



JOINT STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF WILLIAM "BILL" ARNOLD

October 1, 2021



The Board of Directors for the ADAP Advocacy Association and the Community Access National Network (CANN) issued the following joint statement in response to the passing of the [Lion of Modern-Day HIV/AIDS Advocacy](#), William "Bill" Arnold.

On Wednesday, September 29th at approximately 8:06 PM EST, Bill left this Earth as gracefully as he lived his life on it for his eighty-three years. Bill passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by Michael Pickering (his partner), Sally (his sister), Sue (his niece), and Lieden (his dog). It is truly a great loss for us, and our community.

Speaking on behalf of the ADAP Advocacy Association, Brandon M. Macsata summarized, "Dating back to the launch of the National ADAP Working Group and the very first ADAP-earmarked appropriations, Bill brought out the best in everyone who surrounded him, doing so with minimal effort because he embodied fairness and goodness. His ability to maintain a balanced perspective on even the most controversial, complex issues was a trait unique *only* to him. And Bill's institutional knowledge about the forty-year fight to end the HIV epidemic is unmatched, and as such his passing has left a giant hole in the hearts of the lives he personally touched. Fortunately, Bill's legacy ensured a new generation of leaders carried the torch. He was relentless in recruiting new faces to the fight, including myself and others who serve on our board of directors, as well as the leadership of numerous other national, state, and local groups. He insisted that the voice of persons living with HIV/AIDS should always be at the table and the center of any discussion. It is now our responsibility to carry his torch."

Speaking on behalf of the Community Access National Network, Board Chair Kathie Hiers said, "I've been sitting here thinking about Bill and reflecting on all of the many ways he brought our diverse community together. In the 90s, Bill introduced me to the national HIV scene when he invited me to co-host an ADAP conference with him. He was so passionate about everyone having access to lifesaving meds. Many of us carried on the fight, but Bill was always at the forefront. What a warrior for so many years! In the beginning days of the Southern AIDS Coalition, Bill was an invaluable resource as we tried to correct the inequities and inadequacies of the Ryan White funding distribution that was killing people, particularly in the South. Our community suffered a loss. Bill's shoes will be tough to fill. We all need to work a little harder."

In lieu of flowers, Bill's family has requested donations be made to the Community Access National Network online <https://www.hiv-hcv-watch.com/donate>.