

NANCY PILVER BREAST CANCER PREVENTION HEROINE AWARD GOES TO BARBARA SMITH OF WINDSOR

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HARTFORD—A representative from the office of U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) today presented the 2nd Annual Nancy Pilver Breast Cancer Prevention Heroine Award to Barbara Smith of Windsor for her relentless work on the issue of breast cancer. Holly Canevari, Projects Director for Larson in his Washington, D.C. office, presented the award this afternoon in place of Larson, who was unable to attend. Larson presents the award every year to a breast cancer survivor from the 1st Congressional District that is dedicated to working on the issue of breast cancer through education, prevention, treatment and/or awareness.

The award is named for Nancy Pilver of Manchester, the State Legislative Chair of the Connecticut Breast Cancer Coalition Foundation, who was the first recipient of the award. Larson was so inspired by Pilver's story that he decided to name the award after her last year.

"Congressman Larson believes that Barbara Smith has such an extraordinarily deep sense of compassion and devotion to those who are affected by this illness," said Canevari. "The efforts of people like Barbara, who is a breast cancer survivor, give understanding, comfort and knowledge to the victims of breast cancer and their families. Barbara is a person who cares very deeply for people, and stresses early detection to ensure that other women will never have to know the pain that she did. She has an intense commitment to this cause, and I am proud to present to her this award and hope that her devotion and dedication will inspire others to follow the same path."

Barbara Smith is the Outreach Educator for the Connecticut Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program at Saint Francis Hospital, and a survivor of the disease. Smith is a nurse and a Hartford native who is active in her church and her community as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society and is a Chairperson for a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness. As the Outreach Coordinator, she visits local businesses, churches, shelters, senior centers, and public schools to discuss the importance of early detection and awareness.

The Comprehensive Breast Health Center, which opened in October, 1999, is the first of its kind in Hartford, and offers single-visit, same day diagnosis for most suspected cases of breast cancer. The Center has the ability to provide same day diagnosis for suspect cases because it has immediate, on-site availability of minimally invasive biopsies and results from certain tests. The Center is located in the Saint Francis Care Center for Health Enhancement on Woodland St. in Hartford.

In this year alone, the American cancer society estimates that there will be 2,300 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed among Connecticut women. It is also estimated that 500 women will die of breast cancer in Connecticut this year. Breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women, accounting for one in three cancers diagnosed in American Women.

Larson is a strong supporter of legislation and initiatives aimed at assisting in the research, prevention, treatment and education regarding breast cancer victims, survivors and their families. Among the initiatives he has supported while in Congress is the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program, which appropriated \$175 million for the DOD Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program for FY00 and FY01. The President signed this into law on August 9, 2000. He also supported the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act of 2000, H.R. 4386, which gives states the option of providing Medicaid coverage for treatment of low-income women diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer. The President signed this into law on October 24th. Larson also supported the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act, H.R. 2457, which would prohibit health insurance and employment discrimination based on genetic information. Lastly, Larson supports a Patients' Bill of Rights that would, among other things, protect the rights of women and their families.

Canevari presented Smith a citation for her work in the field of breast cancer, as well as a commemorative pin marking her distinction.

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