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News Release

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More Than 200 Cancer Survivors to be Recognized for Treatment Milestone June 4 at CTCA's 15th Annual "Celebrate Life" Event

Tulsa, Okla. – On June 4 more than 200 tenacious survivors will be honored for their personal triumphs over cancer, five years after first receiving treatment at Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) at Southwestern Regional Medical Center in Tulsa. The hospital will host its 15th annual "Celebrate Life" event to honor 217 five-year cancer survivors.

"Celebrate Life' highlights a milestone in our patients' fight against cancer," said Steve Mackin, president and CEO at CTCA in Tulsa. "When a patient comes to CTCA, we commit to fight their battle with them. This event is an important tradition that commemorates their journey of hope and healing in a meaningful way."

CTCA, which is celebrating 20 years in Tulsa this year, sees patients from 44 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands and expects many of the survivors to return June 4 to celebrate their milestone. The "Celebrate Life" event will be held just two days before the June 6 National Cancer Survivor's Day.

"Believe!" is the theme for the CTCA event, "because it describes the strong faith our patients have in themselves to beat the disease and the possibility to be whole again," added Mackin.

The event will kick off with a tree planting ceremony and white dove release, both open to the public, at 9:45 a.m. in the courtyard of the hospital at 10109 E. 79th St. The names of the celebrants will be added to brass leaves on the "Tree of Life" in the hospital's lobby.

Following the outdoor ceremony, the five-year survivors and their caregivers will participate in "Hope Rounds" from 10:45-11:30 a.m. During this special time, celebrants will receive commemorative lapel pins – one for themselves and one to share in an encouraging way as a symbolic transfer of hope to patients currently undergoing treatment inside the hospital.

"The 'Hope Rounds' portion of the event is one of my favorite parts of 'Celebrate Life,'" added Mackin. "It creates a powerful connection between the survivor who has made it through the fight and the patient who is currently in treatment and in the midst of fighting."

For more information on "Celebrate Life," please contact Christie Enochs at (918) 286-5569.

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About Cancer Treatment Centers of America®

Founded in 1988, Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) provides a comprehensive, patient-centered treatment model that fully integrates traditional, state-of-the-art medical treatments with scientifically supported complementary therapies such as nutrition, naturopathic medicine, psychological counseling, physical therapy and spiritual support to meet the special, whole-person needs of advanced stage cancer patients. With a network of cancer treatment hospitals and community oncology programs in Arizona, Illinois, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Washington, CTCA encourages patients and their families to participate in treatment decisions with its Patient Empowered CareSM model. For more information about Cancer Treatment Centers of America, go to cancercenter.com.