

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2004

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State hospital association honors “Health Care Heroes”

Montgomery, Ala. – Ten Alabamians were honored recently for their heroic contributions to health care. Named “Health Care Heroes” by the Alabama Hospital Association, the men and women received their awards at a special reception and luncheon at the Alabama Activity Center in Montgomery. Following are the award-winners:

Ella Benford – a housekeeper at East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika.

Mary Alice Cleveland – a registered nurse at Flowers Hospital in Dothan.

Robert Gray, MD – a pediatrician practicing at Baptist Coosa Valley in Sylacauga.

Meg Henry, RN – a registered nurse and the emergency department nurse manager at Baptist Medical Center South in Montgomery.

Connie McFall, RN, BSN, OCN – a registered nurse who manages the medical oncology unit at Baptist Princeton in Birmingham.

Col. Mark McGuire, OD – an optometrist at Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System in Tuskegee and a colonel in the U.S. Army.

Linda Pair, RN – a registered nurse at Baptist Walker in Jasper.

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Vicki Perdue Peterson, RN – a registered nurse at Jackson Hospital and Clinic in Montgomery.

Stacey Searcy, RN, BSN – a registered nurse at Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System in Montgomery.

Joseph Thompson, BBA, RT – director of radiological services at Providence Hospital in Mobile.

Families, friends and co-workers of the winners were also invited to the celebration in Montgomery, which included a video featuring each “Health Care Hero,” entertainment by a local high school choir and special guest speaker Rev. Chette Williams, team chaplain at Auburn University in Auburn.

This is the first time the Alabama Hospital Association has sponsored the “Health Care Hero” contest, which it plans to continue on an annual basis. The awards banquet was held during National Hospital Week, May 9-15, in an effort to honor the dedication of health care workers in the state and to highlight health careers.

The Alabama Hospital Association, based in Montgomery, is a statewide trade organization that represents more than 100 hospitals and numerous other health care providers by offering membership services designed to enhance the provision of health care in Alabama.

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