



## In The News....

LIVESTRONG Day May 13th SC Event  
**"UNITE-Celebrate Survival"**  
sponsored by

The Brain Tumor Awareness Organization  
Honoring brain tumor "Warriors" and "Angels" with our  
**2nd Annual Brain Tumor Vigil**  
attended by many Upstate Cancer Survivors.  
Thanks to **The Channel** for hosting this great event!

### Kennedy's surgeon viewed as 'thought leader'

*The Brain Tumor Awareness Organization sends its message of hope and encouragement from founder Keith Houston who is a survivor thanks to Duke!*

### U.S. Senate Hearing on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions

Lead by Senator Ted Kennedy  
Testimonies by Elizabeth Edwards,  
Lance Armstrong and Steve Case (AOL and Accelerated Brain Cancer Cure)

### The National Brain Tumor Foundation and The Brain Tumor Society merge....bi-coastal offices remain.

New internet community gives opportunity to connect to families and non-profits of need...  
Check out [Reality Charities](#)

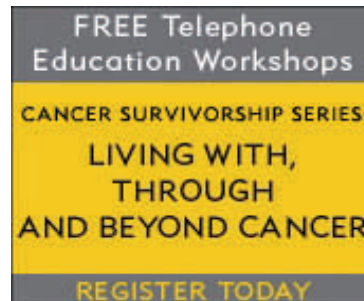
*For the first time in history, 3 networks join together to further cancer research*  
**Stand Up To Cancer!**  
*Airing September 5, 2008 8 pm EST*

Fertile Hope is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing reproductive information, support and hope to cancer patients and survivors whose medical treatments present the risk of infertility.

## Support Our Awareness Efforts!

### Donations via PayPal

<form  
action="https://ww



Call 1-866-467-7205



### Advocate, Advocate, Advocate

presentation by  
Brendan Burns-LAF  
Grassroots Manager  
South Carolina Cancer Alliance

## Mark Your Calendar:

### May is National Brain Tumor Awareness Month

National Cancer Survivors Day  
June 1st, 2008

The Patient Advocate Foundation's  
9th Annual Patient Congress  
June 25-26, 2008

ABC, NBC and CBS UNITE  
STAND UP TO CANCER  
Airs on September 5, 2008  
at 8 pm EST

### The 6th Annual Survivorship Series: Living With, Through and Beyond Cancer

Part 3-Survivors Too: Family, Friends and Loved Ones  
June 24, 2008 1:30-2:30 pm

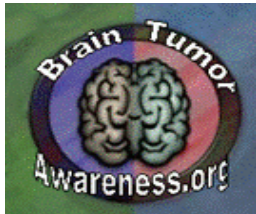
### **BTAO needs your help!**

Online volunteers, webmasters, state advocates, committee members, fund-raising participants and business supporters are all needed to participate via our website to build a much needed network of support for those we serve!

### **Earn Volunteer Service Hours:**

- ▷ Research
- ▷ Forum posts
- ▷ Emails fundraising tools to your friends!
- ▷ Participate in our awareness events!

Contact us!



## *Editorial*

The House of Representatives passes “National Brain Tumor Awareness Month” for the month of May. Ironically, one of the champions of healthcare-Senator Ted Kennedy was diagnosed with a malignant parietal lobe brain tumor. Everyone in the brain tumor community has reacted with support and concern for the Kennedy family as they know too well what this kind of news does to everyone involved. As much as the brain tumor community desired a venue to raise awareness and keep it alive in the media, the reality of hearing the prognosis and those familiar predictions regarding one’s outcome shook many, affecting their current survival and awakening familiar feelings and fears.

We at The Brain Tumor Awareness Organization want to remind the public as they have done with their Legislators that it is their opinion that MRIs should become the standard of care. Financially, it can save more lives than the cost factor of addressing an aggressive disease in often late stages and in need of expensive therapies. Many professionals agree that many neurological conditions can be better treated if they were diagnosed earlier than their symptoms indicate. Many of the symptoms that present are often attributed to other causes and yet, MRIs aren’t offered routinely. Brain tumors displace anyone from their life’s path and often, everyone in the individual’s family. In most cases, the family as a whole cease to be able to produce financially, contribute physically or manage emotionally while going through treatment and on to survival. Support services aren’t often available in many rural health communities leaving families without skills to address the issues or learn and apply a new approach to daily challenges. We envision a future where families can find hope, support, and an improved quality of life regardless of location, race, disability, age, or diagnosis.

Julie Houston

President

**Each year more than 200,000 individuals are diagnosed with a primary or metastatic brain tumor. Brain tumors have no socio-economic boundaries and do not discriminate among gender or ethnicity.**

***Raising Awareness is how we ensure early detection, treatment, support and survival.***