

be named All-Air Force team and in 1964 led all branches of the military in scoring in Europe. After returning from the Air Force, Mel then attended Oregon State University for a short time under a basketball scholarship.

In the Air Force and then at OSU, Mel encountered head on deep seated racism in his superior officers and coaches. Mel fought back, for which he paid a price. In 1965, his complaints about his treatment in the Air Force earned him a bad conduct discharge. In 1966, his complaints and actions at OSU over its treatment of him and other black players led to the loss of his scholarship and a ban on Mel from playing basketball at any U.S. college. U.S. Senator Thomas Kuchel later helped Mel change his discharge to honorable but the college ban stayed and Mel returned to California.

These experiences truly fired Mel up and he became a burr under many saddles. He helped organize a Black Workers Unity Organization to fight racism at a San Jose company where he worked. Back in Monterey County he organized a Black United Farmworkers Union support committee during UFW's organizing efforts in the Salinas Valley in the early 1970s. He helped organize the first anti-police brutality campaigns on the Monterey Peninsula and has remained an advocate for fair treatment for people of color and the mentally ill by law enforcement agencies in his community. In the 1990s, Mel co-founded both the Regional Alliance for Progressive Policy and the Pro-Democracy Education Fund. In 2002, Mel began the first of two consecutive terms as President of the Monterey Peninsula Branch of the NAACP.

Throughout the early 1970s Mel was an active member of the Black Panther Party, and later the Socialist Workers Party. He ran successfully for a seat on the Seaside City Council where he championed programs for youth, tenants, organized labor, and minorities. Mel later ran unsuccessfully as the SWP candidate for California Governor and President of the United States.

Much of Mel's work has been called subversive by many. Some of the organizations that he has been associated with over the years are not popular. While Mel may not have always made right argument, he has always argued in the right way. He has taken unpopular ideas into the democratic process and so made our Nation a better democracy. Madam Speaker, I wish to extend the congratulations of this House to Mr. Mel Mason for his achievements so far and our wishes for his success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote 968 to H.R. 3678 taken on October 16, 2007. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "aye."

While I support this extension of the Internet tax moratorium, simply extending the ban another four years is not enough. We need to

make this ban permanent so that Oklahoma's families can continue to stay connected to each other and use the Internet for educational, business, and recreational purposes.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge, celebrate and honor the thousands of women throughout the country who have been diagnosed, currently fighting or have survived breast cancer. As the husband of a courageous wife who survived this disease, I, as many others, have been affected personally. I understand the struggle, pain and sometimes heartache it can inflict on the person diagnosed, in addition to family and friends. I believe we all have been affected by breast cancer in some way, whether it is a spouse, daughter, mother or grandmother. Breast cancer really affects us all.

I wholeheartedly support additional funding for breast cancer research, screening and treatment programs. Too many women go undiagnosed until it is too late. We must further provide additional education and prevention programs to those women who slip through the cracks, especially those in low-income communities, as a lot of these women lack the health insurance coverage necessary for annual mammograms. We could also save millions of tax dollars if we could detect this disease sooner. The best way of surviving this devastating disease is early detection and programs which ensure the mammogram is fairly inexpensive and which will encourage more women to be tested.

I have recently joined with my fellow colleagues in signing a letter to the House Defense Appropriations Conferees urging them to recede to the Senate language that funds the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program at \$150 million for the Fiscal Year 2008. This important program was created 15 years ago and has proven to be highly successful and has become one of the most far-reaching and influential research initiatives in the country. I believe any research program that serves as a model internationally and has actually made critical breakthroughs resulting from its research is a wise taxpayer investment; a small investment which yields big results.

I have long been a passionate advocate for breast cancer awareness and research. As a Georgia State Senator, I authored the Breast Cancer Patient Protection law which gives breast cancer patients and their physicians the right to determine their length of stay in the hospital and their level of medical treatment. Currently, the Breast Cancer patient Protection Act has vast bipartisan support and would require health plans to provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer. With my support, I am hopeful this legislation will move forward during the 110th Congress. In cospon-

soring numerous pieces of legislation in my years in Congress, I will continue to fight for additional provisions in the law and funding for programs which will help the thousands of women diagnosed each year.

The statistics can be telling. Every three minutes, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer and is the leading cause of death among women between the ages of 40 and 55. In fact, 1 out of every 98 women who live to the age of 85 will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. Unfortunately, all women are at risk for breast cancer. About 90 percent of women who develop breast cancer have no family history of breast cancer. Breast cancer is further the most common cancer among African American women. It is true older women are more likely to develop breast cancer than younger women. However, younger women are still at risk for the disease and currently, 250,000 women under the age of 40 have breast cancer. Simply put, the disease can strike from an early to older age and additional research and awareness to this fact is of utmost importance. Mammograms may be necessary earlier than was once thought and only additional research monies will help us determine if this is the case. As a father of two young women, raising awareness and developing more effective screening and diagnostic tools for this age group is vital to affording them the same chances of survival.

We must also pay close attention to research being conducted with regards to the environment and how it may affect the incidence of this disease. As a cosponsor of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, I believe authorizing grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer could yield miraculous results. There may very well be parallels between the environment and this devastating disease and any findings could help derive new treatments and help thousands survive.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Georgians to take measures to protect and keep their health. I encourage my constituents and their friends and family to be aware of measures that can be taken to improve their health and further prevent the incidence of this disease. My goal in representing the 13th District of Georgia has always been to be responsive to my constituents' concerns and to ensure the thoughts and views of all Georgians are heard in Congress. As a member of Congress, it is my duty to help bring attention to issues my constituents deem significant, and breast cancer is one such issue. I join with countless others this month to honor the inspiring strength of breast cancer patients and the dedication of health professionals who care for them. Our inspiration is great: breast cancer survivors who have won their fight, and the friends and families of those women who unfortunately did not. Almost everyone in America has been touched by this disease, and I believe we can work together to ensure in years to come, the incidence is lowered and we indeed find a cure. Again, I applaud the brave individuals fighting this disease and the medical professionals and organizations who so intently dedicate their time to the cause. God bless.