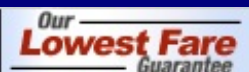


- Reservations ▶
- Travel Information ▶
- Fare Sales & Special Offers ▶
- AAdvantage® ▶
- Products & Gifts ▶
- Business Programs & Agency Reference ▶
- About Us ▶

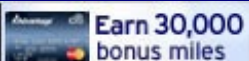
Featuring:

 Up to 30% Savings + Miles

 Our **Lowest Fare** Guarantee

 **20% Discount** buy miles

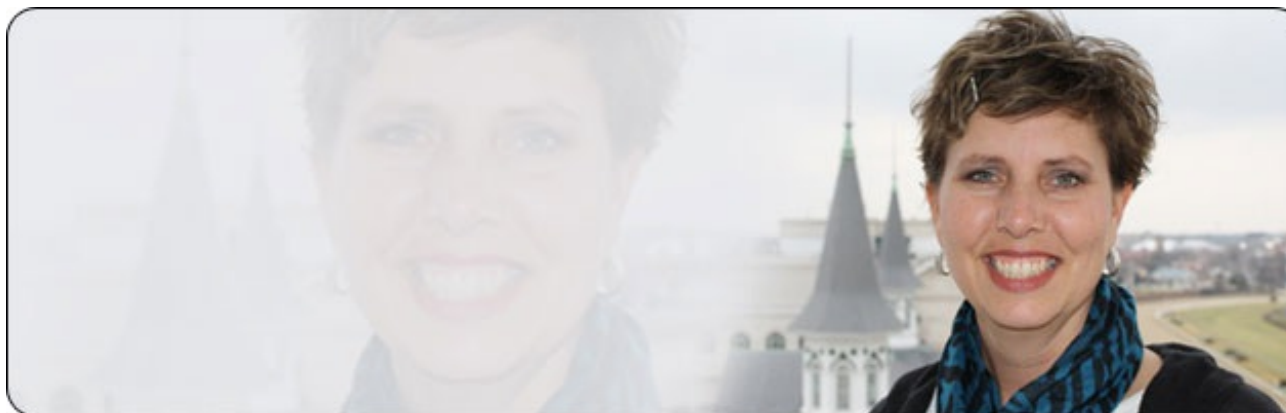
 BOOK A TRIP AND GET A PHOTO BOOK

 Earn 30,000 bonus miles

Personal Testimonials

AA.com/women

HOME FEATURES DESTINATIONS KOMEN REWARDS EVENTS BOOK NOW



[Komen Home](#) | [Find a Race at Komen.org*](#) | [Miles for the Cure™](#)

The Winner's Circle By Haley Shapley

All bets were for Churchill Downs' Tricia Amburgey to win her battle with breast cancer, no matter the odds.

As Tricia Amburgey rounded the bend of the Survivors Parade on Kentucky Oaks Day at Churchill Downs last year, she was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support in the crowd.

"I was already exhausted just from working, the chemo, I still had nausea, I had no hair, I'd lost all my fingernails, but I walked around that corner and just saw all those people wearing pink," she says. "First of all, the roar of the crowd and then the hush of the crowd, it just made all my pain, all my self-pity go away. It felt like all those people were looking at me. They were all there to say, 'It's going to be okay.'"

If they weren't all looking at Amburgey, they should've been — it's largely because of her that the event happened in the first place.

The vice president of sales at Churchill Downs, Amburgey was beginning another ordinary day back in late 2008 when she walked into her bathroom and felt like she had run into the door. She looked down and realized she hadn't hit anything — later, she found out that the strange sensation was the result of a stage 3 tumor breaking through the breast wall. Because the cancer was advanced, Amburgey, 38 at the time, underwent aggressive treatment, immediately having a double mastectomy, then eight chemotherapy treatments every other week and 36 consecutive radiation treatments.

"Unfortunately, I was at work when I got the news. I totally thought they were going to say it was benign, that it was just a cyst,"

Book Your Destination

From:

To:

Departure Date:

Jan 1

All Day

Return Date:

Jan 1

All Day

Number of Passengers: 1

☒ Round-Trip ☐ One-Way

Promotion Code:

BOOK NOW

Tell Us About Your
FAVORITES

she says. "I was not mentally prepared — I was driving home, saying aloud to myself, 'I have breast cancer.' I'm also an extremely positive, hopeful person, so my next thought was, 'Okay, I'll get through this and move on.'"

She took that fighter attitude to her job, opting to work as much as she could. "I chose to have chemo treatments on Fridays so that I wouldn't miss much work because I love what I do and work helped me get out of bed," Amburgey says. As a sign of support for the 18-year company veteran, her small department of four started wearing pink on Fridays. Soon, the entire company was sporting pink on her chemo days, including staff at the three other racetracks owned by Churchill Downs. "It was touching to me, especially the men," she says. "Some of them literally went out and bought their first pink piece of clothing."

And so that sea of pink she saw at the Survivors Parade was familiar, but no less meaningful. The company had been wanting to partner with a female-oriented charity for the annual Kentucky Oaks, the sister event of the Kentucky Derby, and with Amburgey's battle with breast cancer, Susan G. Komen for the Cure became the natural choice. They went a step further, adding on the Survivors Parade, to honor, as Amburgey says, "the extremely strong, independent women who are proud to show their scars, that they went through this battle and survived, and are better for it."

None are stronger or more independent than Amburgey herself. "There was a lady at work who had to have her appendix out. I had my double mastectomy, and I came back to work before she did. She called me and said, 'You have to go home, you're making me look bad,'" Amburgey remembers with a laugh. "I could've laid in bed, but me being back in the office helped me get through it. Find what your strength is — I didn't know how strong I was until I was able to get through."



[Airline Tickets](#) | [AA Careers](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Legal](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [Customer Service and Contingency Plans](#) | [Browser Compatibility](#) | [Site Map](#)

