

**REMARKS OF FIRST LADY ANITA PERRY
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH KICK-OFF
OCTOBER 9, 2007
INTRODUCED BY: COMMISSIONER LAKEY**

PART I

Thank you, Commissioner Lakey. Good morning everyone!

Today, we are here to celebrate breast cancer survivors;

...to show our support for patients;

...and share our appreciation for the friends and loved ones who stand beside us and provide encouragement.

The governor has proclaimed October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Texas.

This is the 21st year this event has been observed nationally.

That is a true testament to the dedication of the survivors and supporters who keep breast cancer at the forefront of people's minds.

This year in our country an estimated 180,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed and more than 41,000 will lose their battle with this dreadful disease.

Here in Texas more than 2,700 Texas mothers, sisters, wives and friends will lose their battle with breast cancer.

And so, in recognition of the thousands of lives touched by breast cancer we will wear pink ribbons throughout the month of October....

...make donations to support cancer research and early detection and

...raise awareness by sharing stories about detection and survival

In addition to the words and ribbons I encourage you to take action in detection.

Right now, early detection is the closest thing we have to a cure. It is the simplest and most effective way to increase the odds of survival.

Women in their 20's and 30's should have clinical breast exams at least every 3 years. And experts recommend yearly mammograms for women 40 and above. Sadly, the number of women 40 and older heeding that advice continues to fall.

That is why each and every one of us must do our part to spread the message that women not only need mammograms – but that they need to be done every year.

Over the years I have seen and heard of different approaches to a buddy system, in which women – oftentimes friends, sometimes even complete strangers - encourage each other to have annual mammograms. These groups, such as the Glamour-

Gram Girls, Sisters Network and Road to Recovery, will hopefully inspire more women to talk about breast health, perform monthly self-breast exams and see their doctor annually.

During this past legislative session we saw a bold step forward in the fight against cancer. My husband was pleased to sign a bill that authorizes the state to ask Texans to vote their conscience on cancer. Sen. Nelson [look at Sen. Nelson], on behalf of the women of Texas, I want to thank you for tireless efforts as the Senate sponsor of this legislation.

When Texans go to the polls on November 6th, Proposition 15 will be on the ballot. If passed, it

will allow the state to issue up to \$3 billion in bonds in an effort to speed the discovery of a cure.

So today, I challenge you to not only know the facts but also take steps towards early detection.

Ladies and gentleman, we have the opportunity to make a difference in our own lives and the lives of others.

And as I look around at each of you – I am inspired.

I see a change on the horizon

...a devotion to early detection and a commitment to a cure

I want to thank you for joining us today. Thank you to the survivors who have the strength to share their message. And thank you to the Texans who will carry this message home to their neighborhoods, their churches, their workplaces and their homes.

Thank you.

PART II

RETURN TO PODIUM TO PRESENT DR. LAKEY WITH PROCLAMATION

Dr. Lakey, I am pleased to present this proclamation from the Governor recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Texas. I hope that all Texans will work together to spread the word about

early detection so that we can win this fight together.