



BOARD DECLARES SEPTEMBER 2001 AS PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

September 24, 2001

For Immediate Release

Christiansburg, Virginia – At its September 10 meeting, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors unanimously proclaimed September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Montgomery County.

The Board's resolution "urge(d) all men in Montgomery County to become aware of their own risks of prostate cancer, talk to their health care providers about prostate cancer, get screened for the disease whenever appropriate, and encourage all residents to become involved in the war on prostate cancer through this County's education and advocacy initiatives."

The Board recognized further that :

- In 2001 approximately 198,000 men in the United States will learn they have prostate cancer, and across the nation, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer in men;
- Approximately 31,500 men will lose their lives to this disease this year, and one in six men in the nation are at risk of prostate cancer during their lifetimes;
- Approximately 25 percent of prostate cancer occurs in men under the age of 65, during their prime years at work;
- African American families are disproportionately affected and African American men have the highest prostate cancer incidence and mortality rates in the world;
- Prostate cancer has accounted, on average, for 15 percent of the nation's cancer burden and 15 percent of male cancer deaths; it has received, on average, only about 5 percent of the funds this nation commits to cancer research;
- Research suggests that men could reduce their risk of prostate cancer mortality if they followed recommended prostate cancer screening guidelines, including examination by a health care provider; and
- Increased awareness and use of early detection practices by men is essential to controlling prostate cancer.

September is National Prostate Cancer Awareness month. This local educational initiative is headed by Dr. Dennis Garvin, Dr. Jeff Jones and the Department of Urology at Lewis-Gale Clinic.

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