CANDLELIGHT REFLECTION CEREMONY CASTS LIGHT ON ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

Raleigh, NC – The lobby of the City of Raleigh Museum was bathed in purple light as individuals touched by Alzheimer’s disease gathered for Reflections on the Art of Love, a candlelight ceremony hosted by the Alzheimer’s Association Eastern North Carolina.

Members of the community came together to recognize the more than 150,000 individuals currently living with Alzheimer’s in North Carolina, as well as family members and friends who have taken on the taxing role of caring for a loved one with the disease, as the annual event. Ceremony attendees shared their personal stories, read poems and lit candles in a moment of silence.

Dale O’Neill made the drive from Four Oaks to share the story of her mother, Gladys, who passed away from Alzheimer’s. A story written by O’Neill was selected for “Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living with Alzheimer’s and Other Dementias,” a special edition of the book series dedicated to stories from Alzheimer’s caregivers.

Councilman Eugene Weeks read the 2014 Governor’s Proclamation, which recognizes Alzheimer’s disease as the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. and the fifth leading cause of death among individuals age 65 and older, as well as the City of Raleigh’s Mayoral Proclamation to recognize November as Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month.

“Total value of unpaid caregiver hours in North Carolina in 2014 amounted to over $6 billion, and whereas, North Carolina is one of seven remaining states that have yet to enact an Alzheimer’s disease prevention program,” said Weeks as he read the proclamation. “November 20, 2014, marks the statewide Annual Candlelight Reflection honoring lives affected by Alzheimer’s, and in recognition of the individuals, families, friends and caregivers dealing with the devastating effects of Alzheimer’s.”

The candlelight reflections ceremony was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on November 20, 2014. The Mayoral Proclamation can be found at alz.org/nc.

About the Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s:
The Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s is the nation’s largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer’s Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk: now the Alzheimer’s Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Together, we can end Alzheimer’s.
About the Alzheimer’s Association:
The Alzheimer’s Association is the world’s leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s research, care and support. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research, to provide and enhance care and support for all affected and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

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