

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**PATAKI PROCLAIMS NOVEMBER LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN NEW YORK
- LONG ISLAND ORGANIZATION RECEIVES PROCLAMATION; ALSO ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP**

LONG ISLAND—In an official proclamation issued to The Lung Cancer Society of Long Island, a nonprofit organization of survivors and their families, Governor George E. Pataki declared November 2004 to be Lung Cancer Awareness Month in the State of New York.

The proclamation states:

“Whereas lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in New York State and the United States and will kill more than 164,000 Americans, exceeding the number who die from breast, prostate and colorectal combined.

“Whereas it is estimated that 80 percent of lung cancer is caused by smoking, during 2004 more than 25,000 Americans who never smoked will be diagnosed with lung cancer (from other causes than tobacco)....

”Since nearly 90 percent of current smokers started before 18 years of age, parents are encouraged to discuss with their children the dangerous effects of smoking...

”Whereas early detection is critically important to increasing the survival rate of ... lung cancer, since the early symptoms are vague or non-existent and when individuals are diagnosed with early-stage lung cancer their chances of achieving five-year survival can be as high as 85 percent.

“Therefore I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York do hereby recognize November 2004 as Lung Cancer Awareness Month in the Empire State.”

Russell Mirman, 34, whose mother is a nine-year survivor, says, “This proclamation represents an important milestone for our cause. We are grateful to the Governor for his leadership in creating awareness about lung cancer, especially about early detection, which saves lives.”

The Lung Cancer Society of Long Island was founded in 2001 to eradicate the disease through early detection, research, education and prevention and to support those touched by lung cancer.

Members include survivors and their spouses, siblings, and teenage and adult children. One member Kerri Troy, 45 of Franklin Square has experienced lung cancer’s devastation several times. Kerri, whose brother Gerry is a survivor, lost her mother and her brother, John, co-founder of the Lung Cancer Society, to this disease. Like Kerri, each member brings his or her personal experience and commitments to the cause.

Samantha Freedman, 15, is a student from Syosset, LI, and a Lung Cancer Society member. She says, “I became passionate about helping people affected by lung cancer when my dad was diagnosed almost four years ago. I am proud to be involved with The Lung Cancer Society.”

Merrick resident and social worker Miriam Baruch, 60, says, “When my husband was ill, I went through a hard time with no support available to me as a patient’s family member. Because of my

experience, I am committed to ensuring that other people get support when dealing with lung cancer in the family.”

In early 2005, under the auspices of The Lung Cancer Society, Miriam will launch a support group for family members of lung cancer patients on Long Island.

FACT SHEET

WHO: THE LUNG CANCER SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND

WHAT: HAS RECEIVED A PROCLAMATION FROM GOVERNOR PATAKI

WHY: TO PROCLAIM LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHERE: IN NEW YORK STATE

WHEN: IN NOVEMBER 2004

TO ARRANGE INTERVIEWS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE LUNG CANCER SOCIETY

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ON THE WEB

VISIT:

<http://tlcsociety.org/>

PHOTOS AVAILABLE:

- PORTRAIT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LUNG CANCER SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND WITH THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION
- CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PROCLAMATION