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Oklahoma Dialysis Patient is Still Dancing After All of These Years– Awarded National DPC Hero Award

Award given to local patient in recognition of his leadership and advocacy in Oklahoma City as well as Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. (September 19, 2007) – DaVita Patient Citizens (DPC) – a nationwide patient advocacy group comprised of more than 20,000 dialysis and pre-dialysis patients and family members – is proud to honor kidney dialysis patient Mickey Sherman as the August 2007 DPC Hero Award recipient. The DPC Hero award is a national recognition of empowered and heroic individuals who make a difference in the lives of dialysis patients and their communities. Sherman has been on dialysis for two years.

Sherman is an active participant in advocacy work for the kidney community. Despite his kidney failure, Sherman is always searching for new ways to educate people about kidney disease. He is planning trips to meet with lawmakers in Washington, D.C. and St. Louis to raise awareness about dialysis and to discuss the daily struggles patients like him face. Without Congressional support and adequate funding, there is concern that patients like Sherman may some day not be able to access the care they need to survive.

“On behalf of the kidney community, we are honored to recognize Mickey as a DPC Hero,” said Patricia Orna, DPC President. “We are inspired by Mickey’s continued support and work, and thank him for his service to the kidney community. It is because of his work that many Oklahoma City residents are now educated on the many chronic diseases that could lead to kidney failure.”

An ex vaudevillian, Sherman left home at the age of thirteen and educated himself. He was the National Jitterbugging Champion in 1940, and currently teaches several fitness and Tai Chi classes tailored to seniors. Sherman is also an author and World War II veteran who, several times a year, produces WWII tributes for all of his friends.

More than 20 million people are at risk for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). According to the National Kidney Foundation, 1 in 9 Americans suffers from CKD, commonly the result of hypertension or diabetes, which left untreated can progress to kidney failure – or End Stage Renal Disease. More than 400,000 Americans with ESRD must rely on quality dialysis services, or receive a transplant, to live.

“I want to make a difference in the lives of all kidney patients,” said Sherman. “It is exciting to be part of a group like DPC where there are thousands of people just like you – people hoping to make a difference in the lives of millions who may not even know they have chronic kidney disease. It is important that we educate all friends and neighbors as well as Members of Congress on the importance of education and awareness.”

Kidneys perform multiple essential functions. When the kidneys fail to function adequately, a replacement therapy must be chosen to sustain life. With appropriate intervention, patients with complete failure of their kidneys can live full, productive lives.

The DPC Hero program has been created to spotlight individuals who have gone above and beyond to positively impact kidney care in their community. 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.

Nominations for the DPC Hero award can be sent to dpc@dialysispatients.org or contact 1-866-877-4242.

Additional information on DaVita Patient Citizens can be found at www.dialysispatients.org.

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