

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 28, 2003      LR 77

extraordinary woman died last week. Liz Karnes was a national, state, and community leader of great impact. Some may believe that Liz was defined by her courageous battle with cancer. But in the same way that an already strong metal becomes stronger through heat, an already strong woman became stronger through adversity. Liz was already committed, intelligent, full of faith and personality, and most importantly laughter. She was lovely and charming. And all these qualities were just more evident to more people during the last 12 years. Some may believe that Liz was defined by the accomplishments of her husband, U.S. Senator David Karnes. And she certainly was by his greatest accomplishment, and hers also, their four daughters: Korey, Kalen, Kara, and Laurel. I have known Liz for 30 years, shared college, Junior League, Omaha 2000, District 66, and fine friendship. A mutual friend told this story this weekend. Liz was in the hospital at UNMC early last week, obviously gravely ill. Our friend raises funds internationally for UNMC. Seeing Dave, he stopped by to talk outside Liz's room, where she lay, seemingly totally out of it. Thinking that they might disturb her, he asked if they should move. Liz roused and said, no, that if they moved, she wouldn't be able to hear, and proceeded to have a discussion, as weak as she was, about helping him in the future with his fund-raising efforts. To the end, she had more things to do, more notes to write, more time she wanted to spend with her family, more children's education to care about, and more people with cancer to help. She will be missed. And she will continue. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker, members, very seldom in life do you go through a short life that we have to live and we find somebody that we really, really think, truly, that has it all together, so to speak. I got to know Liz back when her husband was a senator. And I took her around different places. Took her to Grand Island, brought her to Lincoln. And as a person, to make a long story short, she just loved her friends, she loved her family, and she didn't have any enemies. How many of us can say that? It's just a great lady, and she loved life. And she leaves us all with these memories. And I'd just like to