



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Colorado Kidney Patient Granted National Advocacy Award for Ongoing Efforts to Advance Dialysis Care**

*Colorado Springs Patient Receives Dialysis Patient Citizens Hero Award For His Leadership In Improving Kidney Care in Colorado and Nationwide*

**Washington D.C. (April 22, 2008)** – In recognition of his ongoing work to advance dialysis care in his hometown of Colorado Springs, across Colorado, and nationwide, Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC) – a nationwide, non-profit patient advocacy group comprised of more than 22,000 dialysis and pre-dialysis patients and family members working to advance the quality of life of dialysis patients – presented kidney patient Chuck Leggett with its April 2008 DPC Hero Award.

A dialysis patient for eight years before receiving a kidney transplant, Leggett continues to work to advance care for his fellow end stage renal disease (ESRD) patients who are undergoing dialysis. He has organized several visits to Colorado Springs area dialysis facilities for policymakers – including Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO) and staff from Rep. Doug Lamborn’s (R-CO) office – so that elected officials can see local dialysis services first-hand, and recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to lobby Members of Congress on Capitol Hill for additional funds for kidney care education and treatment.

“Even though Chuck is no longer receiving dialysis, he has been one of DPC’s most active Patient Ambassadors by continually visiting his old facility to keep patients involved, encouraged and empowered in their care,” said DPC President Patricia Orna. “Through his tireless lobbying activities, fundraising, and outreach efforts, he is helping to improve the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of dialysis patients across the state and the nation.”

Leggett is a long-time Colorado resident and political advocate who served on the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments for five years. He was also closely involved in the writing and passage of Colorado’s stove and fireplace emissions regulations, and has served as the lead fundraiser for Rocky Mountain Health Care Services.

In addition to working with DPC, Leggett is a member of the National Kidney Foundation’s “People Like Us, Live!”™ program – through which concerned individuals are provided with the knowledge, skills and support needed to become agents of change concerning kidney disease, donation and transplantation-related issues.– and he has attended the NKF clinical meetings for the past three years, where he shared his ideas about improving kidney care with nephrologists, social workers, and industry representatives. Leggett is also a “HOPEline” operator for the Renal

Support Network, providing valuable peer-to-peer support for recently diagnosed kidney disease patients.

“I am honored and humbled to be named a DPC Hero by my fellow kidney care patient advocates,” said Leggett. “I have always wanted to support the renal community and give back to those who have made such a positive impact on my care. If I, in turn, am also able to lift the spirits of dialysis patients, it makes my day.”

### **More About the DPC Hero Award**

The DPC Hero award is open to caregivers, nephrologists, family members, patients, and other members of the kidney community who have empowered themselves or others in the kidney community. It is given to reflect the spirit of the thousands of people whose efforts make a difference in the lives of others, whose stories often go untold.

Nominations for the DPC Hero award can be sent to [dpc@dialysispatients.org](mailto:dpc@dialysispatients.org) or by contacting 1-866-877-4242.

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