Friends, brothers, colleagues, to all persons reading this appeal;

I write to you appealing for a ‘gift of life’ for an Army Veteran, friend and brother of our chapter: Houston “Fabio” Smith. Houston has recently been diagnosed with early stage liver cancer.

The ‘gift of life’ that is sought for Houston is known throughout the medical community as the Live Liver Donation Program.

Houston’s teams of doctors at Medstar Georgetown Transplant Hospital, are recommending the Live Liver Donation Program. The Program has shown itself to have a high success rate at treating and prolonging the lives of recipients (up to 20 years) whom have been diagnosed with liver cancer. The prospective Live Liver Donor may remain anonymous.

A Living Donor donates a small portion of their healthy liver for transplantation to a recipient whom has the cancerous liver.

The donor’s liver regrows (the human liver is the only organ in the human body that can regenerate itself) to its original size, volume, and capacity in nearly two months. The transplanted liver portion in the recipient, grows to a normal size, volume and capacity, becoming a normal fully functional liver in the recipient.

To be sure, this is an unconventional request, and one that should not be entered into lightly. Houston is very aware and quite sensitive, of the great sacrifice, physically and emotionally, that would be required by the donor and their family, and realizes this is a serious consideration.

Frequently asked questions regarding the Live Liver Donation Program include:

What is the criteria to become a donor?

* Compatible blood types: A+, A-, or O
* Must be between the ages of 18-55
* Similar size and stature, 5’9 and above
* Body Mass Index (BMI) less than 30
* Free from significant organ disease (i.e., heart, kidney disease)
* Cancer free
* No hepatitis, or active or chronic infections
* No active substance abuse

Additional information can be found at: <https://www.medstarhealth.org/services/medstar-georgetown-transplant-institute>

What/who’s insurance covers the Live Liver Donor procedure?

* The Recipient’s insurance covers all medical testing, travel, and expenses for the prospective Live Liver Donor.

If you are interested in becoming a Live Liver Donor, or if you know someone who is interested in becoming a donor, please contact the MedStar Georgetown Transplant Hospital in Washington DC, <https://www.medstarhealth.org/services/becoming-a-living-donor>

Or please contact Houston Smith at 202-359-4368 or via message on Facebook under Houston NK Fabio Smith.

On behalf of Houston, thank you taking the time to read this appeal for life.

Mike Hodgkin