



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Maryland Couple Who Raised More Than \$12 Million to Fight Blood Cancer to be Honored with James L. Eichberg Lifetime Achievement Award at 2017 Leukemia Ball
Sponsored by Wilmington Trust and M&T Bank

(Washington, D.C.) – Ed and Donna Offterdinger, a Maryland couple whose efforts have helped to raise more than \$12 million for blood cancer research, will be presented with the James L. Eichberg Lifetime Achievement Award at the 30th annual Leukemia Ball. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), together with Wilmington Trust and M&T Bank, are honoring the couple for their outstanding commitment to the Washington, D.C. community and their dedication to the mission of LLS.

“Wilmington Trust and M&T Bank are proud to sponsor the Leukemia Ball’s most prestigious award recognizing individuals for the same exceptional commitment to community as its namesake, former Leukemia Ball Executive Committee member, Jim Eichberg, who lost his own battle with blood cancer,” said David M. DiLuigi, Market President, Greater Washington & Central Virginia for Wilmington Trust. “This year’s honorees, Ed and Donna Offterdinger, have made a tremendous impact on the lives of local cancer patients and embody the meaning of good stewards and selfless volunteers. In addition, the accomplishments of LLS have been remarkable. The organization has played a key role in pioneering innovations related to advancing cures for blood cancers. Wilmington Trust and M&T Bank are honored to support the LLS mission and to recognize Ed and Donna for their multi-decade commitment to such an important cause.”

The Offterdingers have been involved with LLS for more than 20 years. Born and raised in Maryland, Ed and Donna met in high school and have been married for more than 35 years. Helping others has been a lifelong endeavor for Donna. Her generosity and kindness were encouraged by her parents who opened their family home to numerous foster children. Giving back is a way of life for Donna. And Ed was her perfect match. After losing a childhood friend to leukemia, Ed made it his mission to help find a cure. Ed is a four-time Chair of the Leukemia Ball and Donna served on the Auction Committee. Together, the Offterdingers have helped raise more than \$12 million dollars in the fight against blood cancer.

“The contributions that the Offterdingers have made are vitally important for the lifesaving work of LLS to continue. They epitomize the dedication that the James L. Eichberg Lifetime Achievement Award is meant to honor,” said Beth Gorman, Executive Director of LLS’s National Capital Area Chapter. “The Offterdingers have been tireless advocates for patients battling blood cancer. It’s a joy to recognize their exceptional efforts and decades of support in the development of therapies that are improving the lives of blood cancer patients.”

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The Offterdingers' commitment to supporting those in need in the Metropolitan D.C. area extends far beyond LLS. They are active volunteers with many charities across the Washington region, including Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, Junior Achievement, Potomac Community Resources, Inc. and the Treatment and Learning Center.

“We are so proud to be working with LLS, which is making remarkable advancements in the field of blood cancer research. We are humbled to be receiving this award named in memory of a great man whom we had the honor to know. We truly don't consider our efforts worthy...it's just the way we were raised. Our goal is to simply do what we can to help lift others up. If, through this award, we can inspire others, all the better,” remarked Ed.

As Executive Managing Partner for Baker Tilly, Ed follows in a long line of dedicated accounting executives who have helped the Leukemia Ball grow into one of Washington, D.C.'s largest non-political black tie galas. In fact, the first Leukemia Ball 30 years ago was started by a core group of accounting firms. Since its inception, the Leukemia Ball has raised more than \$55 million, funding LLS's mission. This extraordinary achievement is all possible because of dedicated community leaders like Ed and Donna.

The 2017 Leukemia Ball, presented by PhRMA on March 11, 2017, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, is a black tie event that will kick off at 6:30 p.m. and feature musical entertainment by Andy Grammer and a performance by comedian Jim Gaffigan.

The James L. Eichberg Lifetime Achievement Award was established in memory of Jim Eichberg, a long-time volunteer and supporter of LLS who made service to others an integral part of his daily life. The award recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of an individual who has demonstrated dedication and commitment to the mission of LLS, thereby making a significant impact on the lives of patients and families. Past recipients are C.E. Andrews (2016), the McLaughlin Family (2015), Bobby Mitchell (2014), Tamara Darvish (2013), and Kevin Fay (2012).

For more information on sponsorship or tickets to the Leukemia Ball, presented by PhRMA, please visit leukemiaball.org or call (703) 399-2900.

About The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society® (LLS) is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. The LLS mission: cure leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world, provides free information and support services, and is the voice for all blood cancer patients seeking access to quality, affordable, and coordinated care.

Founded in 1949 and headquartered in Rye Brook, NY, LLS has chapters throughout the United States and Canada. To learn more, visit www.LLS.org. Patients should contact the Information Resource Center at (800) 955-4572, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET.

About the National Capital Area Chapter

National Capital Area Chapter is one of the highest revenue-generating chapters in the nation for LLS. The National Capital Area Chapter serves Washington D.C.; the Maryland counties of Prince George's and Montgomery; and the Virginia counties of Loudoun, Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria and Prince William. Nearly 2,700 patients and families are served by the chapter each year. Follow us on Twitter @LLSNatCap and Facebook at [Facebook.com/LLSNatCap](https://www.facebook.com/LLSNatCap).

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About Baker Tilly

Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP (Baker Tilly) is a nationally recognized, full-service accounting and advisory firm whose specialized professionals connect with clients and their businesses through refreshing candor and clear industry insight. With approximately 2,700 employees across the United States, Baker Tilly is ranked as one of the 15 largest accounting and advisory firms in the country. Headquartered in Chicago, Baker Tilly is an independent member of Baker Tilly International, a worldwide network of independent accounting and business advisory firms in 141 countries, with 28,000 professionals. The combined worldwide revenue of independent member firms is \$3.8 billion. Connect with us at bakertilly.com

About M&T Bank

M&T is a financial holding company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. M&T's principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, operates banking offices in New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Trust-related services are provided by M&T's Wilmington Trust-affiliated companies and by M&T Bank.

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