

## Proclamation Template 2023

**Whereas**, mesothelioma is an aggressive and incurable cancer that affects the linings of the lungs, abdomen, or other organs; and

**Whereas**, mesothelioma is most often associated with exposure to asbestos; and

**Whereas**, asbestos was heavily used in the military, shipbuilding, manufacturing, industry, and construction of virtually all office buildings, public schools and homes built before 1980, and has been recognized as the worst occupational health disaster in U.S. history; and

**Whereas**, asbestos continues to be present in such structures to this day; and

**Whereas**, there is no safe level of asbestos exposure; one fiber at one time can be enough to cause mesothelioma; and

**Whereas**, because of occupational, military-related, household, or incidental exposure, and the latency of this disease ranging from 10-50 years between exposure and disease development, tens of millions of Americans are now at risk for developing mesothelioma, including first responders from Ground Zero in New York City on and after September 11, 2001; and

**Whereas**, median survival with treatment is 12-18 months and 5-year survival is less than 10%; and

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

**Whereas**, Mesothelioma Awareness Day would raise public awareness of the disease and of the need to develop effective treatments for it.

**Now, therefore**, it is resolved that September 26, 2023, be hereby proclaimed Mesothelioma Awareness Day.