

was exposed to alcohol before birth. Nobody knows better the physical, mental, behavioral and learning disabilities that can have lifelong implications. I would urge my colleagues to open their offices to the parents and advocates who participate in FASD Hill Day because they have a very important story to tell. Their stories will move you.

At the conclusion of FASD Hill Day, the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome will host its annual Leadership Awards Benefit Reception. All of the parents and advocates are invited to participate. I am pleased to inform my colleagues that the distinguished Senator from Wyoming, Mr. ENZI, and our distinguished colleague from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, will receive the 2005 Leadership Award at the benefit reception. As a Senator who represents a State with one of the highest incidence rates of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, I appreciate the leadership of Senator DURBIN and Senator ENZI, and the support of all of our colleagues, in the crusade to eradicate fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

The term fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, or FASD, was coined by experts as an umbrella term to describe the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. It refers to conditions such as fetal alcohol syndrome, fetal alcohol effects, alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorder and alcohol-related birth defects.

The only cause of FASD is alcohol use during pregnancy. When a pregnant woman drinks, the alcohol crosses the placenta into the fetal blood system. Thus, alcohol reaches the fetus, its developing tissues and organs. This is how brain damage occurs, which in turn can lead to mental retardation, social and emotional problems, learning disabilities and other problems. In fact, FASD is the leading cause of mental retardation in all of western civilization, including the United States.

Since the only cause of FASD is prenatal alcohol consumption it follows that by abstaining from the consumption of alcohol during pregnancy a woman can completely foreclose the possibility that her baby will be born with one or another of the conditions that are regarded fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Every day of the year we must remind women that no amount of alcohol consumed during pregnancy is safe for their baby. No alcohol during pregnancy is safe. None at all.

To dramatize this point, a group of parents who were raising children afflicted with fetal alcohol came together on the Internet and wondered in cyberspace, "What if a world full of FAS and FAE parents all got together on the 9th hour of the 9th day of the 9th month of the year and asked the world to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol?" If this were to occur, they wondered, "Would the world listen?"

On the 9th hour of the 9th day of the 9th month every year they called upon all the peoples of the world to observe a moment of silence to remind women of childbearing age that no amount of alcohol is safe during pregnancy.

These pioneering activists, most of whom were adoptive and foster parents, led by Brian Philcox and Bonnie Buxton of Toronto, Canada, and Teresa Kellerman of Tucson, AZ, did not have the resources of large public relations firms or well connected lobbyists. They organized the first International FAS Awareness Day, which was observed on September 9, 1999, on a shoestring using the Internet. Rapidly their group grew to include more than 70 volunteer coordinators in eight countries. Each year I receive e-mails from places like New Zealand, Germany, and my own State of Alaska, telling me about their local FAS Day observances. Through this grassroots awareness effort, many women of childbearing age learned for the first time that no amount of alcohol in pregnancy is good.

On September 9, 2004, for the first time, the moment of silence was observed on the Senate floor. I would hope that this would become an annual tradition until fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are eradicated.

The resolution that I have introduced today designates September 9, 2005, as National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Awareness Day. Although September 9 is several months off, I have asked that the resolution be considered at this time as a tribute to the efforts of the FASD parents and advocates who have come to Washington, DC, educate all of us about the dangers of alcohol and pregnancy and to provide them with a tool to encourage each of their communities to observe and participate in FASDAY 2005 when they return home.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 141) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 141

Whereas the term "fetal alcohol spectrum disorders" includes a broader range of conditions and therefore has replaced the term "fetal alcohol syndrome" as the umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are the leading cause of mental retardation in western civilization, including the United States, and are 100 percent preventable;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are a major cause of numerous social disorders, including learning disabilities, school failure, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime;

Whereas the incidence rate of fetal alcohol syndrome is estimated at 1 out of 500 live births and the incidence rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders is estimated at 1 out of every 100 live births;

Whereas the economic cost of fetal alcohol syndrome alone to the Nation was \$5,400,000,000 in 2003 and it is estimated that each individual with fetal alcohol syndrome will cost United States taxpayers between \$1,500,000 and \$3,000,000 in his or her lifetime;

Whereas in February 1999, a small group of parents of children who suffer from fetal alcohol spectrum disorders came together with the hope that in 1 magic moment the world could be made aware of the devastating consequences of alcohol consumption during pregnancy;

Whereas the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day was observed on September 9, 1999;

Whereas Bonnie Buxton of Toronto, Canada, the co-founder of the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day, asked "What if . . . a world full of FAS/E [Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect] parents all got together on the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month of the year and asked the world to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol . . . would the rest of the world listen?"; and

Whereas on the ninth day of the ninth month of each year since 1999, communities around the world have observed International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 9, 2005, as "National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to—

(A) observe National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day with appropriate ceremonies to—

(i) promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(ii) increase compassion for individuals affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(iii) minimize further effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol; and

(iv) ensure healthier communities across the United States; and

(B) observe a moment of reflection on the ninth hour of September 9, 2005, to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2005

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m. on Friday, May 13. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 3, the highway bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will resume consideration of the highway bill. Earlier today we invoked cloture on the substitute amendment, and the chairman and ranking member were able to construct a final list of amendments. We are now on a glidepath to complete work on this legislation early next week, and I do want to thank all Members for their hard work and cooperation.

With that being said, there is still work to be done. The bill managers will be here tomorrow morning to receive the final few amendments. There will be no rollcall votes tomorrow, but I encourage those Members who have amendments on the final list to come to the floor tomorrow to offer and debate their amendments. We will be voting on Monday evening, and that would be the next rollcall vote.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:40 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 13, 2005, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate: Thursday, May 12, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOHN PAUL WOODLEY, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.
THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.