



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**SOUTHERN ESSEX DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS
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A division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN, SECRETARY

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REGISTER OF DEEDS JOHN O'BRIEN ANNOUNCES

HEALTH CONDITION

"If I worked in private industry I would want my boss to know."

With that said today Massachusetts Southern Essex District Register of Deeds John O'Brien announced to the people of the 30 cities and towns of Essex County, the people who elect him, that he has been diagnosed with Lewy body dementia with Parkinsonian symptoms which cause tremors. April is Parkinson's Awareness month. Lewy body is the second most

common type of progressive dementia after Alzheimer's disease. Lewy body disease affects 1.4 million Americans.

O'Brien, 64 of Lynn who is a nationally recognized figure for being the first Register of Deeds in the country to expose Wall Street and big banks for their practice of fraudulently recording robo signed mortgage documents in Registries of Deeds throughout the country and his refusal to record those documents in his Registry said: "I have an obligation to let people know that I have this disease. I know as an elected official it may surprise some people that I am making this disclosure, but I feel the more these disorders are brought to the public's attention, the more people will realize that people afflicted with this disorder can go forward and lead a meaningful, fulfilling and satisfying life. It is my hope that by announcing my condition it will shine a light on the need to increase research to find a cure for this affliction and let others who are also afflicted know that they are not alone. Make no mistake, the numbers of these types of neurological disorders are growing every day and without a cure will reach epidemic proportions sooner than we think. I do not want people to feel bad for me but rather join me in doing whatever they can to bring awareness to this disease."

“I look at it this way, I have two options...one is to stay home and the other is to keep going and fight this disease head on. My fight is everybody’s fight. Sadly I do not think there is a family in America that does not have a family member or a friend who has not been touched by some form of a neurological disorder.”

“Obviously, staying at home was never an option for me. I fully intend to keep performing my duties as Register of Deeds and seek re-election for another term. People know me well enough to realize that should I, at any time, reach the point where I could not perform my duties and responsibilities I would step aside. Hopefully that day is a long time down the road. What I am attempting to do in making this announcement is to put a face to a disease that has affected millions of people and without a cure will only affect millions more.”

“I am proud to say that the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds is recognized as the best in the nation and I look forward to many more years of working with my entire team to continue to develop new innovative policies to add to our success story.”

“Personally, I am not going to kid anyone, I was stunned when I received the diagnosis. However, I am fortunate I have a wonderful wife, daughter, family and friends for which I am grateful. I have an awful lot to

live for. I know there will be good days and there will be bad days but don't we all have them. We get up each day and we keep on going, that's what I'm going to do. My hope is that we can all join together in bringing an end to this demon that can strike anyone at any time."

O'Brien further said "My friend, journalist and author Greg O'Brien, who has been diagnosed with Early Onset Alzheimer's has written a book *On Pluto: Inside the Mind of Alzheimer's*, which I encourage everyone to read. In his book Greg gives first hand insight into these neurological diseases and how they affect not only those afflicted, but their families as well. Greg travels around the country speaking and putting a face to this disorder. In doing so he has strengthened my resolve to keep on going and keep on fighting to do whatever I can to help find a cure." You may contact Greg O'Brien at gobrien@capecod.net