

Pueblo Cooperative Care Center and congratulate all of its volunteers on reaching an extraordinary milestone. As the Center celebrates its 20th anniversary, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate each and every volunteer on so many years of excellence in serving the Pueblo community and, indeed, the entire State. The efforts put forth by the Center have been extraordinary, and are appreciated by each and every person whose lives it has touched. For 20 years, the Pueblo Cooperative Care Center has worked diligently to better the lives of the needy in its community, and I, along with the many residents of Pueblo, am proud and thankful for what you have accomplished.

For twenty years, the Cooperative Care Center has dedicated itself to enhancing the Pueblo community by helping those members who are less fortunate. In response to local steel mill layoffs in 1981, the center was created as a joint effort among a number of Pueblo churches in order to address the needs of unemployed workers and their families. During its tenure in the community, the Center has always operated with four objectives in mind: to reduce hunger in the community; to assist with clothing, transportation and limited prescriptions; to increase communication with all human resource agencies; and to provide recipients with information concerning other programs available to help needy families. The organization has truly done an extraordinary job in its determination to enhance its community and the lives of each and every citizen that resides within it. Its diligence and hard work has, indeed, paid off, and the contributions that the Center has made over its twenty years of service is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to be able to congratulate each and every volunteer from the Pueblo Cooperative Care Center on this historic occasion, and wish each of them all the best in what I'm sure will be an even more eventful and exciting next twenty years. I commend each of you for your work in ensuring that the needs of the community are addressed, and I am delighted to bring the efforts of such an extraordinary organization to the attention of this body of Congress. Keep up the great work; I look forward to the next twenty years!

THE JOSEPH MOAKLEY FIRE SAFE
MEMORIAL CIGARETTE ACT OF
2002

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2002

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Joseph Moakley Memorial Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 2002, a culmination of over 20 years of effort to make cigarettes fire-safe by the true champion of this cause my good friend and colleague the late, great Representative Joseph Moakley. I introduce this bill today with my Republican colleague in the House Representative JIM HANSEN (R-UT), the entire Massachusetts Delegation.

Joe first became involved with this issue when a family of seven perished in a fire in his Congressional District ignited by a cigarette. Five children—all under the age of ten—were burned to death along with their parents. This

terrible event took place on Memorial Day Weekend in 1979.

For over twenty years Joe fought to give the CPSC authority to promulgate a fire safety standard for cigarettes. Because of Joe's relentless efforts, two technical bills passed into law laying the foundation for fire-safe cigarette legislation.

The first bill, the Federal Cigarette Safety Act of 1984, mandated the formation of a Technical Study Group, which ultimately established that it was technically and economically feasible to make a fire-resistant cigarette. This was an extremely important step providing Congress with proof that it was possible to create a cigarette that could be altered in such a way as to significantly reduce its tendency to catch fire. Prior to this report, the tobacco industry argued that the technology to make cigarettes fire-safe was not feasible and that the standard would render their products commercially unviable. During this era, Joe recognized that the industry had successfully shifted the fire-resistance burden from cigarettes to mattresses, furniture and pajamas. As Joe liked to put it, the industry's solution was "to fire-proof the world against our torches."

The other important bill the Joe saw to passage was the The Federal Safe Cigarette Act of 1990, which established the methodology for testing the ignition propensity of cigarettes.

This methodology literally paved the way for New York to pass a fire-safe cigarette bill in 2000. And it set the stage for the establishment of the National Institutes of Standards and Technology fire-safe cigarette standard which is included in the bill introduced today.

What's more, there is already a fire-safe cigarette manufactured by Phillip Morris on the market. Tobacco companies once suspicious of a fire-safe cigarette standard are now demonstrating coming around. In fact, Phillip Morris endorses the language in this bill, along with The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids and The Congressional Fire Services Institute, which includes the Foundation for American Fire Fighters, National Volunteer Fire Council and the Fire Department Safety Officers Association. It has also been endorsed by SAFE—Safer America For Everyone.

Each year thousands of innocent people are killed, maimed or permanently disfigured by carelessly discarded cigarettes. Under a typical cigarette fire scenario, the smoker falls asleep in bed or on a sofa with a burning cigarette, the ash smolders, then bursts into flames often in the middle of the night—a time when everyone is least prepared.

It is common knowledge that smoking is considered one of the nation's leading causes of preventable death, but it's less widely known that cigarettes are the leading cause of fatal fires. This translates to close to 1,000 deaths annually and nearly 2,400 injuries due to cigarette-caused fires. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) these fires account for \$4.6 Billion annually in societal costs and direct property damage.

The victims of these fires aren't just smokers—all too often they are the innocent and unsuspecting. A child asleep in an upstairs bedroom, an elderly neighbor who lives next door, or a brave firefighter called to the scene. But the real tragedy in these lost lives is that these fires can be prevented.

The Joseph Moakley Fire Safe Memorial Cigarette Bill establishes a strong federal firesafe cigarette standard by:

Requiring the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to establish the standard specified in the legislation, by which cigarettes could be regulated with respect to their propensity to start fires.

Giving the Consumer Product Safety Commission authority over cigarettes only for purposes of implementing and enforcing compliance with the standard promulgated under the Act.

Allowing for the future establishment of an enhanced fire-safety standard.

And allowing states to pass more stringent fire-safety standards for cigarettes if they choose.

Today Joe's tenacity is paying dividends. This country is closer than ever to making Joe's "torches" self-extinguishable, and the horror of cigarette-caused fires a tragedy of the past.

On April 27th Joe Moakley would have celebrated his 75th birthday. Joe spent his entire career improving the lives of his constituents and fighting for important causes like this fire-safe cigarette standard—his spirit lives on in this legislation. I can think of no better birthday gift and no better way to honor his memory than to pass this fire-safe cigarette standard this year so that another 1,000 lives won't be lost next year.

2002 FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
LAUREATES

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2002

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2002 Franklin Institute Laureates, who will be honored in a gold-medal ceremony tonight at the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial in Philadelphia, for their groundbreaking achievements in science and technology.

The Franklin Institute began its Awards Program in 1824, to honor groundbreaking innovators in the fields of science and technology. In the early days, prizes went to those scientist and engineers whose products most enhanced the quality of life for our nation's citizens.

Today, the Institute bestows a series of endowed medals. The Franklin Medals, to an international group of brilliant scientists, engineers, and business leaders, whose achievements, innovations, and discoveries have truly changed the very way we live our lives and the way we think about our world. Additionally, the Institute awards the Bower Award for Business Leadership, as well as the Bower Award for Science Achievement, which carries with it one of the largest cash prizes in the world.

A list of previous Franklin Institute award winners read like a cannon of science and technology achievement for the past 200 years: Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Orville Wright, Pierre and Marie Curie, Stephen Hawking, David Packard, and Jacques Costeau, just to name a few.

Tonight, at the 177th annual Franklin Institute Awards Ceremony, eight outstanding scientists will join these venerable ranks, being