



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Left to right: Butch Dener, Melanie Knight, Charles Lyonhart

National Organ Donor Awareness Month

Organ donor recipients Butch Dener, Melanie Knight, and Charles Lyonhart addressed the County Legislature at the Monthly Legislative Meeting on April 20, 2010 to raise awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donations. All three passionately told their life saving stories. Organ transplantation is generally a last resort for patients in the final stages of illness. There are far more people seeking transplants than there are donor organs available. Mr. Dener stated that in the United States, 15, 800 people are waiting for a

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liver transplants, 83,000 people are waiting for a kidney transplants, and that 105,000 people are waiting for other transplants. He stated that every 12 minutes someone is added to the transplant list. Only 1 in 4 will receive them in time to save their lives. Experts say that the organs from one donor can save or help as many as 50 people. An enrollment form to register to the New York State Organ and Tissue Donor Registry was handed out to everyone and the final message to everyone was to please pass on the gift of life.

Vice Chairman Frank Felicello Jr., stated that he has known Butch Dener for over twenty years and that he has the upmost respect for him. He stated that whatever Butch does, he does to the fullest. He does everything from the heart and that he dedicates his life to giving back to others and teaching the importance of organ and tissue donations.

If you have any questions or are interested in registering, please call the Center for Donation & Transplant at 1-800-256-7811.