

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2, 2009

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**PEOPLES HEALTH CHAMPION DWIGHT SMITH
HONORED AT SAINTS GAME**

Metairie, La. - The Peoples Health Champions program honored Dwight Smith, its eighth champion of 2009, on Monday, November 30 during the New Orleans Saints game against the New England Patriots. A Peoples Health Champion is someone who has done something extraordinary after the age of 65 and who proves that excellence is achieved through experience.

On August 8, 2009, at the age of 80, Smith led the Louisiana Tigers to win the silver medal in basketball at the U.S. National Senior Olympics. He scored over 100 points during the seven-game series held in California at Stanford University, contributing the most blocks, steals, assists and rebounds for his team. He did all this while always defending against the opponent's top scorer. Smith's achievement is even more impressive in that he only picked up the sport at age 63. That and the fact that he lost one eye during a game four years ago and now functions with a limited field of vision.

Smith hits the hoops two hours every weekday during lunch breaks from the business he runs in Baton Rouge. He also plays on weekends and supplements his basketball practice with weight training at the gym. With energy and enthusiasm that seems boundless, he frequently competes with men decades younger. His dedication and steadfast determination to succeed have been rewarded with numerous medals and awards at local, regional and national competitions.

Dwight Smith... Peoples Health Champion.



About Peoples Health Champions

In collaboration with the New Orleans Saints, the Peoples Health Champions Program honors individuals who shatter the misconception 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. More information about the program, including details on how to nominate someone as a Peoples Health Champion, can be found on the Peoples Health Web site at www.peopleshealth.com. Nominations can be submitted online, or call (877) 712-7320 for a nomination form.

About Peoples Health

Established in 1994, Peoples Health administers Medicare benefits for 42,000 southeast Louisiana residents enrolled in the Choices 65, Choices Plus, Secure Health, HealthCare Select, and Peoples Health Group Medicare health plans. More than 450 employees work at Peoples Health corporate offices in Metairie, Louisiana and a regional office in Baton Rouge. Peoples Health is accredited by URAC, a Washington, D.C.-based healthcare accrediting organization. More information about Peoples Health can be obtained by visiting www.peopleshealth.com.

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