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Contact: Suzanne Bergin
S Bergin Communications
610-908-4712

**MassMutual Presents Platinum Community Service Award to
Alzheimer's Association of South Hampton Roads**

\$25,000 Grant Made to Honor Volunteer Efforts of Southeastern Virginia Financial Professional

Virginia Beach, VA, July 25, 2015 – Alzheimer's Association of South Hampton Roads, has received a \$25,000 grant from Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) as part of its national Community Service Awards (CSA) program. MassMutual made the grant on behalf of the volunteer efforts of David Stephens, President of Stephens & LaRoche Financial Partners, in Virginia Beach, VA. The Alzheimer's Association of South Hampton Roads is the only organization to receive MassMutual's Platinum Award this year; an additional 16 organizations spread across the country received Community Service Awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

“MassMutual's Community Service Awards program aims to encourage and recognize those financial professionals who are active members of their community,” said Nick Fytrilakis, Vice President of Community Responsibility, MassMutual. “Dave's volunteer work reflects MassMutual's steadfast commitment to supporting organizations in the communities where our financial professionals live and work.”

The Alzheimer's Association aims to eliminate the disease through the advancement of research; provide and enhance care and support for all affected and reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. MassMutual's grant will fuel programmatic family services in the 16 counties and 11 cities that make up the Alzheimer's Association's Southeastern Virginia territory. Those services include a 24-hour helpline, care consultations, support groups, safety programs to address wandering, respite care subsidy assistance for low-income families and caregiver training to help families deal with Alzheimer's diagnosis.

Stephens has been a strong advocate, volunteer, fundraiser and board member of the Alzheimer's Association since 1999. Last fall, he walked 220 miles over eight days to raise \$15,000 for the Alzheimer's Association as part of the Walk to End Alzheimer's. His passion and dedication stem from his grandmother and father, who were both diagnosed with the disease.

"While we are incredibly honored by this award, we are not surprised that Dave's service stood out among the thousands of MassMutual professionals who dedicate their time and talents to worthy causes," explained Gino Colombara, President and CEO, Southeastern Virginia Chapter, Alzheimer's Association of South Hampton Roads. "Dave distinguished himself on a national level in our organization too. He was one of only 14 board chairs selected to serve on the National Alzheimer's Association Mission Forward Task Force. His selection demonstrates the respect he has gained as a result of his outstanding service to our community," Colombara added.

"The slogan we have adopted at the Alzheimer's Association says it all for me, 'The end of Alzheimer's starts with me,'" said Stephens. "Unlike cancer, heart disease and AIDS, to date there are no survivors of Alzheimer's and I am committed to continuing to raise money and awareness until we can say with confidence, 'There is no more Alzheimer's Disease.'"

About MassMutual

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