FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Jennifer Armstrong Gay, AHA, 202-626-2342
        Elizabeth Lietz, AHA, (202) 626-2284

AHA RECOGNIZES GRASSROOTS CHAMPIONS

WASHINGTON (April 12, 2012) - The American Hospital Association (AHA), in partnership with the state hospital associations, today awarded 52 individuals with the American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion Award. As a 2012 Grassroots Champion these individuals are being recognized for exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community activity in support of a hospital’s mission.

The American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion Award was created to recognize those hospital leaders who most effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect the hospital’s vital role in the community, who have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support for the hospital and who are tireless advocates for hospitals and their patients.

“We depend upon strong local voices to help tell the story of hospitals as cornerstones of the communities they serve,” said Rich Umbdenstock, AHA president and CEO. “This award is a small token of our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of these individuals to improving health and health care in America.”

The 2012 Grassroots Champions are:

Alabama - Glenn C. Sisk
President and Chief Executive Officer. Coosa Valley Medical Center

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Alaska - Patrick J. Branco  
CEO, PeaceHealth, Ketchikan General Hospital

Arizona - Bruce Pearson  
Executive VP and CEO, John C. Lincoln Hospitals

Arkansas - Kristy Estrem, FACHE  
President, Mercy Hospital Berryville

California - Larry Mitchel  
Director, Government Relations, Adventist Health

Colorado - Kenneth Leisher, FACHE  
President & CEO, Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center

Connecticut - Frank A. Corvino  
President & CEO, Greenwich Hospital

Delaware - Terence M. Murphy, FACHE  
President & CEO, Bayhealth Medical Center

District of Columbia - Clarence Brewton, Jr., F.A.C.H.E.  
Vice President, Regulatory Compliance, MedStar Washington Hospital/MedStar Health

Florida - Stephen A. Purves  
President & CEO, Munroe Regional Medical Center

Georgia - Lance B. Duke, FACHE  
President & CEO, The Medical Center

Hawaii - Paula Yoshioka  
Sr. VP, Corporate Development, The Queen's Health Systems

Idaho - Gary Fletcher  
VP, COO, St. Luke's Health System

Illinois - Timothy J. Eckels  
VP, Community Benefit, Public Policy and Advocacy, Hospital Sisters Health System

Indiana - Dr. Timothy L. Putnam, FACHE  
President/CEO, Margaret Mary Community Hospital

Iowa - Lon Butikofer, RN, PhD.  
Chief Executive Officer, Regional Medical Center

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Kansas - Katherine Howell, RN, BSN, MBA  
President & CEO, Saint Luke's South Hospital

Kentucky - E. Berton Whitaker  
President & CEO, Trover Health System

Louisiana - Larry M. Graham, FACHE  
President/CEO, Lake Charles Memorial Hospital

Maine - Eileen F. Skinner, MHA, FACHE  
President & CEO, Mercy Health System of Maine

Maryland - Kevin J. Sexton  
President & CEO, Holy Cross Hospital

Massachusetts - Jeanette Clough  
President & CEO, Mount Auburn Hospital

Michigan - John MacLeod  
President & CEO, Mercy Hospital Cadillac

Minnesota - Susan Klabo Klassen  
CEO, Mahnomen Health Center

Mississippi - Charles L. (Chip) Denton  
CEO, Grenada Lake Medical Center

Missouri - William Mahoney  
President & CEO, Skaggs Regional Medical Center

Montana - Kristianne Wilson  
Executive Director, Billings Clinic

Nevada - Christine Bosse  
VP, Government Relations, Renown Health

New Hampshire - Arthur W. Nichols  
President/CEO, Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene

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New Jersey - Adam Beder
VP, Government Affairs, JFK Health System

New Mexico - David Shaw
CEO/Administrator, Nor-Lea District Hospital

New York - William F. Streck, M.D.
President & CEO, Bassett Healthcare Network

North Carolina - Robert Morrison
CEO, Randolph Hospital

North Dakota - Keith Heuser
CEO, Mercy Hospital

Ohio - Patrick J. Martin
President & CEO, Fisher-Titus Medical Center

Oklahoma - Richard Boone, CFRE
President, St. John Medical Center Foundation

Oregon - Thomas Russell
President & CEO, Adventist Medical Center

Pennsylvania - Kathleen E. Kuck
President and CEO, Pocono Medical Center

Puerto Rico - Alfredo Volckers
Executive Vice President, Hospital Pavia Hato Rey

Rhode Island - John Hynes
President & CEO, Care New England Health System

South Carolina - Julian Gibbons
VP, Community & Governmental Relations, Palmetto Health

South Dakota - Bryan Slaba
Administrator/CEO, Wagner Community Memorial Hospital Avera

Tennessee - Scott Raynes
President/CEO, NorthCrest Medical Center

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Texas - Ron J. Anderson, M.D., MACP
Senior Advisor to CEO, Parkland Health and Hospital System

Utah - John L. Oaks
Vice President, Government and Payor Relations, IASIS HealthCare, Utah Market Office

Vermont - James L. Daily
President, Porter Medical Center

Virginia - David B. Darden
CEO, Clinch Valley Medical Center

Washington - Thomas Martin
CEO/Administrator, Lincoln Hospital

West Virginia - Douglas Bentz
CEO, Roane General Hospital

Wisconsin - Robert Van Meeteren
President/CEO, Reedsburg Area Medical Center

Wyoming - Eric Boley
CEO, South Lincoln Medical Center

Winners will be recognized at a special Breakfast of Grassroots Champions at the AHA Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 8, 2012.

About the AHA
The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes more than 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 42,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the AHA Web site at www.aha.org.

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