

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kidney advocate Congressman Jim McDermott to receive Northwest Kidney Centers' highest honor

Clyde Shields Distinguished Service Award
named for first long-term dialysis patient

Seattle, WA (Aug. 5, 2015)—[Northwest Kidney Centers](#) is pleased to present the 2015 [Clyde Shields Distinguished Service Award](#) to U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott, co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Kidney Caucus.

The award will be presented Thursday, Sept. 3 at Northwest Kidney Centers Seattle dialysis clinic at 548 15th Ave., corner of Cherry. A reception is scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m., with the ceremony at 1:30. The public is welcome for the ceremony, light refreshments and tours of the home dialysis training and support area.

Northwest Kidney Centers presents the award – its highest recognition – to a person who makes significant contributions to the welfare of kidney patients through advocacy, clinical care or research.

“There is no more long-term, vocal, loyal and patient-centered Congressional supporter of kidney patients than Rep. McDermott,” said Joyce F. Jackson, Northwest Kidney Centers president and CEO.

In 2002, McDermott co-founded the bipartisan Congressional Kidney Caucus, and he continues to co-chair it. The caucus aims to educate members of Congress and the public about the problem kidney disease poses for society and the federal government’s role in providing access to life-sustaining treatment.

He has authored many letters of support to Congressional colleagues, co-sponsored kidney legislation, and reached out to Medicare, the Food and Drug Administration and others to advocate for programs that support patients, especially those on home dialysis.

He has visited Northwest Kidney Centers facilities multiple times and he has spoken often to kidney patient groups in Seattle.

A psychiatrist, McDermott trained with and became a friend of Dr. Belding Scribner in the early days of dialysis. Scribner invented a device to make

long-term dialysis possible, and Clyde Shields, namesake for the award, was the first patient to use it.

McDermott serves as senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, ranking member of its subcommittee on health, and senior member of the House Budget Committee. In his 12th term, his seniority enables him to play an influential role in a wide range of issues, including Medicare.

He provided crucial early support for the Kidney Health Initiative and frequently serves as host of congressional briefings on kidney disease research. He has supported home dialysis patients by encouraging the Secretary of Health and Human Services to update training payments for home dialysis. He requested a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the key factors that affect home dialysis use.

About Clyde Shields: The award is named for machinist Clyde Shields, who in March 1960 became the first person in the world to receive dialysis on an ongoing basis. Mr. Shields received the first Scribner shunt, a breakthrough dialysis delivery method developed in Seattle. Although Mr. Shields' kidneys had failed – a death sentence before the innovation – the shunt and regular dialysis helped him survive another 11 years. His courage as a research subject made possible great advances in kidney treatment.

His sons Jim and Tom Shields will make the presentation.

About the Clyde Shields Distinguished Service Award: Northwest Kidney Centers bestows the Clyde Shields Distinguished Service Award on a living individual who has contributed significantly to the welfare of kidney patients through advocacy, clinical care or research. Factors considered are length of service, number of people impacted, awards or citations, humility and perseverance. Past awardees include patients, volunteers, staff members, scientists and supporters.

About Northwest Kidney Centers: Northwest Kidney Centers is a regional, not-for-profit, community-based provider of kidney dialysis, public health education, and research into the causes and treatments of chronic kidney disease. Founded in Seattle in 1962, it was the world's first dialysis organization. It remains a model in the field because of its high-quality services, community connections and generous donor support. Learn more at www.nwkidney.org.

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