
Nancy G. Brinker
Founder



When Nancy Brinker's sister, Suzy, died of breast cancer at the age of 36 in 1980, Nancy promised herself that she would fulfill her sister's plea to help others battling the disease. In 1982, she established Susan G. Komen for the Cure, starting the global breast cancer movement. Today, Komen for the Cure is the world's largest and most progressive grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures.

Ms. Brinker also founded the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® Series, the most successful education and fundraising event for breast cancer ever created.

Since the first event in 1983 with 800 participants in Dallas, the Komen Race for the Cure is now the largest series of 5K run/fitness walk events in the world with more than 1.5 million participants.

In 2001, President Bush appointed Ms. Brinker to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Hungary. In 1986, President Reagan appointed Ms. Brinker to the 18-member National Cancer Advisory Board as one of six laypeople. In 1992, she was appointed by President Bush to the three-member President's Cancer Panel to monitor the progress of the National Cancer Program and was appointed by Vice President Quayle to serve as the Chairperson of a subcommittee to study the progress of breast cancer research and education in the United States and around the world. In recognition of her lifetime work in the breast cancer field, Ms. Brinker received the 2005 Mary Woodard Lasker Award for Public Service presented by the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation.

Prior to assuming her position as Ambassador, she served on the boards of Manpower, Inc., United Rentals, Inc., and U.S. Oncology. In addition, Ms. Brinker served on the national advisory boards of the Harvard Center for Cancer Prevention, Women's Health Resource Center, Women's Health Initiative, the National Coalition of Cancer Survivorship and the National Cancer Institute. She is a former board member of such not-for-profit organizations as the National Jewish Coalition Board of Governors, New York University's Medical School Foundation, and National Surgical Adjuvant Breast Project. Ms. Brinker has testified before the United States Democratic Policy Committee's Congressional Breast Cancer Forum and participated in the International Women's Forum.

Ms. Brinker is the recipient of numerous national awards including: the 2005 Mary Woodard Lasker Award for Public Service, the 2005 Advocacy Award presented by Research!America, the 2004 Service to America Leadership Award presented by the National Association of Broadcasters Educational Foundation, Sword of Ignatius Loyola Award from Saint Louis University, The Champions of Excellence Award presented by the Centers for Disease Control, the Healthcare Humanitarian Award presented by the Global Conference Institute, the ASCO Special Recognition Award, Toastmasters International Top Five Speakers for 2001 Award, the Sisters Network 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award, Ladies' Home Journal's 100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century, Biography Magazine's The 25 Most Powerful Women in America, the 1999 Caring Award, the 2000 Cino del Duca Award, the first Salomon Smith Barney Extraordinary Achievement Award, the James Ewing Layman Award from the Society of Surgical Oncology, Albert Einstein's Sarnoff Volunteer Award, Ladies' Home Journal's Top 10 Champions of Women's Health, among many others. In addition, she was inducted



into the Cancer Research and Treatment Fund, Inc. Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame.