



Celebrate Celebration



July, 2006

Why We're headed to Washington, D.C.

Michigan & Connecticut Representatives First to Sign ACS CAN Congressional Cancer Promise

Celebration on the Hill 2006 will take place in Washington, D.C., on September 19 and 20, but Celebration Ambassadors are already paving the way to success by encouraging their lawmakers to sign the *American Cancer Society Cancer Action NetworkSM (ACS CAN) Congressional Cancer Promise*. The Promise outlines the steps Congress must take in the near term to put the country on track toward accomplishing the nation's challenge goal of eliminating suffering and death from cancer by 2015. By signing the Congressional Cancer Promise, lawmakers commit to working to elevate prevention, early detection and survivorship, increase the nation's commitment to research, and expand access to health care.

The first two lawmakers to sign the ACS CAN Congressional Cancer Promise include:

Congressman Dale Kildee (Michigan) – At a district meeting with Celebration Ambassadors in July, Rep. Kildee was the first member to sign the Congressional Cancer Promise. He also showed his support by signing the Relay For Life Wall of Hope.

Congressman Rob Simmons (Connecticut) – Rep. Simmons was the second member to sign the Congressional Cancer Promise during a district visit from Celebration Ambassadors in Norwich, Conn.

As other lawmakers sign the Promise, their names will be added to a list on www.acscan.org.

During their meetings with lawmakers, Celebration Ambassadors are also emphasizing two key items in the Cancer Promise: the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and federal funding for cancer research and programs.

Celebration on the Hill: Click to Connect

As Celebration on the Hill trainings continue across the nation, Ambassadors are learning the power of sharing their stories with each other... and what a difference those stories will make when we come together in Washington, D.C., on September 20. Don't forget that you can connect with Ambassadors from your own state or district team as well as those from all across America by visiting www.celebrationonthehill.org. Just click on the map on the left navigation bar on the home page, then click the "Visit the Celebration Space" button at the bottom of the page. You'll only need to perform a simple registration to get started sharing your experiences with other Celebration on the Hill Ambassadors.

Research in Action

Cancer Prevention Study-3 Enrollment at Celebration on the Hill

The American Cancer Society's Department of Epidemiology and Surveillance Research is launching a new historic research study, the Cancer Prevention Study-3. The Society's Cancer Prevention Studies first began in the 1950s and have significantly contributed to tobacco-related research, as well as the understanding of obesity, diet, physical activity, hormone use, air pollution, and various other exposures in

relation to cancer and other disease risk. The third Cancer Prevention Study will help us better understand the lifestyle, behavioral, environmental, and genetic factors that cause or prevent cancer and put us one step closer to ultimately eliminating cancer as a major health problem for this and future generations.

The goal of the Cancer Prevention Study-3 is to enroll 500,000 adults from various geographic and racial/ethnic backgrounds across the United States. The study will follow men and women between the ages of 30 and 65 years who have never been diagnosed with cancer. Participants will complete a brief survey and provide a waist measurement and a small blood sample. Participants will then be asked to complete a follow-up questionnaire every few years for the next 20 to 30 years.

Interested individuals will have the unique opportunity to demonstrate **research in action** by enrolling in the study during Celebration on the Hill 2006 in Washington, D.C. Enrollment will take place at the Convention Center and on the National Mall. Please visit www.cancer.org/eps3 for more information about the study and to find the most up-to-date enrollment times and locations during Celebration on the Hill.

Light the Path to a Cure in D.C.



The pictures of more than 16,000 luminaria illuminating the path around the Capitol Reflecting Pool during Celebration on the Hill 2002 are hard to forget. Not only did each candle burning send yet another message to our lawmakers about the strength and passion of volunteers committed to the fight against cancer, they represented the lives of loved ones from across the country who have battled cancer.

You can remember someone lost to cancer or honor someone who has faced the disease by purchasing a luminaria to be lit at Celebration on the Hill 2006. Visit www.celebrationonthehill.org for more information.

Did You Know?

Did you know there is no "J" Street in Washington, D.C., and that there is more than one reflecting pool in our nation's capital? (Legend has it that some Celebration on the Hill 2002 supporters first went to the reflecting pool in front of the Lincoln Memorial to register, since that is the landmark more people are familiar with.) You can learn more about the impressive sights you'll see while in Washington, D.C. – as well as familiarize yourself with the geography you'll be visiting – by checking out D.C. on the Web.

According to the National Park Service web site (<http://www.nps.gov/nacc/home.htm>), National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA) is responsible for over 1,000 acres of the most significant natural and cultural resources in the United States. The sites of NAMA are cherished symbols of our nation, known worldwide and depicted on everything from currency to the nightly news. Located in the core of the nation's capital, NAMA administers, interprets, maintains, and preserves the Washington Monument; the Lincoln, Jefferson, and FDR Memorials; Ford's Theatre National Historic Site; the Korean War Veterans Memorial; the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House; the National Mall; the East and West Potomac Parks; Constitution Gardens; 60 statues; and numerous other historic sites, memorials, and parklands.

You're going to be in one of the most acclaimed cities in the world. Take time to appreciate all that's there. You can find more information about Washington, D.C., by visiting www.washington.org.

Celebration Honorary Co-Chairs Named

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network would like to thank and recognize all of the Celebration on the Hill Honorary Co-Chairs. These U.S. Senators and Representatives have and continue to be strong supporters of ACS CAN and our mission:

Rep. Dennis Hastert, Rep. John Boehner, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Deborah Pryce, Rep. Steve Israel, Rep. Sue Myrick, Rep. Lois Capps, Rep. Clay Shaw, Rep. Collin Peterson, Sen. Bill Frist, Sen. Harry Reid, Sen. Sam Brownback, Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Spotlight on: Jerry Neville, Missouri District 7 Ambassador



Determined...survivor...fighter...these are three powerful words to describe Jerry Neville. For the past 11 years, Jerry has been fighting non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL). Though NHL can be controlled through treatment, it is a slow-growing cancer that has no known cure and is destined to return.

Diagnosed in 1995, Jerry Neville knew very little about cancer. Like most newly diagnosed patients, he carefully listened to his doctor and began the recommended treatment of six rounds of chemotherapy. “The treatment was horrible,” admitted Jerry. “I lost my hair, my skin dried out, and I was nauseous all the time. I never felt well.” After his treatment, Jerry’s doctor only gave him five years before the cancer would come back. Though he was considered cured, he and his doctor both knew it was only a matter of time before the cancer relapsed.

Knowing his cancer would most likely return, Jerry was inspired to help researchers find a cure for not only NHL, but for all cancers. Wanting to aid the thousands of other cancer patients undergoing similar ordeals, Jerry contacted the American Cancer Society and became a volunteer. In 1996, he participated in the Relay For Life of Springfield and in 1997, he joined the event’s planning committee. Jerry relayed because he is a survivor; he relayed to provide hope to cancer patients; he relayed to provide funding for a cure; he relayed to live.

As predicted, Jerry’s cancer relapsed in 2000. His recommended treatment was Rituxan, a relatively new treatment option for low-grade lymphoma. This time, his only side effects were a rash on the top of his head and high blood pressure. While undergoing treatment, Jerry continued to volunteer for the Society. In addition to the Relay For Life, Jerry participated in the Society’s state Lobby Days and traveled to Washington, D.C., to encourage legislators to fund more cancer research.

After treatment and being considered cured for the second time, Jerry discovered the money he helped raise through Relay For Life saved his life. While Jerry was planning and participating in Relay events, Society-

funded researchers discovered Rituxan, the drug he was treated with. In 2003, Jerry's cancer relapsed for the third time. Again, his doctor placed him on Rituxan. Four weeks of treatment later, his cancer was controlled again.

Until a cure is found, Jerry will continue to live according to his favorite quote by Winston Churchill, "Never give in, never give in, never, never, never – in nothing, great or small, large or petty – never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."

Celebration on the Hill Training Update

As of July 22, approximately 2,100 volunteer & staff Ambassadors were trained on the issues that the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network will take to Congress on September 20. More than 200 Ambassadors were trained at the Northern High Plains training in Kansas City on July 15. We're at the half-way point on our quest to train over 4,000 Ambassadors and staff representing all 435 U.S. Congressional Districts, making Celebration on the Hill an unprecedented event in the history of cancer advocacy.



Former President Ronald Reagan made a guest appearance at the Northern High Plains training. Darlene Hall, Kansas District 2 Ambassador, is victorious after a game of ACS CAN rugby with the former President.



(Above, left) Carla Derrick, Missouri Ambassador District 9, helps her team develop a letter to the editor during the media training. (Above, left) Shane Smith, Nebraska District 3 Ambassador, interviews Mark Runyan, Missouri District 9 Ambassador, during the media interview exercise at the Celebration on the Hill training.



Ambassadors from Nebraska's 1st Congressional District take a break from training. Pictured, from left to right, are: Charlotte Burke, Donna Hammack, Sandi Ellenwood, and Sharon Jensen.

Signers of 2005 Letter to the President

The following Members of Congress from Northern High Plains signed a letter to the President in 2005 supporting the administration's 2015 goals. A total of 280 House members and 92 Senators signed the letter. For a complete listing contact your grassroots manager.

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| Dennis Moore – D-KS | Jim Ryun – R-KS | Russ Carnahan – D-MO |
| Jo Ann Emerson – R-MO | Sam Graves – R-MO | Jeff Fortenberry – R-NE |
| Tom Osborne – R-NE | Lee Terry- R-NE | Daniel Boren – D-OK |
| Tom Cole – R-OK | John Sullivan - R-OK | Sam Brownback – R-KS |
| Ben Nelson – D-NE | Pat Roberts – R-KS | Christopher Bond – R-MO |
| James Talent – R-MO | Chuck Hagel – R-NE | Tom Coburn – R-OK |
| James Inhofe – R-OK | | |

Relay For Life Wall of Hope Continues to Grow

As many legislators in D.C. head home for Summer Recess, Ambassadors continue getting the Wall of Hope banners in front of their elected officials. That means more awareness AND more signatures!



“I asked every elected official in our county (both county officials and each city's officials) to volunteer their time at our Wall of Hope table at the event between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. I noted that this was not a place to campaign, but rather a place to come together and show a united front in the fight against cancer. I had 18 officials volunteer to help! (That's a lot in our rural county!)”

Laura Osborne, Nebraska District 1 Ambassador.

Community Voices CAN! – An Evening on the Hill

It's the place to be Tuesday, September 19! Come join thousands of advocates, volunteers, and Celebration Ambassadors for fun night of dinner, entertainment, national political figures, sports celebrities, and stories of survival.

Please join us for any or all of the three taking place on the evening of September 19, 2006 – **CANdid Conversations** (with Senator Clinton, Speaker Gingrich, and Sam Donaldson), **CANpaign for Change**, featuring sports celebrities, and **The CAN Opener Rally!** providing a fun opportunity to get together with your friends for dinner and entertainment in a National CANvention atmosphere.

To learn more about each of these events, and to purchase tickets, please visit www.celebrationonthehill.org. Together, our voices CAN make a difference in Washington, D.C.

Commemorative Celebration Bundle on Sale

If you missed the chance to purchase a commemorative Celebration on the Hill T-shirt, hat, and wristband at the Relay store, it is not too late! The bundle costs \$20 and is available on a first come, first served basis. Size extra large, large, medium, and small T-shirts are available. To order, send a check to Jim Yankovich, American Cancer Society, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64104. Please indicate your shirt size and mailing address. Extra backpacks are available to purchase as well for \$5.