

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 751 Session of  
2012

INTRODUCED BY KAVULICH, MURPHY, BOBACK, STABACK, MAJOR,  
SCAVELLO, MULLERY, MILLARD, DONATUCCI, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE,  
D. COSTA, DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GINGRICH,  
HENNESSEY, KORTZ, READSHAW, SAMUELSON, SANTONI, SONNEY,  
SWANGER, TOEPEL, YOUNGBLOOD, KULA, WATERS AND GODSHALL,  
JUNE 4, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE 4,  
2012

## A RESOLUTION

1 Observing June 2012 as "Gary Lukasiewicz 'Keep Fighting Gary'  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Gary Lukasiewicz of 79 Vine Street in Taylor was a  
4 young man who kept fighting to live against terrible odds, never  
5 gave up and, in the process, inspired many thousands of people  
6 to hope against hope; and

7 WHEREAS, Gary, an 18-year-old Riverside High School senior  
8 and Senior Class President, battled a rare form of cancer for  
9 two years; and

10 WHEREAS, Gary's fight galvanized the areas within and around  
11 Taylor Borough in Lackawanna County and elsewhere within this  
12 Commonwealth and even around the nation; and

13 WHEREAS, Gary had suffered the first occurrence of cancer as  
14 a junior in Riverside High School; and

15 WHEREAS, The cancer returned during his senior year, and he

1 entered hospice care on May 7, 2012; and

2 WHEREAS, People learned about Gary's fight through the social  
3 media, and more than 47,000 people tweeted messages with the  
4 hash tag "Keep Fighting Gary" to help the teen keep up the fight  
5 to live one more day at a time; and

6 WHEREAS, The effort moved over to the YouTube website with  
7 his friends and supporters producing videos about the effort and  
8 into Facebook and other social websites as people throughout the  
9 world posted messages for Gary Lukasiewicz; and

10 WHEREAS, Businesses and people throughout the Lackawanna  
11 community and elsewhere joined in the effort by creating their  
12 own signs of support for Gary; and

13 WHEREAS, Students raised money for cancer research, hundreds  
14 of friends, family members, teachers and classmates began  
15 attending a prayer vigil nightly, and businesses and individuals  
16 donated to the cause; and

17 WHEREAS, Although Gary had received the last rites, he was  
18 able to return home under the care of hospice, and on the night  
19 of Friday, May 18, 2012, he attended his senior prom; and

20 WHEREAS, Although his caretakers allowed 15 minutes for the  
21 visit, his determination allowed him to stay nearly one hour,  
22 during which time his classmates voted him Prom King; and

23 WHEREAS, Sadly, Gary passed away one day later on May 19,  
24 2012; and

25 WHEREAS, His supporters still spoke out strongly for Gary by  
26 establishing a special day of remembrance for him on Monday, May  
27 21, 2012, on Twitter and producing more videos on YouTube and  
28 posts on Facebook to remember him; and

29 WHEREAS, Born in Kingston, Gary was the son of Chester A. and  
30 Cheryl A. Sedlak Lukasiewicz; and

WHEREAS, Gary served as class president during his Riverside High School junior and senior years; and

WHEREAS, He had earned a QPA that put him fourth in his class and was a member of the National Honor Society for three consecutive years and of the Spanish Club; and

WHEREAS, Gary played varsity baseball and soccer for the Riverside Vikings; and

WHEREAS, Gary also participated as a goalie for the Scranton Lightning Hockey League and the Wilkes-Barre Junior Penguins and was a parishioner of Divine Mercy Parish; and

WHEREAS, Gary Lukasiewicz's struggle and his effort to keep fighting against all odds to live another day to the fullest and the effort by his family, friends and others throughout Lackawanna County, this Commonwealth, the nation and elsewhere around the world to give Gary hope against all odds can teach everyone a special lesson of the power of support, love, care and determination; and

WHEREAS, Gary's family, friends, supporters and others hope to use his story to inspire others to keep fighting despite terrible odds and to bring about great positive change, not only for cancer patients of all ages, but for all those who may face difficulties that seem insurmountable, but can be overcome with help and support from others; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe June 2012 as "Gary Lukasiewicz 'Keep Fighting Gary' Month" in Pennsylvania in memory of Gary Lukasiewicz who kept fighting on to live each day to the fullest; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend all those who organized the "Keep Fighting Gary" effort through social media websites, including Twitter, YouTube and Facebook, and

1 through various other means, including raising funds for cancer  
2 research, organizing prayer vigils and spreading the word  
3 through the news media and elsewhere; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That the effort showed that hope can spread through  
5 a nation, state and community and reach out elsewhere into the  
6 world and can help other cancer patients or others with  
7 difficulties that seem insurmountable.