



## Nancy G. Brinker

Nancy G. Brinker is regarded as the leader of the global breast cancer movement. Her journey began with a simple promise to her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would do everything possible to end the shame, pain, fear and hopelessness caused by this disease. In one generation, the organization that bears Susan's name has changed the world.

Shortly after Susan's death from breast cancer at the age of 36, Brinker founded Susan G. Komen® in 1982. By refusing to accept the silence, stigma and cultural taboos that kept “cancer” out of the public discourse until that time, she opened the door to a new grass roots movement that put women’s health in the spotlight and pulled down barriers to research, education, care and treatment for all. In 2009, President Barack Obama honored her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom -- the nation's highest civilian honor-- for her brave, passionate and pioneering work fighting on the front lines of the breast cancer battle. Ambassador Brinker has served every President, in some capacity, since Ronald Reagan.

Her creativity in raising awareness led to programs that at the time were revolutionary: In 1983, she founded the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, which is now the world's largest and most successful education and fundraising event for breast cancer. She also pioneered cause-related marketing, allowing millions to participate in the fight against breast cancer through businesses that share Komen's commitment to end the disease forever. Susan G. Komen’s unwavering advocacy for breast cancer survivors led to new legislation and greater government research funding. To date, the organization has invested more than \$2.2 billion in breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment in more than 30 countries worldwide.

Brinker's determination to create a world without breast cancer is matched by her passion for enlisting every segment of society - from leaders to citizens - to participate in the battle. In 2009, she was named **Goodwill Ambassador for Cancer Control for the United Nations' World Health Organization**, where she continues her mission to put cancer control at the top of the world health agenda.

In 2010, Brinker released her New York Times best-selling memoir, *Promise Me*, an inspirational story of her transformation from bereaved sister to the undisputed leader of the ongoing international movement to end breast cancer. She was named one of **TIME magazine's "100 Most Influential People"** in 2008. From 2001 - 2003, she served as **U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Hungary** and from 2007-2009 as **U.S. Chief of Protocol**, where she traveled with the President and staff on overseas visits and was responsible for overseeing all protocol matters for visiting heads of state. There she created the “**Experience America**” program, where the Diplomatic Corps traveled throughout the United States to meet with business and civic leaders. In 2008, President George W. Bush appointed her to The Kennedy Center Board of Trustees.

Brinker is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has received numerous accolades for her global work, including the prestigious **Mary Woodard Lasker Award for Public Service**, the **Champions of Excellence Award** presented by the **Centers for Disease Control**, the **Porter Prize presented by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health**, the **Forbes Trailblazer Award**, **Ladies Home Journal's 100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century**, **Reader’s Digest 100 Most Trusted People**, and **Biography Magazine's 25 Most Powerful Women in America**. She is a co-founder of the Pink Ribbon-Red Ribbon Initiative.