



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Alysa Ullman – Citizenship Counts

aullman@citizenshipcounts.org

202-422-3232

Dedicated Phoenix Physician and Silver Star Marine to Bike 50 Miles Together as Part of 3,500 Mile Journey Across America to Promote Citizenship Counts

WHO: Dr. John Eckstein and his wife, Diane, both of Phoenix, AZ, recently began a 3,500 mile journey across America to promote engaged citizenship and help advance the efforts of Citizenship Counts, a Phoenix-based national non-profit organization. On Wednesday, February 8th John Eckstein will team up with Duane Wagner, a former Marine who has been awarded the Silver Star and lost both of his legs in the Vietnam War, to ride a 50 mile segment of the cross-country journey. After being told that he wouldn't be able to walk without crutches or a cane, Wagner went on to win nine national and two world cycling titles. He is biking part of the journey as a supporter of Citizenship Counts' mission and an excellent example of a dedicated citizen of the United States.

Dr. John Eckstein has been a primary care physician for 38 years, most of which have been at Mayo Clinic Arizona. He is dedicated to his profession and his patients, and also to his community. He is a first generation American who was taught by his parents the blessings of American freedom and the tremendous opportunities afforded by our country.

A few weeks ago, on Friday, January 27, 2012, Citizenship Counts Board Member Diane Eckstein and her husband, John began their 3,500 mile cross-country journey with their dog, Kipp, walking and biking 3,500 miles to promote awareness of the naturalization process and to raise funds to advance Citizenship Counts' efforts. *A Journey that Counts*, kicked off in San Diego, California and will finish in New York City, where the Statue of Liberty stands as a beacon of hope for many Americans.

A Journey that Counts: Promoting Citizenship Education from Sea to Shining Sea will travel through the following cities: San Diego, CA; Phoenix AZ; Tucson, AZ; Las Cruces, NM; Austin, TX; College Station, TX; Dallas, TX; Memphis, TN; Nashville, TN; Indianapolis, IN; Chicago, IL; Pittsburgh, PA; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, PA; and New York City, NY.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Bike Ride will commence at 8:00am

WHERE: 2149 E. Rancho Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85016

WHY: Citizenship Counts was founded by Gerda Weissmann Klein as her way of giving back to the country that saved her life. Klein is a celebrated author, Holocaust survivor, 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, and proud naturalized citizen. "To perpetuate the miracle that is America," says Klein, "we must teach our children about its rich history as a nation of immigrants who chose this country and have given meaning to its ideals." The Ecksteins' inspirations for their upcoming journey are Klein's life and the work of Citizenship Counts. "We are proud to be Americans," the Ecksteins

say, “and hope that our *Journey* will inspire and educate young people to be good, participating citizens.”

About Citizenship Counts

Citizenship Counts is a national, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization, whose mission is to educate today’s youth on the tenets of citizenship, encourage them to appreciate their rights and responsibilities as Americans, and give them an opportunity to celebrate their citizenship by hosting a naturalization ceremony or participating in a service learning project. www.citizenshipcounts.org

Additional details about the *Journey* can also be found on Facebook (CitizenshipCounts) and Twitter (@CitizenshipCnts).

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