

**April 1, 2010**

**Subject: Acceptance Speech – 2010 Parkinson’s Awareness  
Proclamation Ceremony, SC State House – Columbia, SC**

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Thank you Dottie – for your introduction and your great leadership of the Columbia Parkinson’s Support Group.

When Dottie first asked me why I wanted to become involved in the Parkinson’s Support Group, she was surprised by my answer – I didn’t have any family members, friends or anyone close to me that had Parkinson’s disease.

But, I HAD been touched by Parkinson’s disease.

Working out in the community for the past several years, this is a group of folks that I got to know and love that always seemed to get left behind.

You are the same group of people in this room today who, over the years have had an uphill battle of heart, will, dedication and love.

Today marks an important step in moving forward to a new era.

As we enter our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Columbia Parkinson’s support Group, we have much to celebrate.

2010 marks the 2<sup>nd</sup> Proclamation Ceremony, declaring April as Parkinson’s Awareness month in SC and this month we will be holding our first sponsored walk.

For all the people in SC who live with Parkinson’s disease, Today is YOUR day and April is YOUR month and 2010 is the year we will continue to move forward on our journey together.

Jenny Barber