



**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

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South Carolina Man To Be Honored In Donate Life Rose Parade® Float, “New Life Rises”

Charleston, SC – December 7, 2009: LifePoint and Donate Life South Carolina will honor a South Carolina man as one of 76 people to be represented in “floragraphs” (artistic floral material portraits) on the 2010 Donate Life Rose Parade float, “*New Life Rises*”. Ronald Snipes of Green Sea, South Carolina was the first person in the state to donate his organs after registering first person, legal consent to become an organ/tissue donor in the South Carolina Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. This opportunity is being made possible through the kindness of a sponsorship from Sallop Insurance Agency.

The floral images of this special group of organ, eye, and tissue donors will take center stage on the seventh Donate Life float entry in the 121st Rose Parade. The float features a phoenix, the mythical symbol of life, coming out of the ashes of death and rising from a bed of flames 30 feet into the sky. The Donate Life phoenix represents those who give life in their passing and the people whose lives are renewed through transplantation. The floragraphs will be integrated into the bird’s tail feathers.

“The families of these donors have grieved the loss of their loved ones, yet they will celebrate their lives when the Donate Life float and its floragraphs journey down Colorado Boulevard on New Year’s Day,” said Bryan Stewart, chairman of the Donate Life float committee and vice president of communications at OneLegacy, the nonprofit organ and tissue recovery organization serving the greater Los Angeles area. “We know from past experience that the process of decorating the floragraphs can be healing for the donors’ family members, and we look forward to working with them as these beautiful portraits are decorated in December.”

As 85 million Americans have already done, Ronald and several of the other honorees had enrolled in their respective state organ and tissue donor registries prior to death. Over 297,000 people have signed up on the South Carolina Organ and Tissue Donor Registry since it launched on December 23, 2008.

Doris, Ronald’s wife, remarks, “I think it was a wonderful decision. What a better way to show God’s love and to give life than to give your organs to somebody? Without that, they wouldn’t be able to live.” She adds, “I think it’s important for people to do this. If I had to make that decision

at that time, it would have been a lot more difficult, because you're going through so much emotion. So when he made the decision, I didn't have to make it. I just went along with his wishes."

Before the S. C. Organ and Tissue Donor Registry launched in late December of 2008, approximately 1.2 million South Carolinians had the red heart symbol on their driver's license/ID. The challenge now is to reach those people who may think they are already *registered* donors. The reality is the heart only symbolized an individual's *desire* to become a donor, but did not indicate *legal consent* or placement into a registry. The names of those who had previously indicated their desire to be donors could not be automatically transferred into the newly-created registry.

Individuals can register now by visiting www.Every11Minutes.org site and/or by obtaining, renewing, or changing their S.C. driver's license/ID at any SCDMV office. When registering through the SCDMV, a new logo representing legal consent will be placed on an individual's license/ID. It is a heart and "Y" surrounded by a circle with 11 "ticks" in it. The symbol and registry Web site name represent the fact that **every 11 minutes** another person is added to the national transplant waiting list.

New SCDMV Driver's License Donor Symbol:



By registering to be an organ/tissue donor, consent is no longer required from any other person unless the donor is under the age of 18. For minors under the age of 18, the parent or legal guardian will also be required to consent at the time of donation.

Currently, over 104,000 people are on the national transplant waiting list and approximately 900 of them are on the South Carolina waiting list. Without more donors, many on the waiting list will die waiting. In fact, an average of 18 people die in the U.S. each day because of the shortage of life-saving organs. One person can save the lives of up to eight people through organ donation and improve the lives of up to 50 or more through tissue donation.

For more information about the Rose Parade floragraph or the S.C. Organ and Tissue Donor Registry, contact: Mark Johnson, Media Relations Coordinator - LifePoint, at 1-800-462-0755.

About LifePoint

LifePoint is the designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) for organ recovery services in South Carolina. LifePoint actively provides organ, tissue and ocular donor services to 62 hospitals throughout the state. LifePoint also helps support and educate families at an emotionally devastating time, so they can make well-informed decisions about organ and tissue donation.

About Donate Life South Carolina

Donate Life South Carolina is the organization whose mission is to promote organ and tissue donation for transplantation and provide patient assistance for South Carolina transplant recipients. Donate Life South Carolina also maintains the South Carolina Donor Registry.

