

## **California Prostate Cancer Coalition Mourns The Loss of One of Its Founders and Legendary Prostate Cancer Advocate**

We are saddened to report the passing of Stanley Mikkelsen on June 20, 2017 at the age of 88.

Stan was one of a group of individuals who in 1997 decided they would pool their talents, energy and time to join the fight to eliminate suffering and death from prostate cancer, and the California Prostate Cancer Coalition (CPCC) was born. And, until his passing, he played a major role in developing and implementing programs undertaken by CPCC.

Key among Stan's most significant contributions was the leadership role he played in the initial saving of the IMPACT program in 2003 after it was targeted for elimination by the newly elected Governor of California.

The IMProving Access, Counseling & Treatment (IMPACT) program was unique in that it provided treatment services to men diagnosed with prostate cancer but without sufficient personal health insurance coverage.

Stan led a team of CPCC members to first develop and implement a "resistance" campaign which involved rallying individuals concerned about men facing prostate cancer and informing legislators about the significant consequences of eliminating this safety net for men.

After efforts led by Stan stopped the actions to eliminate the program, it was determined to be only a temporary victory as the program faced the same threat in 2004. CPCC's actions, again led by Stan were successful in saving the program. It was then decided that a more stable solution was needed...

STAN'S COMMITMENT, FORESIGHT AND DETERMINATION CAME TO THE RESCUE!!!! He led the CPCC team in finding a legislator to sponsor a bill to put IMPACT into statute, thus providing significantly more stability for the program. SB650 was passed in 2005 after being introduced by State Senator Debra Ortiz.

From that point on, CPCC became and continues to be a significant player in the prostate cancer landscape, both statewide and nationally. Stan and the rest of the

CPCC team he led came to be known and recognized in the hallways of the Capitol in Sacramento.

From the beginning, the impetus for many platforms and initiatives came from “prompts” .... and oftentimes “shoves” from Stan. He always had our backs, and the backs of prostate cancer patients everywhere in California.

He was tireless in his desire to serve the cause... Stan was a member of the CPCC Board of Directors and CPCC Treasurer, Support Group Facilitator, President of CPCC-Advocates, American Cancer Society supporter... and he served in many other capacities.

Providing support for support groups within California was a very strong personal passion of Stan’s. We believe support groups throughout the state are stronger, better, and will continue to benefit from his actions.

Stan’s dedication and commitment to CPCC and the cause for men’s health was reflective of his life... duty and honor to all, especially his family. He was preceded in death by his wife, Valeri, after 34 years of marriage, but that loss did not deter him from enjoying and supporting his three sons, Mark, Todd, and Chris, and their families, including seven grandchildren.

Stan was “a man of determination” ..... And that phenomenon was evident in everything he did. In recent years he often commented on “getting old” .... but he never commented on “getting tired” .

His transition was quick.... Those of us involved in the battle against prostate cancer can take comfort in the fact that “HE BEAT PROSTATE CANCER” .....

REST IN PEACE, DEAR FRIEND... YOU WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US IN OUR HEARTS!!