

SID MICHAELS KAVULICH, MEMBER

P.O. BOX 202114
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2114
PHONE: (717) 783-4874
FAX: (717) 772-2008

SKAVULICH@PAHOUSE.NET



802 S. MAIN STREET
TAYLOR, PENNSYLVANIA 18517
PHONE: (570) 562-2350
TOLL FREE: 1-877-295-4937
FAX: (570) 562-2353

1038 MONTDAL ROAD
SCOTT TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA 18447
PHONE: (570) 254-9672
FAX: (570) 254-7063

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

May 31, 2012

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE SID MICHAELS KAVULICH

RE: RESOLUTION OBSERVING JUNE 2012 AS GARY LUKASIEWICZ
"KEEP FIGHTING GARY" MONTH IN PENNSYLVANIA.

I write to you all to ask you to join with me in sponsoring a special resolution in memory of Gary Lukasiewicz, who helped inspire hope for people in my community, our Commonwealth, our nation and elsewhere, despite almost insurmountable odds. The resolution will observe June 2012 as Gary Lukasiewicz "Keep Fighting Gary" Month in Pennsylvania.

Gary Lukasiewicz was a young man who kept fighting to live against terrible odds, never gave up and in the process inspired many thousands of people to hope against hope. Gary, an 18-year-old Riverside High School Senior and Senior Class President, battled a rare form of cancer for two years. Gary's fight galvanized the areas within and around Taylor Borough in Lackawanna County and elsewhere. Gary had suffered the first occurrence of cancer as a junior in Riverside High School. It returned during his senior year and he entered hospice care on May 7. People learned about Gary's fight through the social media. More than 47,000 people tweeted messages with the hash tag "Keep Fighting Gary" to help the teen keep up the fight to live one more day at a time.

The effort moved over the YouTube website with his friends and supporters producing videos about the effort and into Facebook and other social sites as people from throughout the world posting messages for Gary Lukasiewicz. Businesses and people throughout the Lackawanna community and elsewhere joined in the effort by creating their own signs of support for Gary. Students raised money for cancer research. Hundreds of friends, family members, teachers and classmates began attending a prayer vigil nightly. Businesses and individuals donated to the cause.

The effort worked. Although Gary had received the last rites, he was able to return home under care of hospice, and on the night of Friday, May 18, 2012, he attended his senior prom. Although his caretakers allowed 15 minutes for the visit, his determination allowed him to stay nearly one hour, during which time, his classmates voted him prom king. Sadly, Gary passed away one day later on May 19, 2012. His supporters still spoke out strong for Gary by establishing a special day of remembrance for him.

JUN 01 2012

I ask the House to join in with me to help further inspire hope by observing 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. The resolution also will commend all those who organized the "Keep Fighting Gary" effort through the social media websites including Twitter, YouTube, Facebook and through various other means including raising funds for cancer research, organizing prayer vigils, and spreading the word through the news media and elsewhere. The effort showed that hope can spread through a community, state, nation and reach out elsewhere into the world and can help other cancer patients or others with difficulties that seem insurmountable.

You can join as a co-sponsor of this resolution by emailing Cameron Texter of the Democratic Office of Member Services at ctexter@pahouse.net. Thanks.