



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Kidneys For Communities Bestows Congressional Fire Services Institute's (CSFI) National Advisory Committee (NAC) with National Community Impact Award**

*--Kidneys for Communities brings kidney donor and recipients from the first responder community to Washington DC to illustrate its progress and partnership with CSFI's NAC--*

**Washington, DC, March 25, 2026** — [Kidneys for Communities](#), a national nonprofit dedicated to increasing access to life-saving kidney transplants through community-directed living donation, bestowed a National Community Impact Award upon the Congressional Fire Services Institute's (CSFI) [National Advisory Committee \(NAC\)](#) as part of its [36th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium & Dinner](#) on March 18-19, 2026 in Washington DC.

The award was received by NAC Chair Preet Bassi, who is also the CEO of Center for Public Safety Excellence; NAC Vice Chair Vickie Pritchett, Vice President of Advocacy & Outreach for the National Fire Sprinkler Association; CFSI Board Member Shane Ray, National Fire Sprinkler Association President; and CFSI Executive Director Michaela Campbell.

"The Congressional Fire Services Institute and our National Advisory Committee are honored to receive the National Community Impact Award," said Michaela Campbell, CFSI Executive Director. "This recognition highlights the importance of coming together to support the health and well-being of our nation's firefighters and first responders. We are grateful for this distinction and the opportunity to be part of such meaningful work."

In attendance to demonstrate the organization's focus on first responders were kidney donors and recipients who have been assisted and supported by Kidneys for Communities:

- **Lucas Gorelick** – a 21-year-old EMT donor whose kidney went to Christopher Romero, an NYPD Highway Patrol Officer.
- **Daulton "DJ" Riddell** – a 24-year-old Philadelphia area law enforcement hopeful (and both parents in law enforcement) who received a kidney in Jan. 2026 from an anonymous donor.

- **John “Jack” Duncan** – former Marine and volunteer at the 9/11 Ground Zero site who received a kidney from a Canadian fire mechanic.
- **Venedo Alcazar** – firefighter with Portland Fire & Rescue who received his kidney from Dr. Karen Doeuk, a retired nephrologist.

“The progress we have made in the past few years is because of the support of first responder organizations like CSFI’s National Advisory Committee and its members,” said Atul Agnihotri, CEO of Kidneys for Communities and a kidney transplant recipient himself. “We felt there was no better way to thank them than by introducing them to first responders whose lives they helped us save. The National Community Impact Award is a symbol of our deep gratitude for this partnership.”

### **About Congressional Fire Services Institute’s (CSFI) National Advisory Committee (NAC)**

Composed of more than 35 trade groups, issue organizations, and professional associations including the leading fire and emergency services organizations in the country, the NAC provides a forum where the national organizations conduct discussions and develop consensus on important national fire and emergency services issues. Funding for the United States Fire Administration and the AFG/SAFER grant programs, reallocation of spectrum for first responders, and greater involvement of first responders in disaster mitigation are examples of the types of issues the NAC has supported at recent meetings.

### **About Kidneys for Communities**

Kidneys for Communities is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives by increasing access to kidney transplants through living donation. The organization partners with communities, employers, municipalities, and first responder organizations to educate, support, and connect donors and recipients, increasing the likelihood that a life-saving kidney can be directed to a fellow community member in need. Addressing the national shortage of living kidney donors through proactive outreach, Kidneys for Communities developed the first-ever national community-directed donation program, which unlocks connections within membership-based communities and expands the impact of paired kidney exchange. To learn more or find out how to help first responders in need of a kidney transplant, visit [their website](#).

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**Photo Caption:**

Kidneys for Communities bestowed the Congressional Fire Service Institute's (CFSI) National Advisory Committee (NAC) with a National Community Impact Award. Pictured (left to right) are: kidney recipient Daulton "DJ" Riddell; kidney donor Lucas Gorelick; kidney recipient John Duncan; kidney recipient Venedo Alcazar; Kidneys for Communities CEO Atul Agnihotri; CFSI Executive Director Michaela Campbell; NAC Chair and CEO of Center for Public Safety Excellence Preet Bassi (holding award); NAC Vice Chair and Vice President of Advocacy & Outreach for the National Fire Sprinkler Association Vickie Pritchett (holding award); CFSI Board Member Shane Ray, National Fire Sprinkler Association President; and Ron Siarnicki, Executive Director, First Responder Engagement & Strategy, Kidneys for Communities.