

grandchildren and a great grandchild, and by baseball fans across the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the life of Harry Caray.

MEMORIALIZING PENNY SEVERNS

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to say a few words concerning a friend, former colleague, and outstanding public servant, Illinois Senator Penny Severns. Senator Severns, one of the most courageous people I have ever known, lost her long battle with cancer over the weekend at the age of 46. Until the end, she battled for the causes that animated her outstanding political career—a career that began when she was elected as a delegate to the 1972 Democratic National Convention at the age of 20.

After graduating from Southern Illinois University two years later, Penny served in the Agency for International Development and the Illinois comptroller's office. In 1983, she was elected to the Decatur City Council and, three years after that, she won election to the Illinois Senate.

Penny's tenure in the Senate was marked by an unwavering commitment to her beliefs that impressed both her allies and opponents. An unabashed liberal in a politically conservative district, she was beloved because she worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents the people of Illinois. She had an outstanding record of fighting for Illinois workers, women, and children. At the time of her death, Penny, the 1994 Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor, was the ranking Democrat on the Senate Revenue Committee and was the principal negotiator for Senate Democrats on issues involving the state budget. She was a champion of fiscal reforms, worked to expand Illinois exports, fought for an emergency medical leave law for workers, and sought to establish a mechanism to help the State track down parents delinquent in their child support payments.

Penny spent the final months of her life not only battling cancer, but waging a campaign to become Illinois' next Secretary of State. So strong was her commitment to the people of her State that, last year, after a tumor was removed from her skull, she vowed to "wage two campaigns at once." She said, "The doctors took care of the first battle by removing the tumor. I'll take care of the second battle, which is to continue to serve the citizens * * * and to continue my campaign."

Penny's illness began in 1994 with a diagnosis of breast cancer, a disease that her sisters, Patty and Marsha, both battled as well. Patty is currently in remission, but Marsha died in 1992. Too many families across the United States have been ravaged by this terrible scourge. In the United States in 1997, 180,200 new cases of breast cancer

were diagnosed and 44,000 women died of it. One out of every nine American women will be stricken with the disease during their lifetime. These statistics are unacceptably high. We must redouble our commitment to finding a way to defeat this killer. The nation simply cannot afford to keep losing women like Penny Severns.

Mr. President, a great many people throughout our nation have come to view politics as a cynical game involving giant egos and inconsequential battles. I would suggest that those individuals take a moment to study the life and career of Penny Severns, who was involved in electoral politics for all the right reasons and cared passionately about the welfare of the people she served. Her accomplishments are not only an inspiration to those of us who continue to work on behalf of the causes she championed, but also serve as a reminder to all Americans of the good work that committed public officials throughout this nation do. The State of Illinois and, indeed, our great nation are poorer for her loss.

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of Calendar No. 225, which is S. Res. 96.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 96) proclaiming the week of March 15 through March 21, 1998 as "National Safe Place Week."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 96) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 96

Whereas today's youth are vital to the preservation of our country and will be the future bearers of the bright torch of democracy;

Whereas youth need a safe haven from various negative influences such as child abuse, substance abuse and crime, and they need to have resources readily available to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety;

Whereas the United States needs increased numbers of community volunteers acting as positive influences on the Nation's youth;

Whereas the Safe Place program is committed to protecting our Nation's most valuable asset, our youth, by offering short term "safe places" at neighborhood locations

where more than 2,500 trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise youth seeking assistance and guidance;

Whereas Safe Place combines the efforts of the private sector and non-profit organizations uniting to reach youth in the early stages of crisis;

Whereas Safe Place provides a direct means to assist programs in meeting performance standards relative to outreach/community relations, as set forth in the Federal runaway and homeless youth guidelines;

Whereas the Safe Place placard displayed at businesses within communities stands as a beacon of safety and refuge to at-risk youth;

Whereas currently 34 States and more than 6,000 business locations have established Safe Place programs; and

Whereas increased awareness of the program's existence will encourage communities to establish Safe Places for the Nation's youth throughout the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of March 15 through March 21, 1998, as "National Safe Place Week"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to promote awareness of and volunteer involvement in the Safe Place organization, and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

CONGRATULATING NORTH-EASTERN UNIVERSITY ON PROVIDING QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION FOR 100 YEARS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 183, submitted earlier today by Senators KENNEDY and KERRY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 183) congratulating Northeastern University on providing quality higher education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for 100 years, from 1898-1998.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is an honor to take this opportunity to congratulate Northeastern University in Massachusetts as it begins its centennial celebration.

Northeastern University began providing higher education in conjunction with the Boston Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in 1898. Since then, it has been a leader in providing quality higher education to large numbers of students. It currently enrolls 27,000 full-time students and has graduated over 137,000 students over the years.

Northeastern University is also an impressive leader in the current effort to expand access to higher education. It offers the largest cooperative education plan in the country for students to combine work with college. It has also helped educators in other countries develop cooperative education