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**Michael F. Richman
MD, FACS, FCCP**

PRESS RELEASE

Los Angeles-based Surgeon Awarded High Honor of Liberia

Surgeon Michael F. Richman, MD Awarded Humanitarian Title, “Dai Zoe” – Chief of Redemption by members of EFE International.

Los Angeles, CA – May 27, 2008 – In January of 2008, Los Angeles surgeon, Michael F. Richman, MD, FACS, FCCP donated over \$250,000 of medical imaging equipment to support “**Project Liberia**”, a centralized program in Liberia, Africa that supports education and awareness of Sickle Cell Disease.

Dr. Richman’s donation was one of the largest individual donations to the country of Liberia. In honor of his humanitarian gesture, EFE and the Liberian community of Los Angeles awarded Dr. Richman with the title “Dai Zoe”, which translates to “Chief of Redemption”. This award was presented on May 17th, 2008 at the 3rd Anniversary Celebration of EFE International in Riverside, California. Others who have received this award include leaders of the United Nations, Red Cross, International Aid Organization, and Save the Children Fund. EFE President, Augustine Manneh Sumo, VP of Operations Samuel Hoff and EFE International board of director’s members Shaffa Washington and Williette Dozier and members of the Liberian community were featured speakers at the event.

Project Liberia is an education and awareness initiative that focuses on reaching the populations that are the hardest-hit by Sickle Cell Disease. Focusing primarily in Liberia, EFE International’s goal is to extend their successful centralized program, which includes health screenings of children and parents of childbearing age. Because Sickle Cell is an inherited genetic disease, adults who are carriers of this genetic trait are educated and children who test positive are channeled to physicians for appropriate treatment.

A philanthropist at heart, Dr. Richman’s work extends beyond the operating room. He is currently a member of the board of directors for the non-profit, **Institute for Myeloma and Bone Cancer Research** in Los Angeles, California. He serves as voluntary medical expert providing consumer health information for **WebMD**. Says Richman, “I believe it is everyone’s duty to “give back”, especially if they are in the position to do so. It is a tremendous honor to share this important title among such an esteemed group of individuals.”

Dr. Michael. F. Richman, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.C.C.P., is a board certified surgeon and cardiothoracic surgeon with a specialty focus in complex lipid management and venous disease. He is President and Head of Surgery for The Elite Laser Vein Centers in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills and The Center for Cholesterol Management in Los Angeles, California.

EFE International is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization that focuses on health and awareness issues about life-threatening endemic diseases, such as sickle cell disease in Africa and other third-world countries.
