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Representing taxicab, limousine, sedan, airport shuttle, paratransit, Medicaid & non-emergency medical fleets worldwide.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Charles Kabbani, Vital Transportation, Inc. Awarded Limousine & Sedan Chauffeur of the Year 2008 by the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association (TLPA)

WASHINGTON, DC, NOVEMBER 21, 2008. Charles Kabbani, Chauffeur, Vital Transportation, Inc, Long Island City, New York, has been selected as the TLPA 2008 Limousine & Sedan Chauffeur of the Year.

Charles Kabbani, Owner/Operator for Vital Transportation, was born in Brooklyn, New York and moved to Staten Island in 2000, where he presently resides. After driving for Brighton Beach Car service, Charles joined Vital Transportation in 1985. Berj Haroutunian, President of Vital Transportation stated, "Throughout his career at Vital, Charlie has served on various committees in the company. Charlie has a true love for the job and gives one hundred percent to every assignment he goes on. Charlie has gone above and beyond the call of duty and is a true inspiration to the over 500 other drivers in Vital." He is also a true hero.

On August 23, 2007, he saved the life of a passenger. The woman was on her way to Grand Central Station when she began to have a seizure. "When she got into the car, she said she didn't feel well," Charlie said. "We were driving for a while, having a conversation, when she suddenly stopped talking. I looked back to make sure she was alright and saw that her eyes were rolling up into her head and she was convulsing." Thinking quickly, Charlie pulled his Town Car to the side of the road and placed a 12-inch ruler in her mouth to prevent her from swallowing her tongue and choking to death as he rushed her to an emergency room. Charlie says, "I remained in the waiting area until her husband arrived, and later met with the emergency room doctor who told me that, if it weren't for my quick thinking, she would have suffocated." For his heroic act, Charlie was presented the "Driver of the Year" award from New York City Taxi and Limousine Commissioner Matthew Daus. Charlie was the first Black Car driver to receive this coveted award. Charlie has been a professional chauffeur for more than 20 years and he said that he had a similar experience with a passenger 20 years ago. He saved that person's life as well

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and learned a valuable lesson: never stick your fingers in the mouth of a person having a seizure. “I still have scars from the last time when I got bitten,” he says. “I was just lucky to have the ruler right on the seat next to me this time.”

We asked Charlie what he enjoyed about driving a limousine. He responded, “The thing I love most about driving a limousine is getting to meet lots of different people. I get to travel all over the north-east and have seen some beautiful homes.” He said, “Driving for Vital is truly a rewarding experience; the staff and management are extremely friendly and helpful. Being that Vital is among the most prestigious and successful limousine companies in New York, they’re constantly busy with quality work that affords me the opportunity to earn a good living. I’ve seen many changes in the ‘Black Car Industry’ such as the way drivers communicate with dispatchers. Twenty years ago, we used two-way radios. Now we receive assignments through a computer and we can also process credit card rides in the car as well. Also, the introduction of hybrid vehicles is good for the environment and saves drivers money on gas,” he said. Right now Charlie drives his Lincoln Town Car, which is kept in immaculate condition, but Charlie says that he plans to purchase a brand new hybrid vehicle by next year to do his part in reducing carbon emissions.

Charlie stated, “I am very much honored to receive this award. When I heard that I was this year’s TLPA Limousine & Sedan Chauffeur of the Year, I was thrilled to see that my commitment to service and professionalism has paid off. Last year I received a driver of the year award within my company and in April of 2008 I received the first ever ‘TLC’S Driver of the Year’ award presented to a Black Car driver.”

In honor of his heroism, his professionalism, and his twenty-plus year commitment to provide exemplary service to his passengers, the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association is proud to recognize Charles Kabbani as the TLPA 2008 Limousine & Sedan Chauffeur of the Year.

The Taxicab, Limousine, & Paratransit Association established in 1917, is an international organization representing owners and managers of taxicab, limousine, sedan, airport shuttle, paratransit, and non-emergency medical fleets. TLPA consists of more than 1,000 member companies operating more than 100,000 passenger vehicles, which transport over 2 million passengers each day, more than 900 million passengers annually. This for-hire vehicle industry is vital to a community’s commerce and mobility, aiding in the relief of traffic congestion while promoting environmental improvements. The specialized paratransit services furnish more than half of the transportation needs of the physically challenged, while other facets of the industry provide feeder services to major transit stations and airports. The elderly and economically disadvantaged rely on the industry for fast, affordable transportation.

Please note: An electronic copy of this press release and a photograph of Charles Kabbani are available from a link at TLPA’s web site at www.tlpa.org.