



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Dedicated Husband of Kidney Patient Recognized for His Efforts to Support His Wife's Life-Saving Dialysis Care—Awarded National Dialysis Patient Citizen Award**

*Husband of Virginia Dialysis Patient Receives Award for His Support and Ongoing Efforts to Raise Awareness of Kidney Disease*

**Washington D.C. (July 16, 2008)** –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 Will Bullett with the organization's July 2008 DPC Hero Award. The award recognizes empowered and heroic individuals who make a difference in the lives of dialysis patients and their communities.

Will became involved with the kidney community five years ago when his wife of 33-years, Shirley Bullett, was diagnosed with diabetes and kidney failure. Though he is not a dialysis patient, Will is being recognized for his tireless support of Shirley and her fellow dialysis patients. Over the years, Will has made it known that he is available for any task, large or small, that involves Shirley. Three days a week he accompanies his wife to and from dialysis. A remarkable care partner, he also assists Shirley in her role as a DPC Patient Ambassador at her dialysis facility in Woodbridge, VA where she organizes programs to educate and assist other dialysis patients. Recently, Shirley was called upon by the kidney community to speak on Capitol Hill, and after working all night long, Will picked her up and took her to the briefing to speak to a room full of Congressional Members and their staff.

"Even though Will is not a dialysis patient, he has been one of DPC's most active supporters by continually visiting Capitol Hill and his wife's facility to keep patients involved, encouraged and empowered in their care," said DPC Executive Director Chad Lennox. "We are inspired by Will's continued support and work, and thank him for his service to the kidney community."

In addition, Will has been an active supporter of kidney patients, lobbying with his wife for additional kidney care funding and education. Over the past four months, he has worked to create a collective photo poster—containing pictures and information from trips to Washington, D.C.— for the foyer of his wife's dialysis center.

"My wife is a warrior! Whenever they [kidney community] call upon her, she gets her materials together, studies them and makes her trips to Washington, D.C. where she really can make a

difference sharing her personal story,” said Will Bullett. “I am honored to be named a DPC Hero. For me, it is important to be a supporter and provider of important information, not only for Shirley, but for the other dialysis patients at her organization in Woodbridge. Supporting my wife and keeping her aggressive in her program is imperative. I’m very proud of her.”

Shirley Bullett is currently second on the waiting list for a kidney transplant.

### **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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