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LOCAL STROKE SURVIVOR GOES TO CONGRESS TO LOBBY FOR STROKE AWARENESS

New Bill Will Raise Awareness of Stroke and Save Lives

WINTER PARK, FL – On April 12, 2005, Winter Park resident and stroke survivor, Valerie Greene, traveled to Washington D. C. on behalf of stroke survivors across the country to urge congress to sign the **STOP Stroke Act**. As a volunteer and spokesperson for the American Stroke Association, Greene participated in Congressional Heart and Stroke Lobby Day to share her remarkable survival from two strokes at age 31.

The **STOP Stroke Act** will provide resources to ensure that the public has greater awareness of stroke, that emergency medical personnel and health care professionals are trained to recognize its signs and symptoms, and that hospitals are equipped to provide the most effective care.

“This is such an important bill”, says, Greene. “ We need to do all we can as a nation to educate the public on the warning signs and symptoms of stroke.” “Stroke is a medical emergency!”

Greene was also instrumental in helping to ensure the passing of the **Florida Stroke Act**, that Governor Bush signed into law June 2004. The **Florida Stroke Act** ensures that Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) will transport stroke victims to a primary or comprehensive stroke center.

Stroke, which is caused by an interruption of blood flow to the brain due to a clogged blood vessel or bleeding from a ruptured blood vessel, strikes about 700,000 Americans each year and results in more than 160,000 deaths annually. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 45 seconds; and every 3 minutes, someone dies from one.

May is National Stroke Awareness month and Greene will be making several appearances throughout the country. For more information , and stroke resources, please visit www.strokeassociation.org, or log on to Greene’s website www.thefirewithin.net

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