

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Speechwriting, White House Office
of: Speech Drafts

Folder Title: Nancy Reagan: Remarks for Susan
G. Komen Foundation Luncheon. Oct. 27, 1988

Box: 438

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

REMARKS FOR SUSAN G. KOMEN FOUNDATION LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1988

-- THANK YOU, BETTY, FOR THOSE KIND WORDS. AND THANK YOU ALL. THERE IS A VERY SPECIAL BOND THAT BETTY AND NANCY AND I AND SO MANY OTHER WOMEN HAVE -- AND THAT BOND IS SURVIVING BREAST CANCER.

-- TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT HAS BROUGHT ME HERE TODAY. UP UNTIL LAST OCTOBER, THERE HAD BEEN NO HISTORY OF CANCER IN MY FAMILY. UP UNTIL LAST OCTOBER, I'D ROUTINELY HAD MAMMOGRAMS FOR YEARS WITH NO CAUSE FOR WORRY.

2

-- AND THEN A YEAR AGO, I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL FOR MY REGULAR CHECK-UP. THE HOSPITAL STAFF DID A MAMMOGRAM, AND THEN THEY CAME BACK AND SAID THEY WANTED TO DO ANOTHER. AND AT THAT MOMENT, LIKE SO MANY OTHER WOMEN, I FELT THAT SUDDEN TIGHTENING IN MY STOMACH, WONDERING IF SOMETHING COULD BE WRONG, BUT TRYING TO TELL MYSELF AT THE SAME TIME, IT COULDN'T BE, I FELT FINE. AFTER THE SECOND MAMMOGRAM, JOHN HUTTON, THE WHITE HOUSE DOCTOR, CAME BACK IN THE ROOM, ASKED THE NURSE TO LEAVE, AND HE SAID TO ME

THE WORDS THAT THOUSANDS OF WOMEN HAVE HEARD -- "THEY THINK THEY'VE FOUND SOMETHING."

-- AND I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING TO THE WOMEN OF THIS COUNTRY. I KNOW HOW HEARING THE WORD "CANCER" OR "MALIGNANCY" CAN JUST FREEZE YOU WITH FEAR. BUT THAT FEAR SHOULD NEVER KEEP YOU FROM FACING UP TO THE NEED FOR MAMMOGRAMS. MEDICAL SCIENCE IS SO ADVANCED TODAY. YOU HAVE CHOICES IF YOU GET THAT MAMMOGRAM EARLY ENOUGH, AND I MADE THE CHOICE THAT I FELT WAS RIGHT FOR ME.

-- THOSE WORDS, CANCER OR MALIGNANCY, DON'T HAVE TO MEAN THE WORST IN THIS DAY AND AGE. EVEN THE WORD, MASTECTOMY, IS NOT AS SCARY TO ME AS IT ONCE WAS. YOU CAN STILL LEAD A MARVELOUS AND FULL LIFE. YOU CAN STILL FEEL GREAT. YOU CAN STILL BE FEMININE. NOTHING BASIC TO LIFE OR LOVE OR EXCITEMENT NEED CHANGE AT ALL.

-- AND I ALSO HAVE A MESSAGE FOR THE HUSBAND OR BOYFRIEND OF THE WOMAN WHO HAS BREAST CANCER. SHE NEEDS YOU. YOU CAN HELP HER SO MUCH. YOU CAN MAKE SUCH A DIFFERENCE IN HER RECOVERY AND IN HER OUTLOOK.

RONNIE WAS SO CARING AND SUPPORTIVE. HE WAS THERE FOR ME AND HIS LOVE MADE IT ALL SO MUCH EASIER. I CAN ONLY HOPE AND PRAY OTHER WOMEN RECEIVE SIMILAR UNDERSTANDING.

-- I'VE THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT WHAT FINAL THOUGHT I SHOULD LEAVE WITH WOMEN TODAY. AND I DECIDED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE A WOMAN WHO'S HAD BREAST CANCER CAN GIVE TO ANOTHER WOMAN IS THIS -- I FEEL GREAT AND I AM HAPPY.

-- THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME BE PART OF THIS LUNCHEON AND THIS CAUSE.

#