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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MEDIA ALERT

SEIZURE DISORDER STORY ANGLES & INFORMATION

Famous people with seizures, Interview resources, Minnesota's first-ever research summit

St. Paul, MN – September 26, 2011 – The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) has resources to offer around seizure disorders, also known as epilepsy. Our community is engaged in a very important dialog about seizures; here are some story angles that your consumers may find interesting:

- **Coach Kill is not the only high-profile person to have seizures:** Julius Casear, Danny Glover, Leonardo da Vinci, Elizabeth Taylor, Charles Dickens, Margot Hemingway, Sir Isaac Newton, Chief Justice John Roberts, Senator Ted Kennedy all have/had seizures. Florence Griffith Joyner and Jet Travolta both passed away from a seizure. Entertainer Prince told Tavis Smiley in a 2009 interview that he suffered from seizures as a child. (source: Epilepsy.com)
- **The spectrum of seizure disorders is vast.** A seizure can range from a slight facial tick to a seizure which results in death (Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy). There is no cure for epilepsy and treatment for managing the 20+ different types of seizures ranges from medications to brain surgery.
- **November is national epilepsy awareness month** and the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota will host the first-ever epilepsy research summit on November 5 at the Bakken Museum. Nearly twenty experts will present the latest in seizure disorder research happening *right here in Minnesota*. Media are invited for breakfast at 8am or lunch at noon. Contact Melissa Becker to RSVP.
- **Midwest Seizure Smart Conference is on October 15 from 9am–3pm at the Sofitel in Bloomington.** Minnesotans can connect with others living with seizures and get access to experts in the field of seizure disorders from Mayo Clinic, Minnesota Epilepsy Group, Gillette Children's Specialty Care and more.

About the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) leads the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and overcome the challenges created by epilepsy. One in 10 adults will have a seizure in their lifetime, and 60,000 Minnesotans have epilepsy (a neurological disorder of the brain). EFMN programs and services cover all of Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota. For more information, visit www.efmn.org.

Additional resources:

- **Mayo Clinic, where Coach Kill is being treated:** Call 507.284.5005 (staffed by Mayo Clinic 24/7) or email newsbureau@mayo.edu.
- **Vicki Kopplin, EFMN's executive director:** 651.287.2314 or vkopplin@efmn.org.

EPILEPSY FACTS:

- 60,000 people in Minnesota have epilepsy – that would fill TCF Bank Stadium!
- 3 million people in the U.S. have epilepsy, also known as a seizure disorder.
- Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures. When a person has two or more unprovoked seizures, they have epilepsy.
- 1 in 10 people will have a seizure in their lifetime.
- Epilepsy is the most common neurological condition in children, and the third most common in adults (behind stroke and Alzheimer's disease).
- Seizures can happen to anyone at anytime, and in 70% of the cases the cause is unknown.

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