



**For Immediate Release April 16, 2010**  
**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FAMILY of ORGAN and TISSUE DONOR ALBERT RODRIGUEZ  
WILL HONOR LOVED ONE at  
DONOR REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY**

*Heart recipient will commemorate the five year anniversary of his transplant*

**Sat., April 17, Tracy Cemetery, Schulte Rd. and MacArthur Dr., 12pm – 1:30pm**

**What:** Family, friends and heart recipient of organ and tissue donor Albert Rodriguez will join in an emotional afternoon to celebrate the life of Rodriguez as well as the gift of organ and tissue donation that he gave to others. Rodriguez, 20, became an organ donor on April 18, 2005. The donor remembrance ceremony will include a reading by Minister Estell Omsted, poem readings, balloon release and music. Don Johnson, Rodriguez's heart recipient, and family will also speak. The California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN), the organ and tissue recovery agency serving central and northern California, will be on hand to encourage people to check "YES!" when applying for or renewing their driver's license or I.D. card, or by signing up at [www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org](http://www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org) or [www.doneVIDAcalifornia.org](http://www.doneVIDAcalifornia.org). A blood drive in honor of Rodriguez is being held from 9am - 4pm. Family and friends will be donating blood throughout the day. The celebration will conclude with a luncheon sponsored by the family.

***More than 100,000 individuals are currently on the national organ transplant waiting list. Of the 21,000 waiting in California, 582 are San Joaquin residents. . April is National Donate Life Month.***

**Who:**

- **Paula Rodriguez Gutierrez**, donor mom and event organizer, son Albert Rodriguez became an organ and tissue donor on April 18, 2005
- **Don Johnson**, 50, received his heart transplant in 2005; he is Albert's heart recipient
- **Jennifer Guevara**, 27, sister of Albert Rodriguez
- **Carole Trifoglio**, XX, whose daughter received a liver transplant in 2004
- Family and friends of Albert Rodriguez
- Family of Don Johnson
- **Ayanna Anderson**, Community Development Coordinator, California Transplant Donor Network

**When:**

**Sat., April 17**  
**Donor Remembrance Ceremony (Tracy Cemetery) - 12:00pm - 1:30pm**  
Blood Drive – 9:00am – 4:00pm  
Luncheon - Italian Strings Café - 2:00pm – 3:30pm

**Where:**

**Donor Remembrance Ceremony - Tracy Cemetery; entrance off of Schulte Road and MacArthur Drive**  
Blood Drive (Delta Blood Bank) - American Legion Post on Tracy Blvd  
Luncheon - Strings Italian Café; 2541 Naglee Rd. Ste. D

**Contact:**

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**Details:**

*The California Transplant Donor Network saves and improves lives by facilitating organ and tissue donation for transplantation. The Transplant Network helps 175 hospitals in 41 Northern and Central California and Northern Nevada counties offer the option of organ and tissue donation to families whose loved ones have died, coordinates deceased organ recovery and placement, and provides public education with the hope that every resident will become a donor. It is federally designated as this region's organ recovery organization. For more information, visit [www.ctdn.org](http://www.ctdn.org) or call 1-888-570-9400.*

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