

## Bringing Attention to the Fight Against Cancer

Rothman, New Jersey Cancer Survivors and Advocates Bring Attention to the Fight Against Cancer

Congressman and Residents from Cliffside Park, Garfield, Jersey City, Teaneck, and Wood-Ridge Participate in the American Cancer Society's "Celebration on the Hill"

Photo Essay: Fight Against Cancer

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"Wall of Hope"

New Jersey "Bridge to a Cure"

"Celebration Ambassadors" Speak

(Washington, DC)â&euro;&rdquo; A long-time advocate for increased funding for cancer research, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) joined North Jersey cancer survivors, patients, and their loved ones for the American Cancer Society's "Celebration on the Hill" this week. The event, one of the largest grassroots advocacy events to take place on the National Mall, was an emotional two-day affair focused on building and solidifying support for the fight against cancer.

Arthur Andreano of Garfield, Joanne Martone and Ellen Catanzaro of Cliffside Park, Arthur Ranges of Wood-Ridge, Vera Stokes of Teaneck, and 10-year colon cancer survivor Theresa Costantino of Jersey City each shared their personal stories with Rep. Rothman, thanked him for his ongoing support, and discussed the importance of increased funding for medical research and expanded access to care.

"Since 1991, the death rate due to cancer has actually declined. But there's still much more to do," said Rothman. "Cancer has touched almost every American in one way or another, including myself. I promise to continue making health care and cancer research a priority and am fighting for a new majority in Congress that will prioritize urgent national needs like cancer researchâ&euro;&rdquo;instead of tax cuts for multi-millionaires."

After a lengthy group discussion, Rothman signed the "Congressional Cancer Promise" and visited the "Wall of Hope" with his constituents. The Wall of Hope is a memorial comprised of approximately 5,000 banners from communities nationwide featuring the signatures of cancer survivors and others who care about the fight against cancer. It is the largest temporary monument ever built in Washington, DC. If placed side-by-side, the banners would span nine miles.

Cancer strikes one out of two men and one out of three women, killing 1,500 people every day. Each cancer death, on average, steals 15 years of a person's life. New Jersey is considered a national leader on decreasing cancer deaths thanks to the passage of its recent initiative to make indoor public places smoke-free. The state is also recognized by the American Cancer Society for a systematic referral program in place throughout New Jersey's largest healthcare systems. This program links newly diagnosed cancer patients and survivors to regional resources and one-on-one support.

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