

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 80

BY SENATOR BROOME

SENATE. Designates May 3, 2014, as "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day in Louisiana" and commends the efforts of Ronnie Edwards in raising pancreatic cancer awareness.

A RESOLUTION

To designate May 3, 2014, as "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day in Louisiana" and to commend the efforts of Ronnie Edwards in raising pancreatic cancer awareness.

WHEREAS, every year over 45,000 people will be diagnosed and over 38,000 people will die of pancreatic cancer in the United States and one in every 72 men and women born today will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, there has been no significant improvement in survival rates in the last forty years and pancreatic cancer research is still in the earliest scientific stages; and

WHEREAS, the incidence and death rate for pancreatic cancer are increasing, and pancreatic cancer is anticipated to move from the fourth to the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States by 2020 and possibly as early as 2015; and

WHEREAS, when symptoms of pancreatic cancer generally present themselves, it is often too late for an optimistic prognosis, and the average survival rate is only five to seven months; and

WHEREAS, people of African-American descent are diagnosed at a higher frequency than the rest of the population; and

WHEREAS, additional risk factors include but are not limited to smoking, obesity, recent on-set diabetes, family history of pancreatic cancer and pancreatitis; and

1           WHEREAS, the federal government invests significantly less money in pancreatic  
2           cancer research than it does in any of the other leading cancer killers, and pancreatic cancer  
3           research constitutes only approximately 2% of the National Cancer Institute's federal  
4           research funding, a figure far too low given the severity of the disease, its mortality rate and  
5           how little is known about how to arrest it; and

6           WHEREAS, Ronnie Edwards, a six-year member of the Baton Rouge Metro Council,  
7           was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer on December 27, 2013; and

8           WHEREAS, she determined early on that she wouldn't succumb to her diagnosis and  
9           relying heavily on her faith and prayers, she has firmly decided that she is going to beat the  
10          odds; and

11          WHEREAS, she is already showing significant signs of progress and is nearing a  
12          partial remission, which means the cancer is shrinking; and

13          WHEREAS, Ronnie Edwards attributes part of her progress to many changes she has  
14          made in her lifestyle and now wants to use her experience to try to raise awareness about the  
15          disease and about healthy living habits; and

16          WHEREAS, as part of her public health advocacy efforts, she is hosting a forum at  
17          6 p.m. on April 30 at Delmont Service Center, where residents can meet with various  
18          doctors, who specialize in women's health, dentistry, family health, pediatrics and primary  
19          care; and

20          WHEREAS, she is also helping to host a Community Health Fair from 9 a.m. to 1  
21          p.m. on May 3 at the service center, where residents can get screening for blood pressure,  
22          as well as information about fitness, nutrition and stress and has also organized a panel of  
23          cancer survivors who will share their stories; and

24          WHEREAS, Ronnie Edwards believes that promoting healthy education has become  
25          part of her calling, particularly as a public servant, and wants to inspire other people with  
26          serious medical issues to have hope; and

27          WHEREAS, the good health and well-being of the residents of Louisiana are  
28          enhanced as a direct result of increased awareness about pancreatic cancer and research into  
29          early detection, causes and effective treatments.

30          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana that

1        May 3, 2014, is hereby designated as "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day" in Louisiana.

2                BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ronnie Edwards is hereby commended for her

3        efforts in raising pancreatic cancer awareness.

4                BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana

5        hereby urges citizens to educate themselves about pancreatic cancer and the need for

6        research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and prevention programs.

7                BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to

8        Ronnie Edwards.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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DIGEST

Broome

SR No. 80

Designates May 3, 2014, as "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day in Louisiana", commends Ronnie Edwards for her efforts in raising pancreatic cancer awareness, and urges citizens to educate themselves about pancreatic cancer and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and prevention programs.