

Advocacy Center

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Advocate Spotlight on Bill Doss

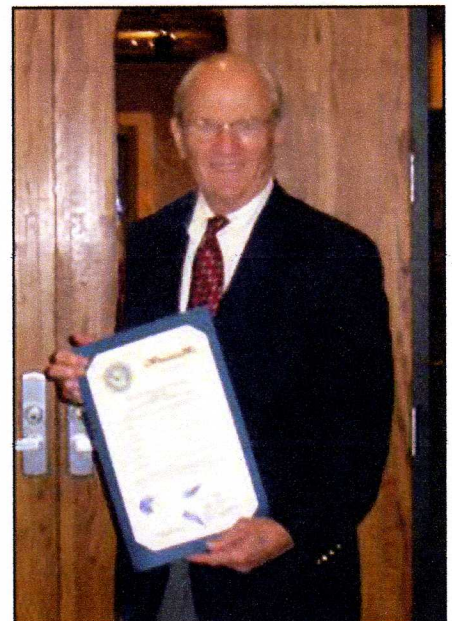
This month's *AWARE* spotlight shines on Bill Doss of the California Prostate Cancer Coalition.

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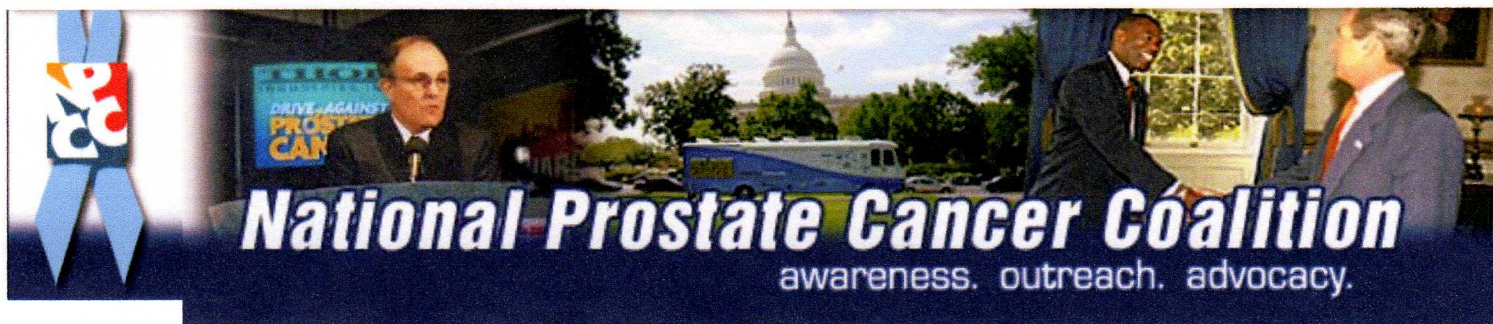
Bill's life changed in November of 2001. He had been diligently tracking his PSA levels in the early 1990s. "When it started to climb, I saw my doctor. He said to come back in a year, but I should have gone back in six months. It turned out I had cancer, and it began to progress over that year."

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By James Ullrich | NPCC | 08.07.2007



Bill Doss leaves the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors after successfully obtaining a proclamation declaring September Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in the state of California.



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Bill was born and raised in California and attended Loyola University in Los Angeles. After graduation, he married his high school sweetheart, Darlene, before following in his father's footsteps and joining the service. Military service had been a tradition in his family, as his father was a "doughboy" infantryman during World War I. Bill became an Air Force pilot during the height of the Cold War, traveling around the world on assignment, from France to Bangkok to Vietnam.

He led a successful career and eventually became an accident investigator and Director of Flight Safety for Pan Am Airways while continuing to fly with the Air Force Reserve. Bill's aviation career covered more than 42 years, and he retired from the Air Force after 30 years of service.

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After receiving the diagnosis, Bill "went through what every guy goes through, wondering what can I do?" He looked for helpful resources, and became involved with advocacy and awareness on behalf of other men with prostate cancer.

He secured a generous grant from Astra Zeneca to help fund the advocacy groups, and for the last two years, has persuaded Governor Schwarzenegger to designate September as Prostate Cancer Awareness month in the state of California. Additionally, Bill has obtained a number of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month proclamations from local government bodies across the state, and this year, he persuaded Governor Schwarzenegger to designate the week before Father's Day as Men's Health Week.

Today, Bill's disease is in remission, though he continues to remain active in four support groups in the greater Sacramento area alone, and is known as an extraordinary advocate for prostate cancer patients throughout Northern California. He spends his free time visiting his three daughters and five grandchildren with Darlene, his wife of 52 years.

If you would like to reach Bill with questions or to learn how you can become a prostate cancer advocate, feel free to email him at wdoss@surewest.net.

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