Third District Congressional Candidate Diagnosed with Cancer

(AP) - The retired Nebraska Army National Guard soldier who is running for the U.S. House in western Nebraska is also battling cancer.

Retired Colonel Tom Brewer told the Omaha World-Herald he was diagnosed with leukemia shortly before he decided to challenge Representative Adrian Smith in the Republican primary for Nebraska's 3rd District.

Brewer says doctors caught the cancer early and believe it is very treatable, so he decided to go forward with the campaign.

Brewer says he plans to continue campaigning while undergoing six weeks of chemotherapy.

The type of cancer Brewer has may be linked to his 36-year military career. The federal Veterans Affairs Department says this kind of "hairy cell leukemia" has been linked to certain herbicides the military has used.

Associated Press