



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Beth Weachter**

**717-909-8901**

**[beth@paorthosociety.org](mailto:beth@paorthosociety.org)**

**OCTOBER 12-20 DECLARED BONE AND JOINT WEEK**

**HARRISBURG (October 6, 2006)** – Gov. Ed Rendell declared October 12 – 20, 2006 Bone and Joint Decade Awareness Week in Pennsylvania, recognizing the efforts of orthopaedic surgeons and others who work with people suffering from bone and joint injuries or diseases.

The U.S. Bone and Joint Decade National Action Week 2006 kicks off this weekend with Sunday’s New York Giants vs. Washington Redskins football game.

Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society President Joshua Port, MD, noted that arthritis affects more than 3.5 million people and costs the Commonwealth more than \$4 billion annually.

“While the specific causes of arthritis are not yet known for most forms of the disease, researchers have made tremendous strides in fighting arthritis and other Musculoskeletal Disorders,” Port said. “This week provides an opportunity to educate

the public about prevention and treatment and support research to improve the quality of life for patients.”

Bone and joint disorders affect nearly one in three Pennsylvanians. During the week local community groups and healthcare professionals will be spreading awareness and educating the public about prevention as a key step to lowering the number of Pennsylvanians with bone and joint conditions.

“I am greatly encouraged by the efforts of the U.S. Bone and Joint Decade and all those who have joined forces to fight arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions,” Gov. Rendell said in his proclamation. “It is my hope that you will continue to find success in your mission and bring us all a little closer to finding a cure.”

Port added that educating Pennsylvanians who are already challenged with a bone and joint condition is key to helping them keep current on treatment options and maximizing quality of life.

For more information on the U.S. Bone and Joint Decade National Awareness Week go to [www.usbjd.org](http://www.usbjd.org).

POS is a professional medical specialty organization representing more than 1,000 orthopaedic surgeons across Pennsylvania. For more information, visit the POS website at [www.paorthosociety.org](http://www.paorthosociety.org).

This year POS celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ***“50 Years and Growing Stronger”*** with a series of public education materials and activities highlighting the excellence of orthopaedic medicine in Pennsylvania and the importance of bone, joint and muscle health at every age.

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