Whereas, mesothelioma is an aggressive, asbestos-related cancer that affects the linings of the lungs, abdomen, or other organs;  
  
Whereas, the heavy use of asbestos in manufacturing, industry and construction has been recognized as the worst occupational health disaster in U.S. history;  
  
Whereas, asbestos was used in the construction of virtually all office buildings, public schools, and homes built before 1975;  
  
Whereas, a high percentage of all mesothelioma victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;  
  
Whereas, this is now believed to include many of the firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers from Ground Zero on September 11, 2001;  
  
Whereas, there is no safe level of asbestos exposure;  
  
Whereas, because of occupational, Navy-service related, household, or even incidental exposures and the very long latency of the disease, tens of millions of Americans, are now at risk for developing mesothelioma;  
  
Whereas, for decades the need for research to develop effective treatments for mesothelioma was overlooked;  
  
Whereas, the result of this neglect is that treatments available today generally have only limited effect and most patients die within only 12 to 15 months from diagnosis;  
  
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;  
  
and Whereas, the establishment of Mesothelioma Awareness Day would raise public awareness of the disease and of the need to develop effective treatments for it;  
  
Now therefore, be it resolved that September 26, be hereby declared Mesothelioma Awareness Day