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Contact: Molly Vogel, Director of Communications
(614) 457-6003 (office), (614) 643-2133 (direct)
(614) 266-0940 (cell) mvogel@alz.org

Alzheimer's Advocates to attend Memory Day at the Statehouse

April 7, 2016 (Columbus, OH) – More than 80 volunteers representing the Alzheimer's Association, Central Ohio Chapter will gather at the Statehouse on Wednesday, April 20 for the Association's annual Memory Day, to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease. They will be joined by hundreds of advocates from across the state, representing the seven chapters of the Alzheimer's Association that serve Ohio.

The advocates will meet with their elected representatives throughout the day in scheduled meetings. Advocates include caregivers and individuals with Alzheimer's as well as others affected by the disease. Tom Moore and his wife, Lavonne, who has Alzheimer's, will represent the Delaware area, as they did last year. Although Lavonne's disease is progressing, they remain committed to raising awareness and calling for more resources for caregivers. "Alzheimer's requires so much more support than any other disease, because the person who has it doesn't know what's going on," Tom said.

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in Ohio. Nationwide, someone develops Alzheimer's every 66 seconds. Today it is estimated that 5.4 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease – including 30,000 in central Ohio and 210,000 in Ohio. The *2016 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report released nationally by the Association March 30 found that:

- Nearly 16 million Alzheimer's caregivers will provide 18 billion hours of unpaid care in 2016
- Two out of three people incorrectly believe that Medicare will help them cover nursing home costs
- In 2016, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation more than \$236 billion
- On average, care contributors spent more than \$5,000 a year of their own money, and sometimes much more, to care for someone with Alzheimer's disease.

Advocates will be thanking their legislators for the 25-percent increase in respite funding included in the FY2016 budget, the first such increase to that line item in eight years, as well as sharing their personal stories.

Staff from the Central Ohio Chapter, including Executive Director and CEO Vince McGrail, Tom Moore and dozens of other volunteer advocates are available for pre-interviews and day-of interviews. Meetings are scheduled throughout the day from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. break for a lunch program in the atrium.

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The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's®. Visit www.alz.org or call 800.272.3900.