



PROCLAMATION

Mesothelioma Awareness Day *September 26, 2009*

WHEREAS, approximately 3,000 Americans die each year from mesothelioma, an aggressive cancer of the linings of the lungs, abdomen, heart or testicles; and

WHEREAS, the heavy use of asbestos in manufacturing, industry and construction has been recognized as "the worst occupational health disaster in U.S. history;" and

WHEREAS, exposure to asbestos for as little as one month can result in mesothelioma 30 years later; and

WHEREAS, asbestos was used in the construction of virtually all office buildings, public schools, and homes built before 1975; and

WHEREAS, a high percentage of all mesothelioma victims were exposed to asbestos on Naval ships and in shipyards; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that many of the firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers from Ground Zero on 9/11/01 may be at increased risk of contracting mesothelioma; and

WHEREAS, for decades the need for research to develop effective treatments for mesothelioma was overlooked and as a result of this neglect is that treatments available today generally have only limited effect and most patients succumb within only 12 to 15 months from diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation was formed to eradicate the life-ending and vicious effects of mesothelioma, and early progress in developing effective treatments for the disease is now being made;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTY BLUM, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara, California, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2009, as MESOTHELIOMA AWARENESS DAY to raise public awareness of the disease and of the need to develop effective treatments for it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Santa Barbara, California, to be affixed this 22nd day of September, 2009.

Marty Blum
MARTY BLUM, MAYOR

