Susan Love, surgeon who crusaded against breast cancer, dies at 75

By RICHARD L. MURPHY

Staff Writer

Susan Love, 71, the cancer researcher and breast surgeon who crusaded against the disease and won a worldwide following while treating thousands of women, died Friday in Houston. She had been diagnosed with breast cancer again in May and had been undergoing treatment for the disease, which had recurred after a 15-year remission.

Dr. Love was the medical director of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, a research group that was formed after she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1978. She was the founder of the National Breast Cancer Coalition and the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Dr. Love was a breast surgeon at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for 15 years and was known for her work in breast reconstruction after mastectomy.

Dr. Love was born in Houston on Nov. 17, 1928, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Love. She attended colleges in Houston and Chicago and received her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston in 1956.

Dr. Love was an active member of the American Cancer Society, the American Society for Clinical Oncology and the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology.

She was married to Dr. James W. Love, a medical oncologist, for 50 years. He died in 1998.

In a telephone interview, Dr. Love said she was feeling better after undergoing chemotherapy and was no longer in pain.

Dr. Love, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1978, said she was surprised to learn she had the disease.

Dr. Love said she was determined to learn more about the disease and how to treat it.

Dr. Love's career began in 1956 when she was hired as a medical resident at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. She later became the medical director of the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

She was a research professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and a professor of surgery at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she was named the Harriet Lane Professor of Surgery in 1990.

Dr. Love was named the chairman of the National Institute of Cancer Research in 1991 and was named the director of the National Cancer Institute in 1993.

Dr. Love served as the director of the National Cancer Institute from 1993 to 1998.

In 1998, she was named the chairman of the National Institute of Cancer Research, a position she held until 2001.

Dr. Love was named the director of the National Cancer Institute in 2001 and served in that position until 2006.

Dr. Love was named the director of the National Cancer Institute in 2006 and served in that position until 2011.

Dr. Love was named the chairman of the National Institute of Cancer Research in 2011 and was named the director of the National Cancer Institute in 2016.

In 2016, she was named the chairwoman of the National Institute of Cancer Research.