

Cancer Survivor Celebration
May 3, 2012, 4:30
CTR Building

1. Good afternoon. Is everyone having a great time?
Thank you for being here.
2. First, would you do a big favor for me? Would you join me in thanking Dr. Don Miller, all the doctors, nurses, technicians – everyone who is part of our great James Graham Brown Cancer Center? Let's thank them for all they do every day of the week.
3. Derby is something special, isn't it? You've heard the expression, "We party three weeks for a two-minute horse race."
4. I've said before, while there are hundreds of Derby events, my two favorite events are the Cancer Survivors Celebration and the Julep Ball.
5. Today's Derby activity is a celebration of you. Cancer survivors and your families.
 - a. It is you who encourage us.

- b. It is you who inspire us.
 - c. It is you who drive what we do every day in our quest to find answers to cancer.
6. You heard the words that no one ever wants to hear – “I’m sorry, you have cancer.” You have fought the fight. It’s a tough fight.
 7. But you have not given up. You have faced the challenge and we are here today to celebrate you and to thank you.
 8. One of my many stops in higher education was at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I worked for an inspiration leader who, on Martin Luther King weekend in 1998, heard the words, “You have cancer.” He fought the fight but he was not so fortunate.
 9. This was the first time that I faced what cancer means, up close and personal.
 10. I also remember that while living in North Carolina I learned a lot about Jimmy Valvano and the Jimmy V Foundation. You remember Coach V – coach of the North Carolina State Wolfpack – diagnosed with cancer, had to give up coaching toward the end of the

season. The last game of the year he came to mid court at half time and talked about his fight. The next week Coach V was at Duke to receive a cancer treatment and one of the other patients said to Jimmy V, “You’re an inspiration. Don’t give up, don’t ever give up.”

11. Because you haven’t given up, because you’ve never given up, we won’t give up either. Despite budget cuts and cuts in funding for indigent care in our community, we will continue to fight the fight and find answers for cancer every day at the James Graham Brown Cancer Center.
12. Last year I mentioned to you last year our most recent experience – my sister, diagnosed with advance colon and liver cancer. She’s been fighting the fight for over a year – 18 48-hour chemo treatments, radiation implants, chemo blast – but she, like you, will never give up.
13. God Bless each and every one of you.