

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer, and HHS Department Director
Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer

DATE: September 23, 2008

SUBJECT: **Proclamation** - Approve a Proclamation recognizing September 2008 as "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in Placer County.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve a Proclamation recognizing September 2008 as "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in Placer County.

BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Each year, the President of the United States, the United States Senate, and the Governors of most States issue Proclamations declaring September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Many counties and cities also recognize Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in September by issuing their own Proclamations.

Each year, thousands of American women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Many will lose their lives to this disease. Because ovarian cancer is often diagnosed at an advanced stage, it is vital for women to make regular visits to their doctors for screenings and to discuss risk factors and warning signs. Early detection is the best way to help doctors diagnose cancer before it has a chance to spread. It also makes treatment more effective and increases the chances for survival. All women are encouraged to learn more about preventive measures and screening options that may help to save their lives.

Medical research, medical education, public education, screening and early detection programs, and epidemiologic research to identify causes and contributing factors for ovarian cancer are all critical components of the battle against ovarian cancer. These activities occur at the Federal, State and Local levels, through both government-funded and non-governmental organizations. More needs to be done to increase awareness and support for these programs in order to find better ways to prevent, detect and treat this often fatal disease.

By observing Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, we remember and honor those whose lives have been affected by this deadly disease, and we underscore our commitment to battling ovarian cancer. We also recognize the compassionate caregivers, doctors, and researchers who are dedicated to preventing, detecting, and treating ovarian cancer.

This Proclamation declaring September 2008 to be Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month will help save lives by raising awareness of the importance of screening and early detection. By educating others and ourselves about this disease, we can improve our ability to prevent, detect, treat, and ultimately cure ovarian cancer.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

In the matter of a Proclamation
recognizing September 2008 as
"Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in Placer County.

WHEREAS, ovarian cancer is the eighth most common cause of cancer among women excluding skin cancer and is the fifth leading cause of cancer death in women; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates there will be 21,650 new cases of ovarian cancer in the USA in 2008, resulting in 15,250 deaths; and

WHEREAS, a woman's risk of getting invasive ovarian cancer during her lifetime is 1 in 71 and her lifetime chance of dying from invasive ovarian cancer is 1 in 95; and

WHEREAS, in California, there are predicted to be 2,270 new ovarian cancer cases this year including 1,635 expected deaths and more specifically in Placer County 20 ovarian cancer deaths are expected in 2008; and

WHEREAS, only about 20% of ovarian cancers are found at an early stage, but finding the cancer early improves the chances it can be treated successfully and 9 out of 10 women treated early will live longer than 5 years after the cancer is found; and

WHEREAS, early detection and treatment is the key to survival from ovarian cancer and regular women's health exams may increase the chances of finding the disease early and starting treatment early; and

WHEREAS, medical research, medical education, public education, screening and early detection programs, and epidemiologic research to identify causes and contributing factors for ovarian cancer are all critical components of the battle to prevent, detect and treat ovarian cancer; and

WHEREAS, by educating others and ourselves about this disease, we can improve our ability to prevent, detect, treat, and ultimately cure ovarian cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT the Placer County Board of Supervisors designates September 2008 as "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in Placer County.

Jim Holmes Supervisor, District 3
Chairman 2008

Rocky Rockholm
Supervisor, District 1

Robert M. Weygandt
Supervisor, District 2

Kirk Uhler
Supervisor, District 4

Bruce Kranz
Supervisor, District 5

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