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**PRESIDENT SIGNS PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER
NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.**

Washington DC – *September 3, 2009*. In recognizing the importance of raising awareness about ovarian cancer, President Obama issued a proclamation Tuesday, September 1, designating September National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. The Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund and the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition initiated the process in a letter sent to President Obama (whose mother died of ovarian cancer), joining in an effort to remind women that ovarian cancer remains the deadliest of gynecologic cancers and that early detection is the best chance of surviving the disease.

“This month, we recommit to supporting the women who continue to battle valiantly against this malady as well as all families who are affected,” the Proclamation asserts. “By learning more about risk factors and maintaining regular physician consultations, women have their best chance of early detection of ovarian cancer.”

Nationally, hundreds of grass-roots efforts are underway to encourage people to wear teal on Friday, September 4, as a symbolic gesture of solidarity with this cause. Since fewer than 20% of ovarian cancer cases are diagnosed in the early stages, when survival rates are highest, 15,000 women will die each year from this disease. Unfortunately, since many of the symptoms of ovarian cancer often mimic other, less life threatening diseases, an early diagnosis may be overlooked. By helping women to recognize the symptoms, and monitor their persistency, women can become stronger advocates for their own health. Symptoms include: bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, and urinary urgency or frequency.

The CEOs of the three major ovarian cancer groups working with the White House on the President’s proclamation noted that in the more than 30 years since the War on Cancer was declared, ovarian cancer mortality rates have not significantly improved. The President’s proclamation underscores this important effort to help educate women and their physicians, and is a major step in helping us draw national attention to ovarian cancer and our commitment to conquering this disease.

There is no definitive test for ovarian cancer, so experts suggest a combination of pelvic/rectal exam, a CA-125 blood test and a transvaginal ultrasound.

About the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance

Established in 1997, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance is the foremost advocate for ovarian cancer in the United States. Until there is a cure for the disease, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, a 501(c)(3) organization, leads the national initiative to conquer ovarian cancer by uniting individuals and organizations at the local, state, and national levels to advance ovarian cancer research in the quest for early detection tests, improved health care practices, and development of life-saving treatment protocols.

For more information on this topic or to schedule an interview, please contact Georgi Morales via email at gmorales@ovariancancer.org or call (202)331-1332. You can also visit the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance at www.ovariancancer.org, the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund at www.ocrf.org and the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition at www.ovarian.org.