

heard from was Isaac Lidsky, a young man from my Congressional District. For Carlos and Betty Lidsky, Isaac's parents, the fight for a cure is one they struggle with on a day-to-day basis. Of their four wonderful children, Izaak, Ronit, Daria, and Ilana, three are stricken with this devastating disease.

At our briefing, their youngest, Isaac, talked to us about how the disease has affected his life, and although he has an unwavering optimism that one day soon a cure will be found, he also expressed frustration from knowing that the possibility for a cure is out there waiting, but because of lack of sufficient funding for research, he is slowly losing his sight.

Promoting important research efforts and wonderful, nonprofit organizations like Foundation Fighting Blindness, which are on the cutting edge of new procedures, and which have dedicated scientists working tirelessly to eradicate these diseases, is crucial at this juncture.

The National Eye Institute, which is a division of the National Institutes of Health, is a critical player in the fight to save the loss of sight caused by retinal degenerative diseases. Their role, however, has been impaired to a certain extent because of the lack of sufficient funding for continued research. Over the last 13 years, funding at NEI has grown at less than one-fourth of the rate of the National Institutes of Health.

There has been a considerable effort to double the funding provided to NIH, but this effort needs our help. Research has made excellent progress. Groups like the National Eye Institute and the Foundation Fighting Blindness have conducted terrific research in this field. Their scientists have made incredible progress in understanding the biological processes of these diseases. They have been able to identify and isolate many of the genes that cause retinal degenerative disease.

There have been significant discoveries also in the area of molecular engineering and gene therapy. Tremendous advances have been made in the lab with vectors, which are modified viruses that transport normal replacement genes into cells to help them function. This past year also there was significant improvement in the new generation of vectors which have the potential of being safer and more effective.

Science is now, Mr. Speaker, at a critical turning point. Researchers are ready to take the knowledge that they have gained from basic research and transfer it to clinical research that will create the foundation for future treatment and therapies.

Let us make a difference in the lives of these 6 million Americans that are already affected, and those many millions who are yet undiagnosed. Let us support the wonderful research efforts through increased funding for these agencies, these agencies that are making remarkable steps, and that con-

tinue to give us hope and renew our energies toward finding a cure; for a cure, Mr. Speaker, will come.

Let us work together to plan for a future where funding will not be the obstacle to curing the vision loss of people like Isaac and his sisters. Now is the time to take advantage of these scientific advances, and with adequate funding, Mr. Speaker, there is, indeed, a cure in sight.

A TRIBUTE TO LOUIS GOLDSTEIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, with the death of Louis Goldstein on July 3, Maryland, as well as the entire country, lost a great patriot, dutiful public servant, and loving individual.

Louis Lazarus Goldstein died at the age of 85, having spent all of his adult life in the service of his fellow citizens. He was in some ways a simple, unassuming man, and in other ways, an extremely complicated one. He loved people, his family, history, the United States marines, the state of Maryland, the Democratic Party, and America. He served all of them in turn, and served them with enthusiasm and faithfulness.

Louis was larger than life when he lived, and he will become even larger in a his death. The Louis stories that are legend now will geometrically multiply in years to come. Hopefully, however, we will not lose the reality along the way: his genuine, heartfelt prayer that God would bless each of us real good; his observation that our gift to God was service to others, and his shining example of such service; his brilliance in the administration of his office; and his fidelity to Maryland's citizens and the stewardship of their money.

He was, Mr. Speaker, an unforgettable character who made everyone feel that they were his close friend and objects of his genuine concern, as, indeed, they were. Some thought him hokey, but they saw only the facade. To know Louis was to know how deeply he cared about democracy and individual freedom and civil liberties, and how committed he was to ensuring that every American young person had an opportunity to excel to the limit of his or her talent, and their willingness to expend effort and energy in the pursuit of their goals; how much of his own time and extraordinary political skills he spent ensuring that Washington College and the University of Maryland were places where excellence was encouraged and facilitated; how much he valued the principles of his party, and how strongly he fought for its candidates.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether Members have ever met Louis Goldstein, how many of our colleagues have met him. I suspect many. He lit up a room and a podium, a campaign trail and another candidate's events, or cer-

tainly his own. He brought common sense and uncommon intellect and integrity to the business of politics.

God granted to Louis and to us 85 vigorous years which Louis used to the utmost. God indeed blessed us real good through the force of nature we knew for the past 40 years as our comptroller; arguably, the most popular tax collector in the history of the world.

Louis Goldstein was a wonderful servant to Maryland and America, and his death is a tragic loss for all. But the happy note is that his life was not a tragedy at all. It was a victory, a celebration, a joy. Louis Goldstein loved life and he gave it his all. He served as a public official for 51 out of his 85 years, not out of a need for power or money or even attention, but out of his earnest desire to help those less fortunate and make a difference in the lives of others. His legacy will no doubt live on, and serve as a much needed model for future leaders of our State, for future leaders of our country.

All of us would do well to emulate his charity towards all and malice towards none. Louis Lazarus Goldstein will be missed.

Louis Lazarus Goldstein first came into my life in 1962, 36 years ago. He was my friend, he was my mentor, he was an adviser and counselor. He was an extraordinary human being. He ended every speech, as I have alluded to, with, "May God bless you all real good." God blessed us through Louis Goldstein.

THE LAURIE BEECHMAN MEMORIAL ACT, BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION TO HELP DEFEAT OVARIAN CANCER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FOX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss important legislation which I filed this week which really makes a difference in the lives of women across the country. I speak of the Laurie Beechman Memorial Act. Together with legislation I have worked on with the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. PATSY MINK), our legislation is a brave, new, ambitious attempt to eradicate ovarian cancer in our lifetime.

Together with the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) and others, we have introduced legislation to increase by \$90 million per year money for a cure for ovarian cancer.

Up until this point, Mr. Speaker, ovarian cancer is not detected in any early stages, and of course, therefore, it makes it more difficult for us to keep the patient alive and to have a cure.

The Laurie Beechman Memorial Act will have two facets, in addition to the research. It will have an Information and Education Act, which will increase funding for educational and outreach programs, including those which provide information to both the person