

Rudy Bess, Founding Director - The Hope Light Foundation St. Louis, MO

Rudy Bess is the Founding Director of The Hope Light Foundation that is a nonprofit public charity dedicated to communicating awareness to help people detect cancer early. He attended Draughon's Business College, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, has a certificate in Evidence-Based Public Health from St. Louis University and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Science from Tarkio College.



Rudy served four years in the United States Air Force and retired from McDonnell Douglas Corporation (MDC)/The Boeing Company after 36 years. At MDC/Boeing, he was responsible for processes, skills and department management and for designing, developing and maintaining military aircraft logistics products, services and systems throughout North America, Europe, the Mid East and the Far East. At retirement, He was manager of skills and education.

Rudy and his wife Beverly are known for founding The Hope Light Foundation in 2005 to help fight cancer. Since 2005, Rudy has been leading The Hope Light Foundation in researching and analyzing cancer related health data to determine target communities for focusing the Foundation's cancer related outreach activities.

Rudy and Beverly also built the worlds first lighthouse designed, built and dedicated to the fight against cancer, a.k.a. Hope Light, in Metropolis, Illinois on the bank of the Ohio River. Since its construction and dedication in 2014, it has become an "official" Illinois State Attraction.

Rudy is active in promoting early cancer detection through social media and by working with state cancer consortiums, national and local cancer organizations and community health organizations. In 2008, Rudy organized and chaired the Southern Illinois Cancer Partnership that, in 2010, transitioned into the reinstated state-level Illinois Partnership for Cancer Prevention and Control that later became known as the Illinois Cancer Partnership.

Rudy is Co-Chairman of the Illinois Cancer Partnership and is a member of state cancer consortiums in Kentucky and Missouri. He is on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) Foundation, Chairman of the Hazelwood, Missouri Board of Adjustment and the Hazelwood Board of Architectural Review and is past chairman of the Hazelwood Board of Appeals.

Rudy was born in Paducah, Kentucky, raised in Metropolis, Illinois and currently resides in Hazelwood, Missouri with his wife Beverly.