Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

Rick Scott Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS State Surgeon General & Secretary

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Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECOGNIZES CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

TALLAHASSEE—The Florida Department of Health recognizes National Cancer Survivors Day as an opportunity to celebrate and support Florida's cancer survivors, their caregivers and healthcare professionals.

"Today we celebrate Florida's cancer survivors and their families," said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. "Our state remains committed to finding more cancer cures as we work to prevent cancer in the first place."

According to the 2013 Florida Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, Florida is home to more than 2 million cancer survivors. Florida has a comprehensive state cancer plan to address cancer and the unique needs of cancer survivors. Created by the Governor's Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council, the plan has identified five themes and 15 goals to move cancer care forward throughout the state. One of the priority goals underscores the importance of supporting survivors.

Earlier this year, the department awarded four cancer centers the first ever distinction as state-designated Cancer Centers of Excellence. In addition, in 2014 Governor Rick Scott and the Florida legislature allocated \$80 million to enhance the quality and competitiveness of cancer care and research in Florida through the Florida Consortium of National Cancer Institute Centers Program. As cancer care in Florida advances and health outcomes improve the number of survivors in our state will continue to increase.

To read the complete Florida Cancer Control and Research Plan visit, www.ccrab.org/media/12538/fcc report2015 singlev51-2.pdf.

To learn more about Cancer Centers of Excellence visit, <u>www.floridahealth.gov/providerand-partner-resources/research/cancer-center-of-excellence-award.html</u>.

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