their insurer should they test positive. This is unconscionable.

This body has begun the job of funding the National Institutes of Health and cancer research over the past five years. However, our work is not done. It is imperative that we are able to fund new research and continue existing research. In order to ensure that progress is not lost and valuable information left uncovered, we must continue to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health.

One of the things I am most proud to have motivated and enacted was the establishment of the Long Island Breast Cancer Study, a comprehensive effort to investigate whether environmental factors are responsible for breast cancer. The historic investigation began in 1993, and was coordinated by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. When the study was released late last year, I was disappointed to find the study could not identify specific environmental factors from among the three compounds studied as a cause for breast cancer. Many of the other compounds remain to be ruled out; more funding and research are necessary. However, the lessons learned proved very important. Many of the results provided clues for future research. We must build on this information, we must try until we succeed because the alternative is much more costly.

We need to work together to turn "Awareness" into "A-cure."

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARECIBO OBSERVATORY

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, this week Puerto Rico is celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Arecibo Observatory, home of the largest and most sensitive radio telescope in the world. For this occasion, more than 100 scientists from around the world will gather November 1 through the 4th for a series of workshops, including one on the most recent astronomical advances of the giant telescope. For Puerto Rico, there is another reason to celebrate: for the first time since the creation of the observatory in 1963, a Puerto Rican is at its helm. Sixto Gonzalez, who has served as assistant director of special and atmospheric sciences of the observatory since 2001, was named Director of the observatory October 1.

The Arecibo Observatory is part of the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC), a national research center operated by Cornell University under a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NSF is an independent federal agency whose aim is to promote scientific and engineering progress in the United States. NAIC also provides additional support for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

As the site of the world's largest single-dish radio telescope, the Observatory is recognized as one of the most important national centers for research in radio astronomy, planetary radar and terrestrial aeronomy. Use of the Arecibo Observatory is available on an equal, competitive basis to all scientists from throughout the world. Observing time is granted on the basis of the most promising research as ascertained by a panel of independent referees who review the proposals sent to the Observatory by interested scientists. Every year about 200 scientists visit the Observatory facilities to pursue their research project, and numerous students perform observations that lead to their master and doctoral dissertations.

The Arecibo Observatory has its origins as an idea of Professor William E. Gordon, then of Cornell University, who was interested in the study of the ionosphere. Gordon's research during the 1950's led him to the idea of radar back-scatter studies of the ionosphere. Professor Gordon's persistence culminated in the construction of the Arecibo Observatory, which began in the summer of 1960 and three years later the Arecibo Ionospheric Observatory (AIO) was in operation under the direction of Gordon. The formal opening ceremony took place on November 1, 1963.

On October 1, 1969 the National Science Foundation assumed ownership of the facility from the Department of Defense and the Observatory was made a national research center. On September 1971 the AIO became the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC).

The Arecibo Observatory employs about 140 persons in support of the operation. A scientific staff of about 16 divides their time between scientific research and assistance to visiting scientists. Engineers, computer experts, and technicians design and build new instrumentation and keep it in operation.

The Arecibo Observatory is a Puerto Rican landmark. Hundreds of tourists visit it every year and it has been a desired site for recent filming of many movies as well. As this notable landmark appears frequently in films and TV, it is a source of pride for all Puerto Ricans, both as the home of the Arecibo Observatory and as an emblem of the contributions to science from Puerto Rico in general.

Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate the people of Puerto Rico, the Arecibo Observatory and its scientists on its 40-year anniversary. Also, congratulations to Director Sixto Gonzalez for his great job and recent ascension to the leadership of the Arecibo Observatory.

HONORING THE WORK OF SISTER
LECLARE BERES

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Sister Leclare Beres from La Crosse, Wisconsin, in recognition of her retirement. Sister Leclare has worked tirelessly for many years as a nurse and a nun, aiming to provide all people with access to healthcare.

Sister Leclare grew up in Elroy, Wisconsin. Living on a farm, surrounded by her large family, she learned early the importance of hard work and compassion to others. In the early 90s, Sister Leclare saw the medical needs of refugee immigrants and called upon the four area hospitals to sponsor a free clinic. The Indochinese Screening Clinic later became the St. Clare Health Mission. As the director of the St. Clare Health Mission, Sister Leclare has been a leader in providing health services to the poor in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area. In addition, she has worked in Guam and Jamaica as well as with organizations such as Place of Grace and the Salvation Army.

Moreover, after she retires this fall, her dedication to the poor will live on as she plans to volunteer at the St. Clare Health Mission

where she has served as its only director for ten years. I am pleased that her efforts and giving spirit have earned her multiple honors, including the Pope John XXIII Award from Viterbo College, the YWCA Tribute to Outstanding Women in the Medical Field, and the 2002 La Crosse Tribune Person of the Year.

Aside from her amazing gifts in working with persons who are poor and sick, Sister Leclare has impressive organizational talents. She would regularly coordinate the 200 plus medical professionals and community volunteers who came each Tuesday and Thursday evening to serve at the St. Clare Health Mission. In this feat, Sister Leclare was able to bring together a community to address the needs of its neighbors and sought a solution to the limited access to healthcare that many Americans face.

Mr. Speaker and my fellow Members of Congress, I ask that you join me in honoring the dedication and service of Sister Leclare Beres as she retires. She is a role model of service, compassion, and generosity, and we could all learn from her dedication.

Thus, I would like to leave you with the words of Sister Leclare's successor, Sister Dawn Kutt. "Sister Leclare's compassion for the poor and underserved dwells deep within her heart's desire. Her service to the poor is undertaken with joy and tender love as her gentle presence reflects God's love for each of them. She certainly brings the richness out of the poorest of God's poor."

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS
WEEK

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, the week of October 20–25 has been designated as World Population Awareness Week with the theme of "Water: Our Most Precious Natural Resource." Over the next 20 years the world's population of 6.3 billion is projected to increase to nearly 9 billion before leveling off.

As currently, these 6.3 billion people are dependent on 1 percent of all the water on earth. A recent study revealed that 58 areas of the United States—from Florida and Georgia to western Texas to northern California and southern Oregon, as well as most of heartland U.S.A.—are water stressed. Acting on the global consensus that water scarcity must be a top development priority, the Population Institute has decided to dedicate the 19th World Population Awareness Week to the issue of water and I applaud their efforts.

More than 80 nations, 165 organizations, 127 mayors, and 22 governors, including Governor John Baldacci of Maine, have proclaimed the week of October 20–25 as World Population Awareness Week with the theme "Water: Our Most Precious Natural Resource." I call that proclamation to my colleagues' attention in hopes of promoting the importance of an adequate and safe water supply for future generations.