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TOWN OF ACTON
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts, 01720
Telephone (978) 929-6611
Fax (978) 929-6350

Dr. Pamela Harting-Barrat
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

PROCLAMATION

Declaring the month of November "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" in the Town of Acton

WHEREAS in 2012, an estimated 43,920 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the United States and 37,390 will die from the disease;

WHEREAS pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers, is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and is the only major cancer with a five-year relative survival rate in the single digits at just six percent;

WHEREAS when symptoms of pancreatic cancer present themselves, it is usually too late for an optimistic prognosis, and 74 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis while 94 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first five years;

WHEREAS of all the racial/ethnic groups in the United States, African Americans have the highest incidence rate of pancreatic cancer, between 34 percent and 70 percent higher than the other groups;

WHEREAS approximately 910 deaths will occur in Massachusetts in 2012;

WHEREAS there is no cure for pancreatic cancer and there have been no significant improvements in survival rates in the last 40 years;

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

WHEREAS the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the first and only national patient advocacy organization that serves the pancreatic cancer community in Acton and nationwide by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, and public awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer;

WHEREAS the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and its affiliates in Acton support those patients currently battling pancreatic cancer, as well as to those who have lost their lives to the disease, and are committed to nothing less than a cure;

WHEREAS the good health and well-being of the residents of Acton are enhanced as a direct result of increased awareness about pancreatic cancer and research into early detection, causes, and effective treatments; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen designate the month of November 2012 as "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" in Acton.

Pamela Harting-Barrat, Chairman
Acton Board of Selectmen



PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

Dear Ms. Harting-Barrat:

As your constituent, I am writing on behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the estimated 37,390 Americans who will die of pancreatic cancer in 2012, approximately **910** of whom live in Massachusetts. In 2012, pancreatic cancer will afflict more than 43,920 Americans, 74% of whom will die within one year of their diagnosis, and 94% of whom will die within five years of diagnosis.

My husband was 47 y.o. and healthy when he received his diagnosis of stage 4 pancreatic cancer 4 years ago. Like most patients, he was gone 6 1/2 months later, leaving me widowed at age 42 and leaving behind our 8 and 10 y.o. girls who watched him die. My young daughters and I do what we can to raise awareness and funds. We have traveled to Washington, DC for the past three years, making many sacrifices to do so, to lobby Congress for important pending legislation. We have been the top fund-raising team at PurpleStride Boston the past two years, working tirelessly to raise almost \$45,000. This is difficult as a single mother of two very active girls, but I do it without complaint because it is so important. But we can't do it alone.

To date, pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and it is the only major cancer with a five-year relative survival rate in the single digits at just six percent. Furthermore, there has been little improvement in the survival rates over the last forty years. We need your help to shine a spotlight on this disease and finally make progress in developing treatments and early detection tools. By issuing a proclamation supporting the observance of November 2012 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in Acton, you can help us to raise awareness in our community.

I have attached a draft of the proclamation text for your review. I am happy to provide additional official Pancreatic Cancer Action Network material, including pancreatic cancer facts and statistics and National Cancer Institute (NCI) funding information, upon request.

We request that a total of **2** originals of the proclamation to be made available for our records. Please contact me with any questions. I look forward to working with you to issue a proclamation that will recognize November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and bring much needed attention to this deadly disease. Thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Very truly yours,

Alison M. Takacs
253C Pond Ridge Road
Acton, MA
253onthepond@verizon.net
617-759-6290