



**“22 Hours for 22 Million”
White House Vigil**

Starting: 9 pm Thursday, December 22nd
Ending: 7 pm Friday, December 23, 2011

**the 40th Anniversary of the
“War on Cancer”**

Why?

What is the United States doing?

Obama-Biden Plan to Combat Cancer: During their 2008 U.S. presidential campaign, then Senators Barack Obama and Joe Biden published a plan to combat cancer that entailed doubling federal funding for cancer research within 5 years, focusing on NIH and NCI, as well as working with Congress to increase funding for the FDA with additional funding for research on rare cancers and those without effective treatment options.

- the study of health disparities and evaluation of possible interventions,
- and efforts to better understand genetic factors that can impact cancer onset and outcomes.

President Obama's 2009 economic stimulus package included \$10 billion for the NIH, which funds much of the cancer research in the U.S., and he pledged to increase federal funding for cancer research by a third for the next two years as part of a drive to find "a cure for cancer in our time."

ALERT Act: The US Senate on 26 March 2009 issued a new bill (S. 717), the 21st Century Cancer Access to Life-Saving Treatment Act. The bill aims to improve patient access to prevention and early detection by:

- providing funding for research in early detection,
- supplying grants for screening and referrals for treatment, and
- increasing access to clinical trials and information.

NOTE: The 21st Century ALERT act is a bill to re-engage the "War on Cancer." The bill was introduced by Senators Edward M. Kennedy and Kay Bailey Hutchison on March 26, 2009. The bill has not yet been enacted into law. ^[*Wikipedia*]

What is the rest of the world doing?

The International Union Against Cancer (UICC) has organized a World Cancer campaign in 2009 with the theme, "I love my healthy active childhood," to promote healthy habits in children and thereby reduce their lifestyle-based cancer risk as adults. The World Health Organization is also promoting this campaign and joins with the UICC in annually promoting World Cancer Day on 4 February.

The UICC mission is to build and lead the global cancer control community engaged in:

- Sharing and exchanging knowledge and competence
- Transferring scientific findings to clinical, patient and public settings
- Systematically reducing and eliminating disparities in prevention, early detection and treatment

Under the leadership of Isabel Mortara, executive director of UICC, the Secretariat focuses on four strategic directions:

- Cancer prevention and control
- Tobacco control
- Knowledge transfer
- Capacity building and supportive care

^[*Wikipedia*]

There are thousands of organizations—both locally and internationally—working to eradicate cancer. We need to bring ALL of them together.

Cancer Facts

National Cancer Institute's "Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2002:"

- Major increase in incidence of Non Hodgkin's lymphoma (74%), acute childhood leukemia (68%), childhood brain cancer (52%), acute adult leukemia (56%), testes cancer (51%)

American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology:

- It is estimated that about 1.4 million new cases of cancer will be diagnosed this year.
- Each year, about 560,000 Americans die from cancer—more than 1,500 people a day, 1 every minute.
- Cancer is the leading cause of death among Americans under the age of 85.
- Cancer is the 2nd leading cause of death among all Americans.
- Over the course of a lifetime, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 2 men will develop cancer.

New York Times, April 23, 2009, Gina Kolata
"...the death rate for cancer, adjusted for the size and age of the population, dropped only 5 percent from 1950 to 2005."

Average Costs

War on Terror: \$1,280,178,138,996 (10 years, since 2001 and counting)—*National Priorities Project*
American deaths: 8,800 (74 people a month)

War on Cancer: \$101,423,421,000 (40 years, since 1971)—National Cancer Institute
American deaths: 20,000,000 (42,000 a month)

Every life is precious! The cost of pain, suffering, grief, heartbreak, and loss cannot be measured.

What can you do?

Realizing you can be overwhelmed by the every day details of life, the "information overload" that's thrown at you each day, responsibilities, demands, and "bumps in the road," not to mention carving out time to enjoy life, the love of family and friends, I've put together a few simple tips from my own research and discovery. It is a place to start.

- Ask the question: "What is it?"** Whether it's food, your child's toy, new furniture, paint, or anything—*everything*—that touches your life. Find out exactly what it is before you allow it in.
- Limit the chemicals in your life.** Eat "organic" foods whenever possible, wash produce, choose natural fibers for clothing, bedding, etc. Use VOC paints, avoid particle board & plastic, use natural cosmetics, hair dye, nail polish, lotions.
- Strengthen your immune system.** Issue and refused to look beyond the walls, many factors fighting this "War on Cancer." We are divided and suffering because of this division. I believe it will take a radical approach to bring everyone "to the table" to stop fighting amongst ourselves and start working together. It will take a child. Living with Amber—her courage, wisdom, and inspired to help others. I realized that we can be inspired to come together for one purpose: to prevent cancer from killing another human being.
- Call/email your representatives** about emphasizing *prevention* in bill S.717 (ALERT).
- Volunteer** with Hospice or other organizations who inform, heal and elevate others. Give.
- Visit our website for more resources and to learn more about what you can do.**

We need to...

- Develop** a "Master Plan for Cancer."
- Bring together all groups/entities** that are cancer-related, excluding no one: Individuals, government, scientists, industry, charities, medical establishment (doctors, nurses, clinics, hospitals), alternative/complimentary medical professionals, (preventative, integrative, holistic), research institutions, environmentalists, pharmaceutical companies, "out-of-the-box" thinkers, colleges and universities.
- Understand and define** their roles, look for ways to collaborate and combine time, energy, knowledge and resources.
- Devote** the same resources to *cause* and *prevention* as we do for *treatment* and *cure*.
- Provide** an integrated, impartial, easy-to-use, comprehensive database for people to access to understand what cancer is, how to prevent it, and all treatment options available worldwide.
- Create benchmarks** to report progress to the public in easy-to-understand terms.

I am holding this vigil to...

REMEMBER the more than 22,000,000 people who have died from cancer in the last 40 years in the U.S. alone and nearly a quarter of a billion people worldwide.

HONOR their loved ones who have been left behind and those who have been touched by cancer.

THANK the millions of people who work hard each day to eliminate cancer from our lives and ease the suffering of those affected.

I am asking President Obama to...

END the "War on Cancer" and embrace the angel.

BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER under one leader and one goal as a nation.

DEVELOP a "Master Plan for Cancer"—a comprehensive, inclusive, global "blueprint" to prevent, detect, treat, and cure cancer, in that order.

(We should Include clearly defined goals and a detailed plan of a world without cancer. When we eradicate cancer, we need to be prepared for the outcome: Re-structuring, unemployment, re-training, the impact on the lives of people involved, re-purposing hospitals, labs, cancer centers, etc.)

My thoughts:

There are *thousands* of organizations and *millions* of people working around the world to eradicate cancer from our lives and ease the suffering. Many sacrifice much, may be under-appreciated, and dedicate their entire lives to this end. I believe their efforts are noble and have contributed greatly to our understanding of time to enjoy life, the love of family and friends, I've put together a few simple tips from my own research and discovery. It is a place to start.

During my journey through cancer with my daughter, Amber, her dying, and untimely death, I met many people who were able to set aside the "politics of cancer," do the right thing, and care for her, despite possible repercussions to themselves and their careers. They were people *first*, doctors, nurses, clinicians, caregivers, newspaper editors, reporters, politicians, millionaires, *second*.

Sadly, I also encountered the opposite. People who were unwilling or unable to see *all* sides of the cancer issue and refused to look beyond the walls, divided and suffering because of this division. I believe it will take a radical approach to bring everyone "to the table" to stop fighting amongst ourselves and start working together. It will take a child. Living with Amber—her courage, wisdom, and inspired to help others. I realized that we can be inspired to come together for one purpose: to prevent cancer from killing another human being.

A few days before she died, Amber told me why she came to this earth... Why she was sent to us. "Mom, I know I'm here to help a lot of people..." Let's end the war and embrace this angel and her wisdom. Together, we can change the course of cancer once and for all.

—Patti Dimiceli