

ROD RODDY: Thanks & farewell to ENQUIRER readers

**EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW**

THE PRICE IS RIGHT" announcer Rod Roddy — known for his cheerful "Come On Down!" call to contestants, has lost a brave battle with cancer. But even in the midst of his fight for life, he invited The ENQUIRER to come down to his hospital room at the Century City Hospital in California to thank our readers for their love and support.

"Life was good to me," the beloved 66-year-old said in an exclusive interview, his eyes still full of tears.

"I have wonderful friends, and I've been incredibly successful in a difficult business, and lived every minute of it.

"I wish it all wasn't ending so soon but it was a hell of a ride — and I could kick myself for not taking better care of myself.

"But I want to thank The ENQUIRER readers for all their love and best wishes over the last few years. You've made it so much easier and I bless you." And when he spoke to

CHEERFUL as always, the beloved announcer of "The Price Is Right" (inset) talks to The ENQUIRER from his hospital bed.



The ENQUIRER on October 24, he planned to use the time he had left to save others!

The announcer, who worked for nearly two decades with Bob Barker on the hit game show,

spoke openly about his illness to get the word out about early detection and hopefully spare others the agony of colon cancer.

"I wouldn't be where I am today," he said sadly, gesturing to his VIP hospital

suite, "if only I had gotten a colonoscopy when I was 50 years old, as doctors recommend."

Roddy was first diagnosed with cancer in 2001, and doctors removed a portion of his colon, along with

cancerous lymph nodes.

Despite chemotherapy and radiation, his colon cancer recurred several times, along with prostate problems, and breast cancer that required a mastectomy of his left breast.

But he continued to work on "The Price Is Right."

Last June, he taped the game show's 32nd anniversary — which also marked his 19th year on the show.

Unfortunately, a short time later, doctors discovered the cancer had spread to his bones and he was hospitalized in August.

"Rod has fought so hard to stay alive," his close friend, Linda Riegert, told The ENQUIRER.

"He's been a true inspiration. Everyone loves him."

Now, as the moving interview came to a close, tired Rod summoned up the strength to say goodbye.

"I want to thank The ENQUIRER readers for all their prayers and thoughts," he said with a smile. "Your support has meant everything to me."

— ROBIN MIZRAHI