

H.CON.RES.222 Passes in Congress supporting the Goals and Ideals of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, October 15th of every year

Too many parents grieve in silence when suffering a pregnancy or infant loss. 983,000 babies died in 1996 from miscarriage or stillbirth. In 1995, 15.7% of pregnancies ended in fetal demise (miscarriage or stillbirth). These statistics do not include neonatal loss, SIDS, or other causes. (Center for Disease Control Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates by Outcome Vital Health Stat (21) 56 - updated March 2001)

On September 28, 2006, Congressman Tom Latham from Iowa brought before the House of Representatives, House Concurrent Resolution # 222. The House Concurrent Resolution was passed in the House of Representatives supporting the goals and ideals of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. Many families watched this take place live on C-SPAN Television, watched live on the internet, and listened on news radio.

The House started out with several speakers including Georgia Representative Lynn Westmoreland, Illinois

Representative Danny Davis, Iowa Representative Tom Latham, Georgia Representative Phil Gingrey, and ended with California Representative Brian Bilbray.

California Representative Brian Bilbray told of his own personal story 22 years ago. He and his wife lost their precious baby at the age of 3 months to crib death which is now known as SIDS. Soon after, they agreed to pass the House Resolution.

Quote by California Representative Brian Bilbray:

"Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. LATHAM and both the majority and the minority for presenting this resolution today. I do not talk about a situation that occurred over 22 years ago in my family. Actually it was 22 years, 2 months ago that my wife and I lost our child at 3 months to crib death. I am sure you have got to believe that 22 years should be able to cover up the pain and the hurt and the scar. But it does not. And though we have been blessed with five healthy children, we will always have that missing spot that that little 3-month-old baby filled. But I want to thank you for today, and I stand up here today and speak of this matter to represent the men and women who have gone through what my family has gone through and thank you for this.

If I may leave you with one message: more important than us grieving for our losses of those young ones that have died and are not here today, the best way for us to really remember them is to appreciate and worship and thank God for the blessings of having healthy children and babies that we can take care of. Because they truly are the best memorial for our babies that we have lost, by preserving and protecting the treasures that God has given us in healthy children."

Show your support by helping us get the word out about Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day on October 15th and about our personal stories of loss. So many parents suffer in silence and have nowhere to turn. These families need to know that they are not alone, and that miscarriage, stillbirth, and neonatal death are no longer a taboo subject. Support groups founded by and facilitated by parents are being formed all over the country to help families through the tragedy of losing their baby. We need to make communities aware that help is available.

In October 1988, President Ronald Reagan Proclaimed October as National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. "When a child loses his parent, they are called an orphan. When a spouse loses her or his partner, they are called a widow or widower. When parents lose their child, there isn't a word to describe them. This month recognizes the loss so many parents experience across the United States and around the world. It is also meant to inform and provide resources for parents who have lost children due to miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, molar pregnancy, stillbirths, birth defects, SIDS, and other causes."

- Blue Mountain Arts, www.1.bluemountainarts.com

Robyn Bear, founder of www.pain-heartache-hope.com envisioned a day when all grieving parents could come together and be surrounded by love and support from their friends and families, a day where the community could better understand their pain and learn how to reach out to those grieving. This would be a day to reflect on the loss yet embrace the love. While our babies' lives were so brief, they were also very meaningful. Yet, there was not a time to talk about them. Our society seemed to forget or perhaps, simply didn't know how to reach out. Since October had been proclaimed "Awareness Month", she chose a day, in the middle of the month to become, "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day". We are asking everyone in all times zones, worldwide, to join us in a candle lighting ceremony at 7pm on October 15th, 2006. For more information, please visit <http://www.october15th.com>

Ideas for October 15th

- Light candles and display them in your windows.
- Contact local Radio and News stations and have them announce that it is October 15th, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.
- Drive with your headlights on. Also, ask that radio and news stations announce this as well.
- Leave your porch lights on. Have radio and news stations announce this as well.

- Release butterflies (Can be expensive, but is very beautiful, Use a search engine such as yahoo and type in butterfly release)
- Release Doves (You can rent doves that are trained to fly back to the owner)
- Sponsor a candle lighting ceremony in a park, church, or local hospital.
- Send off a pink or blue balloon with your Angel's name and/or picture. (Warning Please: If you do this, only send one balloon per child. This is very dangerous for birds and wildlife. The animals can eat the remnants of a balloon and die) (As beautiful and wonderful as it is, I can't personally recommend it due to my love for animals)

Ideas for all of the Month of October

- Tying pink or blue ribbons around trees in yards, neighborhoods, and parks.
- Place signs and banners in your yard, neighborhoods, and parks.
- Contact your local radio stations and television news stations to have them announce that October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month.
- Write an article and submit it to your local newspapers.
- Sponsor flowers in memory of your baby in a church service or hospital.
- Have a t-shirt made that says I have an Angel, and have your child's name put on it.



Remembering Our Babies
3210 Ewing Drive
Manvel, TX. 77578

www.october15th.com