

**Luminaria** – When the sun sets on Sept. 20, thousands of luminaria -- small paper bags with a candle in each -- will light the path around the Capitol Reflecting Pool to remember those lost to cancer, give strength to those fighting cancer, and celebrate those who have defeated cancer. This ceremony of light, which is traditionally held at Relay For Life events throughout the country, symbolizes the hope and perseverance with which we all continue to fight against cancer.

**National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP)** – A program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and run in conjunction with each state and tribal government, that has been enormously successful at providing low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women access to lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screening tests. At current funding levels, this program can serve only one in five eligible women, yet the program could be facing budget cuts. Celebration Ambassadors are asking Congress to reauthorize the program and increase its funding this year and every year until it has the resources to meet the need.

**National Cancer Institute (NCI)** – An agency within the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute is the government’s principal agency for cancer research and training. Under the National Cancer Act of 1971, NCI created an unparalleled national network of NCI-designated Cancer Centers, now 61 centers strong. These cancer centers, typically located at academic institutions, receive core grant funding from NCI and are hubs of cutting-edge research, high quality cancer care, and outreach and education for health care professionals and the public.

**Relay For Life** – Relay For Life is a community-based event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for the American Cancer Society. On the day of the event, teams of people gather at school or community football fields, fairgrounds or parks and take turns walking, jogging or running laps. Each team is asked to keep at least one representative of their team on the track at all times. Relay events are held in more than 4,600 communities across the country annually. A special Relay is being held around the Reflecting Pool during Celebration on the Hill 2006.

**Survivor Lap** – Each Relay For Life event typically begins with a survivor lap where cancer survivors take a victory lap around the track. Survivors at Celebration on the Hill will wear special sashes as they take this lap.

**American Cancer Society Relay For Life Wall of Hope** – This is the largest-ever monument dedicated to the fight against cancer, spanning three city blocks on the National Mall. It is made up of 5,000 banners that originated in communities across the country, and includes several hundred thousand signatures of people touched by cancer. The Wall will be the focal point of Celebration on the Hill and will demonstrate the unity of the entire country in support of cancer survivors and their families. If all 5,000 banners were placed end-to-end, the Wall would span nine miles – 85 times the height of the Washington Monument.

## ***Fast Facts***

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There are 61 National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Cancer Centers nationwide. These centers are hubs of cutting-edge research, high quality cancer care, and outreach and education.

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America’s investment in cancer research reduced cancer mortality rates by 10 percent between 1991 and 2002, saving as many as 321,000 lives.

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Last December, Congress voted to cut the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget for the first time in 35 years. Cancer research funding was reduced for the first time in more than a decade.

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The president’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2007 proposed an additional \$40 million cut for the NCI. The NCI estimated that it would take at least a 5 percent *increase* to maintain current services and provide for minimal growth.

# Celebration on the Hill 2006 Glossary

Key terms and definitions related to Celebration on the Hill 2006



**2015 Goal** – In 2002, the Bush Administration declared a nationwide challenge goal of eliminating suffering and death from cancer by the year 2015. The American Cancer Society and its sister advocacy organization the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network have a similar set of 2015 challenge goals. In 2005, 92 Senators and 280 members of Congress signed a letter to the president expressing their commitment to the goal. The Society and ACS CAN continue to advocate for fundamental policy changes and increases in cancer research funding necessary to jumpstart progress toward 2015.

**Ambassador** – Nearly 4,000 “Celebration Ambassadors” representing every Congressional District in the country are attending Celebration on the Hill. Chosen as part of a competitive selection process, Ambassadors are community leaders, survivors, caregivers, health professionals, cancer researchers and volunteers who believe that defeating cancer requires courageous policy decisions by government officials at the federal, state and local levels. Ambassadors will meet with lawmakers during Celebration to insist that Congress make cancer a national priority.

**American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)** – Celebration on the Hill 2006 is an American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network<sup>SM</sup> (ACS CAN) event. ACS CAN is the Society’s sister 501(c)(4) organization that educates voters, supports issue campaigns, and encourages candidates and lawmakers to support promising cancer initiatives. Through ACS CAN, the Society continues to exert a greater influence on lawmakers to support and pass policies that help people fight cancer.

**Cancer Prevention Study 3 (CPS-3)** – A unique research effort, CPS-3 is the Society’s newest study designed to yield a better understanding of the lifestyle, behavioral, environmental and genetic factors that cause or prevent cancer and to ultimately eliminate cancer as a major health problem for this and future generations. The Society is inviting men and women between the ages of 30 and 65 years who have no personal history of cancer to join this historic study. The ultimate goal is to enroll 500,000 adults from various racial/ethnic backgrounds from across the United States, including at Celebration on the Hill. Previous Society studies have played a major role in cancer prevention.

**Celebration on the Hill 2002** – The first-ever Celebration on the Hill event played a key role in helping members of Congress and their staffs understand what the American Cancer Society is doing to fight cancer through advocacy. Thousands of Society volunteers gathered in Washington, D.C. to urge Congress to make cancer a national priority. Representing all 50 states and each of the 435 Congressional districts, 3,000 “Ambassadors” and thousands more celebrated cancer survivorship while urging Congress to do more to fund research, education and prevention, and to call for expanded access to early detection and treatment to help people fight cancer.

**Congressional Cancer Promise** – A document that outlines the steps Congress must take in the near term to put the country on track in the fight against cancer. Lawmakers are asked to pledge their support for the ACS CAN agenda of specific legislative proposals that elevate prevention, early detection and survivorship; increase the nation’s commitment to research; and expand access to care.

## *East Facts*

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In 2006, an estimated 1.4 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer and an estimated 565,000 will die from the disease.

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The American Cancer Society is the largest private funder of cancer research. The Society has spent nearly \$2.7 billion on research since 1946.

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Ten thousand people will be at Celebration on the Hill 2006 – twice as many as attended in 2002.

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The American Cancer Society Relay for Life Wall of Hope consists of 5,000 banners and covers three city blocks. It is the largest-ever monument to cancer. If all of the panels were stacked on top of each other, the Wall of Hope would be 85 times the length of the Washington Monument.