

September, 2011

Mr. Wayne Connell
Founder & President
Invisible Disabilities Association

Greetings Wayne,

I am deeply honored to be the recipient of the 2011 Caregiver Award and it is with regret that I am not in attendance this evening. Your work highlighting the weighty matter of invisible disabilities is important and inspiring.

My wife of 31+ years, Irene, lives on a "bed of suffering" since the spring of 2007 having been diagnosed with a rare and incurable blood disease called Primary Amyloidosis. A three month hospitalization, 2 trips to ICU, 1 Code Blue, a stem cell transplant and many other heroic means saved her life and is currently treated three days a week for kidney failure and faces unrelenting nausea 24/7.

Irene's buoyant spirit, joy filled heart and unwavering faith in Jesus Christ have sustained her on this colossal journey. She decidedly lives above her circumstances and as a result, many who see her haven't the slightest hint of her ongoing trials and tribulations.

Thank you for all you're endeavoring to accomplish through Invisible Disabilities.

May God continue to put "wind in your sails".

With highest regards,

Dave Dias