

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Peoples Health Champion Honored at Saints Home Game**

**Metairie, La.** - The Peoples Health Champions program honored New Orleans native Lionel Batiste, its ninth Champion of the 2011-2012 NFL football season, on Monday, December 26 during the New Orleans Saints game against the Atlanta Falcons. A Peoples Health Champion is someone who has done something extraordinary after age 65 and who proves that excellence is achieved through experience.

On July 23, 2011, at age 79, Batiste led a jazz funeral second line in Molde, Norway, for victims of horrific terrorist attacks perpetrated by a lone madman just one day earlier. While the shocked nation struggled to cope with the senseless massacre, Batiste helped the country's healing process begin as he led a solemn procession of mourners through the ancient Norwegian town. With his calm demeanor reflecting an aura of peace and serenity, the man known locally as "Uncle Lionel" shared his gift of healing jazz with a country in desperate need of solace.

Long one of New Orleans' most beloved traditional jazz musicians, Batiste has come to personify the spirit and soul of New Orleans throughout much of the world. Primarily known as vocalist and bass drummer for the Treme Brass Band, Batiste happened to be touring in Norway the day of the attacks. Eager to ease the pain of fellow citizens, Norwegian officials asked Batiste to lead a second line through the streets and help the country recover from its collective shock.

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It's been said that good things come from being in the right place at the right time. How fortunate for Norway that Uncle Lionel was there.

### ***About Peoples Health Champions***

In collaboration with the New Orleans Saints, the Peoples Health Champions Program honors individuals who shatter the myth that ability diminishes after the age of 65 and who instead prove that excellence is achieved through experience. Nominees must be at least 65 years of age and reside in southeast Louisiana or the Mississippi Gulf Coast. For more information about the program, including details on how to nominate someone as a Peoples Health Champion, visit <http://champions.peopleshealth.com>. Nominations can be submitted online, or call (877) 712-7320 for a nomination form.

### ***About Peoples Health***

Established in 1994, Peoples Health is a Medicare Advantage organization serving Medicare beneficiaries in southeast Louisiana. The physician-owned company has over 600 employees who help administer and provide a unique approach to wellness, care coordination and support services for plan members. The company is a proud supporter of many social, cultural, athletic and health organizations and holds an accreditation by URAC. For more information about Peoples Health, visit <http://www.peopleshealth.com>.

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