

—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

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["Pocket Brochure"](#)
to be handed out at vigil

"22 Hours for 22 Million" Walking White House Vigil on 40th Anniversary of "War on Cancer"

ANNAPOLIS, MD—"Walking for 22 hours is nothing compared to the pain of those who've been touched by cancer," says Patti DiMiceli, organizer of the "22 Hours for 22 Million" White House Vigil, mother of a daughter who died from cancer, and author of ["Embrace the Angel."](#) From 9 pm, December 22nd until 7 pm, December 23rd, she and others will walk outside The White House to mark the 40th anniversary of the "War on Cancer," the day [President Nixon signed the "National Cancer Act."](#)

Since then, over 22 million people have died, a fact Ms. DiMiceli cannot accept, a date she will not ignore. "We can't let those people suffering with cancer and those who have died be forgotten," she says, "While millions of Americans will be celebrating the holidays, millions more will not. It's for them that we walk."

DiMiceli likens this vigil to the holiday movie ["It's a Wonderful Life"](#) and its theme that each person has the power to make a difference in this world, but not without the help of others. "Americans need to know that there are people who are willing to brave winter's icy grip this holiday season to walk for the millions who have been touched by cancer. This vigil is the beginning of a larger movement to end their suffering," she says.

She is asking President Obama to do something unconventional: End the ["War on Cancer"](#) and "embrace the angel." She explains, "Both are metaphors, yes, but the power and action behind them is significant. You can't use bullets and bombs to fight a disease," she says. Well-known author [Dr. Bernie Siegel](#), who wrote the Foreword to ["Embrace the Angel."](#) agrees. "We need to explore inner space and healing, not outer space and investing in wars."

In addition, DiMiceli is asking Obama to "bring people together to develop a 'Master Plan for Cancer'—a 'blueprint' to prevent, detect, treat, and cure cancer, in that order." She suggests it include a detailed plan of a

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world without cancer. "When we eradicate cancer, we need to be prepared for the outcome: Re-structuring, unemployment, re-training, re-purposing cancer centers, etc." she says, "If we don't have a plan, we will never eliminate cancer."

For 32 years, DiMiceli has been dedicated to raising awareness of cancer. She documented her daughter's, journey with audio, video, and photographs, along with articles and news clips as the media followed their story. Her website www.embracetheangel.com houses this collection. After her death, she began writing "Embrace the Angel," and conducting workshops to elevate and inspire others.

In a heart-rending [Channel 30 News interview](#), with Amber at her side a few days before she died, DiMiceli demonstrates the same commitment as she does today. She asks that cancer be an important issue in the 1980 presidential campaign. Today, she asks, "What plans do the current presidential candidates have to eradicate cancer?"

DiMiceli questions the leadership of the U.S. and will of the people to end this war. "Cancer has become a part of our culture. If terrorists commandeered 6 Boeing 767's, carrying 250 passengers each, and crashed them into the ground every day, we would be shocked and outraged. We'd ground the fleet, call out the troops, lock down and secure our borders, and spend trillions of dollars—whatever it takes to end the slaughter. Yet we allow 1500 people each day to perish. Why?"

With an average of 2 people dying each day in the "[War on Terror](#)," she believes the attention and resources are unbalanced. "In 40 years, we've spent only \$2.5 million a year for cancer compared to \$128-400 billion a year in the 'War on Terror,'" she says, "I think more Americans are terrified of getting cancer than they are of being killed by a terrorist."

Despite raising some controversial issues and asking pointed questions, DiMiceli is optimistic. The "[Pocket Brochure](#)" she'll be handing out at the vigil, explains. "It will take a radical approach to bring everyone 'to the table' to stop fighting amongst ourselves and start working together. I believe it will take a child. 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.' The time has come to end the war and embrace this angel and her wisdom."

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