

cessation of tobacco use. Lung cancer is the second-most diagnosed cancer and the most commonly fatal form of cancer for both men and women in our country.

Through comprehensive efforts of leading institutions our Nation teams up in the quest for more information, campaigns for prevention awareness, and researches and disseminates improved treatments. The American Association for Cancer Research, AACR, is the oldest and largest scientific organization in the world dedicated to cancer, and it has led to the creation of several other leading cancer research centers in Connecticut and throughout the nation. The work of these cutting-edge institutions—guided by dedicated leaders in clinical research and education awareness—advance our understanding of cancer treatment and prevention every day. They are improving quality of care, enhancing our ability to reach a larger national audience, and developing personalized treatments.

Connecticut has been on the frontlines of pioneering novel methods of researching and treating tobacco-related cancers. For example, Yale Cancer Center, under the direction of Dr. Roy Herbst—Associate Director for Translational Research and the Chief of Medical Oncology—has focused on lung cancer research and clinical care, spearheading a vast number of anticancer drug studies. He has placed original DNA research into the traditional scientific method and used this framework to discover cancer treatments that are catered to the individual patient. In this way, the type of tumor becomes less important than the underlying genetic driver. He is a role model for our Nation's researchers and physicians and an inspiration to current and future medical students.

Today, I also commend the bravery of patients who participate in novel clinical trials. By assuming risk and embracing the unknown, these cancer patients help to further medical research and look out for future generations.

Throughout Connecticut and the nation, we have seen the positive effects of national organizations with engaged, local arms, such as the AACR, the American Lung Association, and Tobacco Free Kids. These institutions have shown Americans of all generations the carcinogenic effects of tobacco products. The AACR's Task Force on Tobacco and Cancer drives the message that cancer research and the dissemination of this new information to Americans are equally important in fighting our national cancer epidemic. The American Lung Association creates a forum for Americans and their families, empowering smokers—and those with loved ones who are addicted to tobacco—with the tough truth while offering proactive ways to integrate what we know about tobacco and cancer into daily life. Tobacco Free Kids keeps watch over Federal,

State, and local government initiatives against tobacco addiction, building and maintaining momentum for a national tobacco policy and cancer prevention campaign.

These three organizations—as well as a number of other groups—host critically important forums for policy experts, lawmakers, and the public. They explain the science behind tobacco-related cancers and teach Americans how to care for their long-term health and the well-being of our future generations through smoking-cessation techniques and treatments. Today, the National Cancer Policy Forum is hosting a workshop on “Reducing Tobacco-Related Cancer Incidence and Mortality” at the National Academy of Sciences. I applaud this exemplary conference of panel discussions, new ideas, and collaboration—that brings together physicians, administrators, researchers, and organizations to foster proactive measures that inspire healthy futures.

At a time when Federal and State investment into prevention programs is at an unfortunate low, these leading institutions prove we can save lives through education and awareness. We must also continue to support robust medical research funding through the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Federal Drug Administration, to maintain and continue to improve upon our Nation's comprehensive and effective approach to fighting tobacco-related cancers.

In the face of this truly devastating disease that takes one American per minute, those that work fastidiously towards prevention and a cure, are true heroes. Their quest for knowledge gives us hope. I am especially proud of the great progress made in Connecticut, and hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these efforts and those around the nation as we unite in the fight against cancer—which continues to be the second leading cause of death in America.●

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND BONITA GRUBBS

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Reverend Bonita Grubbs, a community leader who has given so faithfully and generously to New Haven and Connecticut. Reverend Grubbs has been recently awarded the 11th Annual Reverend Howard Nash Community Leadership Award by Community Mediation, CM, an extraordinary organization that helps individuals and organizations resolve conflict through mediation and dialogue.

Since 1988, Reverend Grubbs has served as Executive Director of Christian Community Action, CCA, leading a set of well-established and crucial programs and social services for the poor and under-privileged in the Greater-New Haven area. CCA prides itself on providing emergency solutions with the underlying intention of proactive

education for long-term sustainability and self-sufficiency. In addition to offering emergency services, CCA also runs education, housing, food, mentorship, after-school, and youth summer programs.

However, this role is only one dimension of Reverend Grubbs' contributions to her community. She is a champion of social justice, conscious of laying the foundations of sustainable lifestyles that will last for future generations. Reverend Grubbs has made tremendous impact through the Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund and as President of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Co-Chair and member of the Steering Committee of New Haven's Fighting Back Project, columnist for the New Haven Register, Board of Trustee for the Hospital of St. Raphael, and Board Member for both Connecticut Voices for Children and Connecticut Center for School Change.

Very appropriately, Reverend Grubbs has been given an award named after Reverend Howard Nash, who was renowned in New Haven as an omnipresent peacemaker and founder of the Dialogue Project—an interfaith effort by CM and Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, ICM. Although ordained within the American Baptist Church, Reverend Grubbs' public service transcends religion and race.

In addition to this most recent honor, she has been lauded by several community organizations, receiving the Public Citizen Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the Consultation Center's Prevention Award, the Women Who Make a Difference Award by the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund, and the Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund's Good Egg Award.

Reverend Grubbs' generous spirit and loving care for her community make her a role model for all. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking Reverend Grubbs for her contributions to humanity.●

REMEMBERING MAURICE SENDAK

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Maurice Sendak, famed children's book author and illustrator, who passed away on May 8 in Connecticut, where he spent most of his life. He would have turned 84 yesterday.

Tucked away in an 18th century home in Ridgefield, CT, Mr. Sendak drew inspiration for his widely read, uniquely bizarre illustrated stories from his own memories and contemplations. His fantastical realism—experienced by most American families through the eyes of Max, the central character in “Where the Wild Things Are”—changed the way children grew up. Mr. Sendak created a new genre of children's literature full of vestiges and memories of the horrors he and others faced maturing during World War II, the Holocaust, and the Great Depression.