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## **CELEBRITY FIGHT NIGHT WINS THE FIGHT FOR CHARITY**

### **LOCALS JOIN CELEBRITIES TO KNOCK OUT PARKINSON'S DISEASE**

**Edgewood, WA.** (April 5, 2005) – The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Fight Night netted \$4.7 million for worthy charities, with the primary beneficiary being the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Research Center at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix. Auctioneer Jeff Stokes of Federal Way, WA, led the live auction, which raised nearly \$2 million. Local 101.5 radio personality and Safeco Field public address announcer Tom Hutlyer, lent his voice by announcing the live auction's items.

Over 1,100 guests attended the charity event on Saturday, April 2, 2005 at the Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa. The funds raised received a \$2 million boost from Foster Friess who celebrated his birthday at the event. Friess is the founder of the Brandywine Fund.

"The generosity and support of our guests is overwhelming," says Jimmy Walker founder of Celebrity Fight Night. "We already have a waiting list for next year for our Founders Club members," he says of the \$20,000 per person dinner that was held at the Wrigley Mansion the evening before.

Celebrity Fight Night XI began with a surprise twist by Chubby Checker and the entertainment continued with American Idol winner Ruben Studdard singing "America the Beautiful", which culminated with an American Bald Eagle soaring across the ballroom just over the heads of the amazed guests. The non-stop excitement kept coming with a memorable medley of hits performed by Billy Davis Jr. and Marilyn McCoo from the Fifth Dimension.

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5-time Grammy award-winner Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine took the stage with an up-tempo set of music that brought a Latin flair of excitement to the room. The night closed with many people singing along and dancing in the aisles to the Queen of Disco, Donna Summer. 14-time Grammy-winning music producer David Foster emceed the event and directed the evening's musical line-up.

Film and television comedic legend, Chevy Chase and his wife Jayni were honored with the "Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award" for their dedication and commitment to environmental advocacy. Emmitt Smith, the NFL's All-Time leading career rusher and three-time Super Bowl champion, was awarded with the "Muhammad Ali Sports Achievement Award."

Hollywood stars like Donnie Wahlberg, Bo Derek and John Corbett attended the event. Many sports celebrities were also in the audience including boxers Evander Holyfield, Earnie Shavers and Ken Norton; along with NFL superstars John Elway, Donovan McNabb, Terrell Owens, Marshall Faulk, and Michael Irvin.

The auction was successfully orchestrated by returning auctioneer Jeff Stokes, President of the Edgewood-based, Stokes Auction Group. Items were generously donated from celebrities and sports figures including a dinner in New York City with Chevy Chase, a round of golf with Jake Plummer and Billy Crystal, a dinner with Robin Williams, a private lesson with skateboarding legend Tony Hawk, and golf with Emmitt Smith and Troy Aikman.

Generous auction winners included Go Daddy.com founder, Bob Parsons, who bid \$130,000 on the Muhammad Ali inspired motorcycle built by Orange County Choppers. Other winners were Bruce and Diane Halle who bid \$220,000 for a one week vacation on a 167-foot luxury yacht and Tom Redmond who bid \$90,000 to have dinner with Evander Holyfield at his estate in Atlanta.

The growth and success of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Research Center over the years is due in part to the Celebrity Fight Night Foundation. The center celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> year in 2004. It is funded by donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations. The Center provides diagnostic and treatment services, research, and education for those whose lives have been touched by Parkinson's disease.

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The center also conducts extensive research in new medical and surgical treatments for Parkinson's disease and related disorders.

Parkinson's disease is a brain disorder that affects both men and women in almost equal numbers. It shows no social, ethnic, economic or geographic boundaries. In the United States, it is estimated that 60,000 new cases are diagnosed each year, joining the 1.5 million Americans who currently have Parkinson disease. While the condition usually develops after the age of 65, 15% of those diagnosed are under 50.

The Official Sponsors of Celebrity Fight Night XI were MasterCard, American Airlines and Sentient Jet.

*Celebrity Fight Night was started in 1994 to raise money for local charities through a celebrity charity event. Each year, under the direction of founder Jimmy Walker, Celebrity Fight Night attracts celebrities from sports and entertainment. He and many others participate in putting together this exciting event.*

[www.celebrityfightnight.org](http://www.celebrityfightnight.org)

*Stokes Auction Group, Inc. was founded in 1993 to help non-profit organizations raising money using fundraising auctions. The company performs nearly 500 benefit auctions annually across the country for non-profit groups of all sizes and interests.*

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