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October 19, 2006 Thursday

Faith Fancher

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ABSTRACT

Faith Fancher was the first black woman reporter at WBR in Knoxville, Tennessee. In 1983, she came to Oakland's KTVU-Channel 2 and she was a mainstay on "The Ten O'clock News," the number one rated primetime newscast in the country. In the past, Faith also worked at NPR, CNN's Washington, D.C. office, National Black Network, and WSM-TV in Nashville, Tennessee.

Faith shared her battle with the disease in a three-part nightly series on KTVU-Channel 2 that began on television news and aired in May 1997 called "Faith's Story." The feature news segment followed Faith's journey from surgery to treatment. The series received overwhelming response and raised awareness about the breast cancer epidemic.

FULL TEXT

Faith Fancher was the first black woman reporter at WBR in Knoxville, Tennessee. In 1983, she came to Oakland's KTVU-Channel 2 and she was a mainstay on "The Ten O'clock News," the number one rated primetime newscast in the country. In the past, Faith also worked at NPR, CNN's Washington, D.C. office, National Black Network, and WSM-TV in Nashville, Tennessee.

Her Public Battle

Faith was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1997. That is when she founded Friends of Faith Inc., a nonprofit organization which is comprised of several media professionals and other volunteers who provide direct assistance to under-serve and under-insured women with breast cancer.

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The series received the American Medical Association's (AMA) International Film prize, the "Freddie," for outstanding reporting on cancer treatment. The segment was produced by Faith and co written and co reported by then-KTVU anchor Elaine Corral Kendall.

For almost seven years, Faith continued to fight breast cancer. She rejoiced when the disease went into remission and fought even harder when it came back. Throughout her ordeal, Faith never wavered in her determination and her enthusiasm to help other women diagnosed with breast cancer. She tirelessly helped to raise awareness and raise money to help grassroots programs benefit low-income women with breast cancer.

Award-winning Journalist

In addition to her AMA award, Faith received many honors, including community awards from Oakland NAACP and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. San Francisco Chapter, letters of appreciation from then-San Francisco Mayor, Honorable Willie

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Brown Jr., former Oakland Mayor, the Honorable Elihu Harris, journalism awards from the Scripps-Howard Foundation, and Bay Area Black Media Coalition.

Faith Fancher graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in education and English from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1972. Prior to college, She attended St. Francis de Salle Boarding School for Girls in Powhatan, Virginia.

Faith's Legacy

Faith Fancher was an inspiration to all. We miss her terribly since her death in October 2003. But Friends of Faith, Inc. is committed to carrying on the important work of our founder and our dear sister. We are working even harder to raise more money for women with breast cancer. It is our dream that Friends of Faith, Inc. will eventually become a national organization that serve women with breast cancer across America.

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