

CODE 3 FOR A CURE FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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CODE 3 FOR A CURE

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CALLING ATTENTION TO FIREFIGHTER CANCER

C3FAC Cofounder to Compete in Mayor's Race & Wellness Festival

DATE: Saturday, January 17, 2015, 7:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Wellness Park adjacent to Ruth Hardy Park
Intersection of Tachevah and Via Miraleste
Palm Springs, CA

MORE INFO: <http://www.healthyplanethealthyyoups.com>



Palm Springs, CA - Athletes and spectators attending the 4th Annual Mayor's Race and Wellness Festival will have an opportunity to witness the compelling athletic quest of Peggy Abundiz, who wears an extra 50 pounds of firefighter gear competing in various athletic events across the country. In 2001, Peggy captured the heart of America when she saved the life of a dying firefighter battling a rare form of cancer and then married him in the middle of New York's Times Square before

millions of television viewers on ABC's *Good Morning America* (GMA). The fireman she married is Lorenzo Abundiz, a Fireman's Medal of Valor Recipient who battled three different types of cancer, all caused from his firefighting career. Peggy volunteers as the Public Affairs Officer for the Code 3 for a Cure Foundation (C3FAC), a firefighter cancer organization, and represents her husband and other firefighters who can no longer compete in athletic events due to physical disabilities caused by their cancer battles. Despite two knee surgeries and wearing the extra weight of firefighter protective gear, Peggy pushes her physical limits to send out a visual message that the fire gear is not always enough to protect firefighters fully from the toxic atmospheres that cause cancer.

ABOUT CODE 3 FOR A CURE: Peggy and her husband Lorenzo formed C3FAC to assist firefighters across the nation who are battling cancer. Each year both Peggy and Lorenzo, along with a team of firefighter cancer survivors, both active and retired, drive a fire engine across America to share their personal cancer stories with fellow firefighters in order to encourage early cancer screenings. On the fire engine is an empty seat where they carry the memorial fire bell of hope & honor. The empty seat signifies the loss of a firefighter to cancer. Throughout each mission, the team collects the names of firefighters across America who have died from cancer and they perform a fire bell ceremony for them after each mission. The C3FAC team also responds to terminally ill firefighters who request to go on their last call on the CODE 3 fire engine to share their story. A major aspect of the Foundation's purpose is to provide financial assistance to firefighters across the United States who are battling cancer and facing a financial hardship. Numerous studies have proven that the risk of being diagnosed with cancer is greater among firefighters than the general population due to the toxic atmospheres to which they are exposed in the line of duty as they risk their lives to save that of others; yet many do not get the support they need when faced with a cancer diagnosis. Read more about firefighter cancer: http://www.c3fac.org/firefighter_cancer.html



CODE 3 for a CURE Documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rBnBbhSl00>