

in order to avoid the human rights violations which harmed Indonesia's international image under Mr. Suharto. Combat operations against the pro-independence movement in East Timor stopped in June. That coincided with an offer of autonomy from President B.J. Habibie which has given new hope for an end to the conflict there.

In August, the armed forces also pulled troops out of the province of Aceh after revelations of widespread abuses against the local population. Human rights groups hope the move in Irian Jaya will end similar abuses there. Many allegations of torture and extra-judicial killings have been made against the soldiers who went into a remote area of the province in 1996 after separatist rebels took a number of Indonesians and Europeans hostage.

SOME IRIANS CALLING FOR INDEPENDENCE

Irian Jaya, home to one of the world's biggest gold and copper mines, the Freeport, is a former Dutch East Indies territory of 1.5 million people. It forms the western half of the huge island of new Guinea, with independent Papua New Guinea occupying the eastern half.

Our correspondent Jonathan Head says just as the Indonesian authorities are adopting a softer approach towards dissent, they are facing more open hostility in Irian Jaya. The political changes in Jakarta have prompted many Irians to campaign for an independent state despite warnings from the military that this is unacceptable.

Those soldiers who remain in the province have the difficult task of trying to contain the growing opposition to Indonesian rule without resorting to the heavy-handed tactics of the past.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF MAMMOGRAPHY AND BIOPSIES IN FIGHTING BREAST CANCER

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The statistics on breast cancer present an alarming picture. In 1998, in the state of California alone, there were 17,600 new cases of breast cancer among women and 4,300 deaths from breast cancer. Nationwide, approximately 180,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed this year and more than 43,000 women will die from the disease. One out of nine women in the U.S. will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. This risk has increased from one out of 14 in 1960.

While the statistics are staggering, we can be encouraged by the progress in the areas of research, technology and early detection which have increased survival rates to about two million breast cancer survivors in America today. With over 43,000 women dying from breast cancer each year, early diagnosis and patient education are critical in the battle against this deadly disease.

Mammogram testing can reveal breast cancer at its earliest stage—up to two years before it is obvious in a breast exam. Recently, both the House and Senate passed a measure to reauthorize the Mammography Quality Standards Act to ensure that national quality control standards are met for mammography.

Women can rest assured that under the Mammography Quality Standards Act, national quality control standards are enforced by regular inspection and that every facility performing mammographies will be held to the standards for safety, well trained technicians and accurate readings.

More than one million breast biopsies are performed each year in the U.S. and approximately 80% of these biopsies are proven benign. A recent non-surgical biopsy procedure called the mamotome allows women to choose a less invasive alternative to surgical biopsies with minimal scarring and no general anesthesia. This ground breaking procedure will provide women with an alternative to surgery and should ultimately result in better care and treatment for women.

While early detection is saving lives, we must not become complacent about local cancer rates and the potential link between environmental factors and breast cancer and other cancers. In a recent review, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has concluded that the incidence of invasive breast cancer in San Francisco has been determined to be comparable to other areas in the nation. However, I believe it is essential that the CDC continue to monitor local cancer rates and further national research on the link between cancer and the environment, particularly in light of questions about an increased incidence of breast cancer in the Bayview Hunters Point area.

As a Member of the House Appropriations Committee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, I have requested that the National Academy of Sciences study the status of scientific knowledge of the environmental causes of breast cancer and identify research needs and establish research priorities in this area.

In addition, I am joined by several of my colleagues, to request that the General Accounting Office conduct a comprehensive review of federal environmental health research activities.

Mr. Speaker, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let us renew our commitment to fighting breast cancer by increasing funding levels for research and for breast and cervical screening programs. We must also continue to educate and inform women about regular self-examination, physician examination, and to ensure access to low-cost, effective mammograms.

If we continue our national commitment to research and prevention efforts in the fight against breast cancer, the discovery of causes and cures for a disease that has no apparent cause or cure may soon become a long awaited reality.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE EAST ROCHESTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IN EAST ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay special tribute to the East Rochester Volunteer Fire Department in East Rochester,

New York. The fire department celebrated its 100th year of service on May 23, 1998.

The East Rochester Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1898, after a serious barn fire in the village of Despatch brought attention to the need for a fire brigade. A meeting was held at Despatch Hall and the Despatch Fire District was formed, consisting mostly of local businessmen.

Shortly after a second fire, the village of Despatch voted to allocate funds to cover the purchase of land, equipment, and the construction of a public hall, that was later turned over to the fire department. Later the village of Despatch was renamed the village of East Rochester.

With a proud history of voluntarism, the Fire Department has thrived and grown over the years. Using donations and moneys received from the village, the fire department has been able to update its equipment, and utilize new methods in fire prevention and control. However, the cornerstone of the department's success has been the dependability and generosity of its volunteers.

I take great pride in knowing that a volunteer fire department of East Rochester's high caliber protects families and businesses in my district. I send my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the East Rochester Volunteer Fire Department for all its contributions throughout the past century.

Today, I ask that my colleagues pause with me to honor the legacy of one of America's greatest volunteer organizations: the East Rochester Volunteer Fire Department of East Rochester, New York.

A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR AND ISABEL WATRES

HON. JOSEPH M. McDADE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. McDADE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many contributions of Arthur Watres and his mother, Mrs. Reyburn (Isabel) Watres, to Lacawac in Wayne County, Pennsylvania.

Thanks to the Watreses, Lacawac has a brilliant future, but Lacawac also has a rich history. The property which makes up Lacawac was a grant of land from the British crown to the family of William Penn which was acquired by James Wilson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. In 1849, a large portion of this land was acquired by Burton G. Morss, who built a sawmill and tannery on the Wallenpaupack River at Ledge Dale—then a sizable frontier town.

The tannery burned in 1895, and Morss closed his business. At the turn of the century, William Connell bought the property in order to build a summer estate. Connell began his career driving a coal wagon. He worked hard, saved and bought the company following the Civil War. He later served in the U.S. House of Representatives and unsuccessfully sought the Republican nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania in 1902.

When William Connell died in 1909, none of his eleven children wanted to maintain the estate. They all lived in Scranton, and Lacawac was a long train ride to a rough and dusty coach ride away.