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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Thousands of Americans die each year from  
3 mesothelioma, an aggressive cancer caused by asbestos, that  
4 attacks the linings of the lungs, abdomen, heart, or testicles;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, The heavy use of asbestos in manufacturing,  
7 industry, and construction has been recognized as "the worst  
8 occupational health disaster in U.S. history"; and

9           WHEREAS, Asbestos was used in the construction of virtually  
10 all office buildings, public schools, and homes built before  
11 1975; and

12           WHEREAS, A high percentage of mesothelioma victims were  
13 exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards; and

14           WHEREAS, It is believed that many of the firefighters,  
15 police officers, and rescue workers from the site of the World  
16 Trade Center destruction on September 11, 2001 may be at  
17 increased risk of contracting mesothelioma; and

18           WHEREAS, Even incidental exposure to asbestos is  
19 sufficient to cause cancer as long as 30 years later; and

1           WHEREAS, The lack of sufficient research to advance  
2 effective treatments for Mesothelioma has led to inadequate  
3 treatment for those stricken with the disease and has resulted  
4 in a situation where the majority of Mesothelioma patients  
5 succumb to the disease within a mere 12 to 15 months from the  
6 time of diagnosis; and

7           WHEREAS, In 1999, the Mesothelioma Applied Research  
8 Foundation was formed to eradicate the life-ending and vicious  
9 effects of mesothelioma, and early progress in developing  
10 effective treatments for the disease is now being made; and

11           WHEREAS, The establishment of Mesothelioma Awareness Day  
12 would raise public awareness of the disease and the need to  
13 develop effective treatments for this devastating disease;  
14 therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare September 26  
17 of each year to be Mesothelioma Awareness Day in the State of  
18 Illinois; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation.