

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MEL TILLIS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to country music's stellar singer-songwriter Mel Tillis, the Country Music Association's entertainer of the year in 1976, who overcame a lifetime of stuttering through song. Lonnie Melvin Tillis died earlier this month at 85. He had six No. 1 country singles as a singer, including "Good Woman Blues" in 1976 and "Southern Rains" in 1981 and wrote such memorable tunes as "I'm Tired" for Webb Pierce, "The Snakes Crawl at Night" for Charley Pride and, with Danny Dill and Carl Perkins, the Patsy Cline hit "So Wrong." Mel's songs explored the dark caverns of deep emotion typified by his somber ballad "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town," about a cheating wife, which was a big hit for Kenny Rogers in 1969. Mel was also inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1976 and to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2007. I want to extend my condolences to his family, particularly my friend and Mel's singer-songwriter daughter Pam Tillis, who recorded a tribute disk for her father in 2002: "It's All Relative: Tillis Sings Tillis." Although he was born and died in Florida, Tennesseans and all Americans will remember and cherish forever his lovely baritone and haunting lyrics. America has lost a true original.

TRIBUTE TO MARY AND LARRY HARRISON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mary and Larry Harrison of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 9, 1967 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Corning, Iowa.

Mary and Larry's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

PANCREATIC CANCER

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, November has been dedicated as Pancreatic

Cancer Awareness Month. As such, I would like to help acknowledge all those affected by this type of cancer and to bring more awareness to the medical research needed to help fight this disease.

In June 2017, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network reported that pancreatic cancer is ranked the ninth most commonly diagnosed cancer among women and the 11th among men, and is the third leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States.

In fact, I have been contacted by several constituents who have lost loved ones to pancreatic cancer.

According to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, pancreatic cancer is often found in its advanced stages and is both difficult to detect and to treat. Unfortunately, major symptoms of pancreatic cancer, which include nausea, diabetes, abdominal or back pain, and loss of appetite, among others, are often overlooked as symptomatic of more common health conditions. The organization stated that about 71 percent of individuals will not live past the first year of diagnosis and the disease is projected to move from the third leading cause of cancer-related death to the second by 2020.

Tragically, the five-year survival rate for those with pancreatic cancer is nine percent—the lowest survival rate among major forms of cancer. We must utilize all federal resources available to meet this devastating disease head on and ensure better outcomes for patients and their families. That is why I have consistently advocated for an increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to ensure that projects—including those which seek to find cures, improve treatments and gain a better understanding of the complex causes of cancers that affect millions of Americans—are well funded. This fall, I supported an increase in funding for NIH in the FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which includes \$5.5 billion for the National Cancer Institute.

I also urged the House Appropriations Committee to include pancreatic cancer as an eligible research category in the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP)—and the House bill, which passed on June 16th, maintained this eligibility. The Department of Defense conducts high-impact innovative research through the PRCRP that has been used to improve early detection of pancreatic cancer, to better understand the prognosis of pancreatic cancer patients, and to improve the well-being of individuals with a pancreatic cancer diagnosis.

While these resources for pancreatic cancer are an important investment, we know that so often laudable initiatives and innovative research projects sit idle because of funding limitations. Therefore, we must continue to work to ensure that these research projects receive sufficient resources.

Those suffering from pancreatic cancer, as well as their loved ones and caregivers, need vocal advocates on Capitol Hill to ensure access to quality care and treatments. We have a duty to see that programs which research detection and treatment are supported appropriately at a federal level. It is my hope that, by recognizing Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, we can raise awareness of the risks of pancreatic cancer and the urgency to treat it.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in Congress and with advocates across the nation as we move forward in this fight against cancer.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA AND ARLIN BELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Barbara and Arlin Bell of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 15, 2017.

Barbara and Arlin's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

TRIBUTE TO DALE SUNDERMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dale Sunderman of Atlantic, Iowa, who recently celebrated 40 years of service in the Cass County Auditor's office. Dale has served as County Auditor since 1984.

Dale began employment in the Cass County Auditor's office on October 10, 1977. Dale said, "I was hired because of my background in mathematics and accounting. Logic is a good part of the job, too." His first role was to assist with the elections. Dale said he has seen many changes in the Auditor's office over the years from a manual record keeping process to the modern computer technology of today. He said he has worked with many different county supervisors, and he felt he always had a great working relationship with them, and focused on serving the citizens of Cass County.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Dale Sunderman for the 40 years of service he has provided to the citizens of Cass County, Iowa. He is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can make a difference in so many lives. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dale and wishing him nothing but continued success in all his endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BERTA AND CHARLIE KORDICK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Berta and