PRESS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Tina Moran 571/431-0808

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AOPA Announces Winners of the Mobility Saves Testimonial Contest

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 9, 2015 – The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association (AOPA) has announced the winners of the Mobility Saves Testimonial Contest. Jeff Lewis of Mesa, AZ won the grand prize of \$500 for his video describing his active life as a quadruple amputee, including bowling, dancing, and golfing. On the independence he achieves with the help of prosthetics, Jeff said "Certainly I have some restrictions, but I am not going to let the things I can't do get in the way of the things I can."

Ruth Frieboes of North Powder, OR submitted footage of her adventures zip lining, hiking, and enjoying the beach after becoming an above knee amputee in her mid-50s, inspiring her students and grandchildren to overcome their own obstacles. She won the 2nd place prize of \$250. She said, "I wanted to get back into my life as I approached retirement. My dreams and goals would never have happened without a good prosthetic."

The nationwide contest was open to all users of orthotic and prosthetic devices. The winning testimonials will be used as part of the <u>Mobility Saves</u> campaign. The primary objective of the Mobility Saves campaign is to spread the news that orthotic and prosthetic care saves lives and money, by promoting research on the cost-effectiveness of O&P, and showing patients whose lives are improved with modern technology.

View the videos and learn more at www.MobilitySaves.org.

About Mobility Saves

Mobility Saves is the public relations campaign spreading the news that the Medicare program pays more over the long-term in most cases when Medicare patients are not provided with replacement lower limbs, spinal orthotics, and hip/knee/ankle orthotics. The campaign is based on a major research study commissioned by the Amputee Coalition and conducted by Dr. Allen Dobson, health economist and former director of the Office of Research at CMS.

About AOPA

AOPA, based in Alexandria, Virginia, is the largest non-profit organization dedicated to helping orthotic and prosthetic businesses and professionals navigate the multitude of issues surrounding the delivery of quality patient care. The association was founded in 1917 when needs of returning veterans in the aftermath of World War I required a national organization to address the educational and research requirements of the industry.

American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association 330 John Carlyle Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314 Phone: 571/431-0876, Fax: 571/431-0899 www.AOPAnet.org