

ACTIONS

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Nineteenth Annual Action for Cancer Awareness Awards Luncheon

With the focus on family, friendship and service, congressional spouses, members of Congress, advocates and friends in the cancer community came together for the 19th annual Action for Cancer Awareness awards luncheon, held in Cannon Caucus on September 22. Paula Zahn once again contributed her talents and grace as the mistress of ceremonies to the inspiring – and often emotional – program.



Back row left to right: Paula Zahn, Bo Aldigé, Rep. Lois Capps, Alfredia Scott, Steve Andrews; Front row left to right: Diana Enzi, Freda Manzullo, Laura Burton Capps, Lisa McGovern

Freda Manzullo of Illinois was presented the Congressional Families Leadership award by her dear friend (and past award recipient) Diana Enzi of Wyoming. The two shared with the audience touching memories of supporting each other through their cancer treatments. After successfully battling lymphoma in 2006, Freda (wife of U.S. Representative Don Manzullo) became “acutely aware of the fact that cancer seems to touch almost every family in one form or another,” and made it her mission to raise awareness, especially in her home district in Illinois.

Freda, whose message is one of hope, firmly believes that “early detection is the number one factor in a patient achieving a favorable outcome.”

Freda also spoke movingly about going into cardiac arrest in May – a complication from her past cancer treatment – and being saved by her husband who was there to perform CPR and call 911. The Manzulllos are urging others to receive the lifesaving CPR training. They are also speaking out on possible long-term, unanticipated consequences of cancer treatments – such as the damaged, blocked artery that Freda experienced – and encouraging patients to consult their health care providers. The Manzullos’ son Neil was in the audience as we celebrated his mother, her health and good works.

Laura Burton Capps was the next speaker – introducing her mother and Excellence in Cancer Awareness award recipient U.S. Representative Lois Capps. A former congressional spouse and nurse, Lois has been a leader in the fight against cancer since she became a member of Congress in 1998. As co-chair of the Cancer Caucus, she is a nationally recognized leader in this area. Laura talked how cancer personally touched the Capps family in 2000: her 35-year old sister Lisa Margarit Capps, a gifted young psychologist at the University of California,

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