



PRESS RELEASE

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AJAY RAJU, DILWORTH PAXSON CHAIRMAN AND CEO, TO BE HONORED AT AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION'S PHILADELPHIA HEART BALL ON FEBRUARY 4, 2017

01/17/2017

January 17, 2017 (Philadelphia, PA) - This year's 60th annual **Philadelphia Heart Ball** will celebrate breakthroughs in cardiovascular research and raise funds to reduce the impact of heart disease and stroke, the number one and number five killers of American men and women. **Ajay Raju**, noted Philadelphia attorney, visionary business leader and philanthropist, will be recognized as a *Heart of Philadelphia Honoree*, along with **Dr. Thomas Spray**, the *Edward S. Cooper, M.D. Award* recipient. Dr. Spray is Medical Director and Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Last year's Heart Ball campaign raised just over \$71 million nationwide toward life-saving research and preventive programs in our community and across the country.

The 2017 Philadelphia Heart Ball will take place on Saturday, February 4 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown located at 1201 Market Street. The Heart Ball is attended by more than 800 individuals from Philadelphia's corporate, medical, pharmaceutical and social communities and is the annual black-tie gala benefiting the American Heart Association's (AHA) lifesaving mission of building healthier lives free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

The Philadelphia Heart Ball will celebrate the work of the AHA, its donors and volunteers, and most importantly, the lives saved and improved due to everyone's collective efforts. For more than 60 years the Philadelphia Heart Ball has promoted the AHA's mission on a local level and thanks to donor support has inspired advances in the fight against heart and stroke related illnesses. To purchase tickets or to make a donation, contact Tracey Soulgas, Senior Heart Ball Director, at (215) 575-5204 or Tracey.Soulgas@heart.org