

The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “American Cancer Society's Communicator of Hope Award; New York City - 12/1/1976” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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COMMUNICATOR OF HOPE AWARD

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1976

KNOWING MY MASTECTOMY

HELPED SAVE LIVES

AND REDUCE FEAR

~~my~~ *great* *Tremendous*
BROUGHT ME STRENGTH AND HOPE,

AND IT HAS BEEN A VERY SPECIAL PRIVILEGE

TO SHARE THAT HOPE WITH OTHERS.

BREAST CANCER IS SUCH A PERSONAL

AND EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE

FOR ANY WOMAN NO MATTER WHAT HER AGE.

Fortunately

I HAD THE ADVANTAGE

OF BEING MARRIED TO A VERY FINE MAN

AND HAVING FOUR LOVELY CHILDREN.

THEY HELPED ME THROUGH THE DIFFICULTIES

OF REALIZING WHAT I HAD TO FACE IN LIFE.

And they have never let me down —
I'm proud to say I'm still
their favorite girl —

WHAT I HAD TO ACCEPT

WAS THAT I HAD ^{had} CANCER

AND THAT IT ^{Possibly} COULD REOCCUR

AT ANY TIME.

I HAD TO LEARN TO LIVE

WITH THE INSIDIOUS DISEASE

WE ARE TRYING TO CONQUEOR

AND WHICH TAKES SO MANY LIVES.

FACING UP TO THIS REALITY
BECOMES A DAILY FACT OF LIFE
FOR ALL CANCER PATIENTS.

But it is something I have never
dwelled on or let it preoccupy
my mind from my many
other interests or projects in life

BECAUSE SO MANY HUNDREDS

OF THOUSANDS OF WOMEN

IN THE WORLD HAVE BREAST CANCER,

I FELT I HAD TO SHARE

MY EXPERIENCE WITH THEM,

SO THAT THEY WOULD TAKE PRECAUTIONS. *for them selves-*

flow ever'

IN MY TRAVELS AS FIRST LADY,

MANY WOMEN WHO HAD HAD MASTECTOMIES --

SOME 25 OR 30 YEARS AGO --

SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH ME.

This was most assuring —

THE SHARING OF THIS EMOTIONAL
AND FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE
WITH OTHER BREAST CANCER PATIENTS
HAS COMMUNICATED HOPE TO ME.

I ACCEPT THIS HONOR

AND YOUR GRACIOUS COMMENTS

WITH GRATITUDE TO ALL

WHO HELPED ME FACE UP TO ~~CANCER~~ my

In fact you &
the media gave
me tremendous hope
right from my
hospital bed
where I viewed
on television
the lives of
my problem

MY HOPE TODAY

IS THAT THE FIGHT

TO ALERT WOMEN

TO THE NEED FOR SELF-CARE

MOVES AHEAD VIGOROUSLY.

I CHALLENGE THOSE OF YOU

IN THE MEDIA

TO USE YOUR TALENTS *constantly*

TO BATTLE IGNORANCE AND FEAR

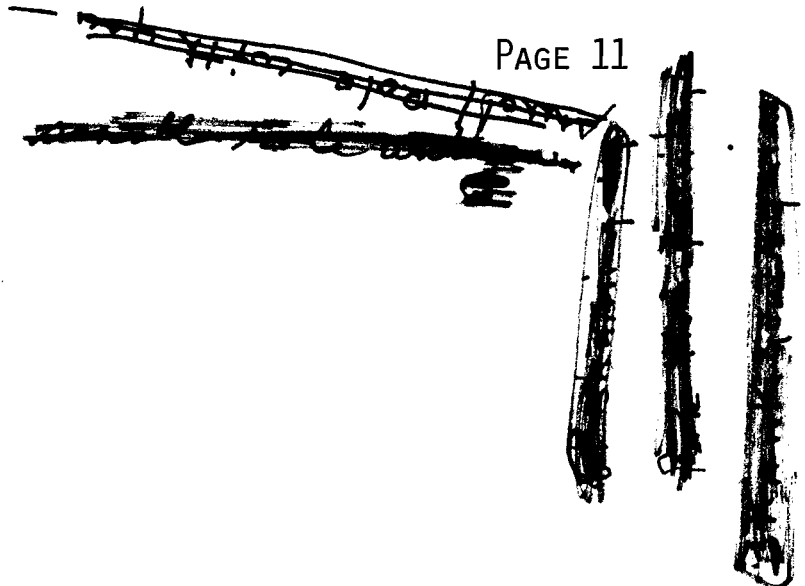
ABOUT BREAST CANCER. *or any form of cancer*

TOO MANY WOMEN STILL DIE,
BECAUSE FEAR DELAYS DIAGNOSIS
AND TREATMENT.

SO MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE,

But ~~AND~~ WE ALL CAN BE
COMMUNICATORS OF HOPE.

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~



This is the least we can do
So let's get on with the job
and educate all these we can.

Our work has only begun!

thank you again for the privilege
of sharing my small role with you.

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