Reverend Francis has done impeccable and meaningful service to our state, and I wish him many more years of ministry. At only 26, he has made quite the impact on his community, and I look forward to seeing his growth in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2020 AS ''PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH''

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a resolution today with my colleague from California and Chairwoman of the Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO. Our resolution raises awareness about pancreatic cancer and the importance of increased Congressional funding for research by expressing support for the designation of the month of November 2020 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. I am also pleased that our colleague in the Senate, Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island, has introduced a Senate companion to this resolution. I am grateful for Congresswoman ESHOO and Senator WHITEHOUSE's leadership in helping to combat pancreatic cancer.

This year alone, pancreatic cancer has killed two American icons: our colleague Congressman John Lewis and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Pancreatic cancer recently killed baseball legend Bob Gibson, and it continues to sicken thousands of Americans fighting every day to survive this disease. This includes our colleague, Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS, who is currently fighting a courageous battle against this horrible cancer. Accurately described as a silent killer, this disease does not have an early detection test, so unfortunately, by year's end, pancreatic cancer will have killed an estimated 47,050 Americans and is the third largest cause of cancer-related death in our county. As COVID–19 continues to rob us of more than 222,000 of our fellow Americans, pancreatic cancer continues to devastate thousands of American families and communities. In my home state of Indiana, nearly 1,000 Hoosiers will be killed by pancreatic cancer by year's end, and almost 2,000 Hoosiers will be newly diagnosed with this terrible disease. Nationwide, an additional 57,600 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year.

These horrific statistics highlight how few tools exist to detect this disease and, as a result, the immense pain and suffering it causes. Alarmingly, pancreatic cancer still has no early detection test to quickly and accurately determine the presence of this cancer. As a result, it is very difficult to detect this cancer before it has advanced to later—and more deadly—stages. Tragically, sixty-six percent of pancreatic cancer patients live less than one year following their diagnosis, This was the case for our colleague Congressman John Lewis, who was killed by pancreatic cancer less than a year following his diagnosis.

The COVID–19 pandemic has also highlighted how longstanding health disparities and lack of access to care results in dispropottionate numbers of infections and deaths from this virus in communities of color. Sadly, the same is true with pancreatic cancer. The incidence rate for pancreatic cancer among Black Americans is twenty percent higher than that of any other racial demographic and the death rate is seventeen percent higher for Black men than for white men. In this way, the lack of pancreatic cancer early detection research accelerates the racial inequities in our health care system, with devastating consequences for minorities.

To help detect pancreatic cancer earlier and to help address racial inequities, the 116th Congress has a unique opportunity to make historic investments in pancreatic cancer research at the Department of Defense (DoD). Congress can do this by enacting the $15 million in pancreatic cancer research funding—first introduced through my amendment with Congresswoman ESHOO—and then passed by the full House. Within this research funding, DoD will include early detection research as a major funding priority to help more patients detect this deadly disease early. In fact, if diagnosed early, the five-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer patients is above 80%. However, our provisions have not yet passed the Senate, and current pancreatic cancer research funding remains at a fraction of the level that our fellow Americans struggling with this disease deserve. That's why it is so critical that we raise awareness about how deadly and destructive this cancer is to our American family, and why increasing pancreatic cancer research is critical to lowering this disease's deadliness.

Moreover, at a time when our country is having a national conversation about the deep disparities in access to health care for Black and Brown people during the COVID–19 pandemic, Congress must do everything within our power to improve health outcomes through research and treatment, and that includes pancreatic cancer. And in order to ensure that we improve outcomes, we need to raise awareness with the American public and our colleagues in Congress about just how deadly this cancer is and why we need to find early detection tools, effective treatments and reduce this disease's disproportionate impact on communities of color.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to support our companion resolution introduced by Senator WHITEHOUSE.

HONORING RONNIE LOPEZ

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Ronnie Lopez, who passed away on Sunday, August 23, 2020, at the age of 73. Ronnie was an Arizona trailblazer; a champion for the Latino community; and a consequential leader who broke economic, social, and political barriers to forge a stronger path forward for our state.

Born in the spring of 1947, in Miami, Arizona, Ronnie was quick to seize new opportunities and moved to Phoenix, Arizona, at the age of 20, where he investigated discrimination cases for the Arizona State Civil Rights Commission. Ronnie's passion for public service took many forms—from helping launch influential organizations, such as Chicanos Por La Causa and Valle del Sol, to serving as a Justice of the Peace and eventually becoming the chief of staff to then-Governor Bruce Babbitt. He was always at the forefront of change, breathing life into ideas conceived from the purpose of placing people above all else.

Ronnie cherished his role as a father, grandfather, and husband—and to him, family extended beyond relatives to include friends and neighbors, and he wove those values deeply within his work to strengthen the bonds within our community. He committed himself to the causes and people he believed in, meeting every opportunity ''all in,'' as he would say. It's what made him unique—a leader who stood with us regardless of the challenge, the friend we could count on, and the mentor we all looked up to. Ronnie's relentless advocacy was inimitable, and it led to his lifelong friend, the late Representative Ed Pastor, being elected as the first Hispanic American to represent Arizona in Congress. While Ronnie credited others for his successes, insisting he stood on the shoulders of giants, he was always the first hand to reach out and lift others up with him.

His legacy will forever be a part of Arizona, reminding us of how much stronger we all stand when we are ''all in.'' I thank Ronnie, and Godspeed.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION: MARGARITA AND EUGENE DAWSON III

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Today, I rise to celebrate and honor the exceptional contributions of Margarita ''Maggie'' and Eugene Dawson III. This year, I was honored to nominate Maggie and Eugene for the 2020 Angels in Adoption award, which recognizes the efforts of Americans who advocate for children in need of a family.

Maggie and Eugene experienced an unimaginable family tragedy. They welcomed their eight nieces and nephews to live in their home just two days after the children's mother lost her life at the hands of their father. The couple knew their nieces and nephews would need a home surrounded by family to heal from this trauma.

Together with their two biological children, Maggie and Eugene have created a safe place and secure family unit, ensuring the children have a chance to grow up with their siblings and cousins. In 2017, Maggie and Eugene were given permanent custody of the seven minors.

Now, as a family of 12, the Dawsons serve as an inspirational example of how families can thrive, even in the darkest of times. They represent the very best of Central Washington. I am proud to represent them in Congress, and I encourage all Americans to look to the Dawsons as an example of what makes our community strong.