



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carly Moore, AHA, 202-638-5487
Elizabeth Lietz, AHA, (202) 626-2284

AHA RECOGNIZES *GRASSROOTS CHAMPIONS*

WASHINGTON (April 24, 2013) - The American Hospital Association (AHA), in partnership with the state hospital associations, today awarded 52 individuals with the American Hospital Association *Grassroots Champions Award*. As a 2013 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 2013 *Grassroots Champions* are:

Alabama - Stanley K. Hammack
Chief Executive Officer, University of South Alabama Hospitals

- more-

Grassroots Champion/ Page 2

Alaska - Robert Letson, FACHE

Chief Executive Officer, South Peninsula Hospital

Arizona - Bruce Dockter

Chair, Board of Trustees, Sierra Vista Regional Health Center

Arkansas - Darren Caldwell

Chief Executive Officer, DeWitt Hospital and Nursing Home

California - Sara Steinhoffer

Vice President Government Relations, Sharp HealthCare

Colorado - John Gardner, FACHE

Chief Executive Officer, Yuma District Hospital

Connecticut - Andrea Rynn

Director, Public & Government Relations, Western Connecticut Health Network

Delaware - Steven A. Rose, RN, MN

Chief Executive Officer, Nanticoke Health Services

District of Columbia - John Rockwood

President, MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital

Florida - Stephen R. Mason

President & CEO, BayCare Health System

Georgia - Alan Kent, FACHE

President & CEO, Meadows Regional Medical Center

Hawaii - Michael J. Robinson

Executive Director, Philanthropy and Government Affairs, Hawaii Pacific Health

Idaho - Timothy Saylor

President & CEO, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center

Illinois - Scott A. Ziomek

Director, External Affairs, Northwestern Memorial Healthcare

- more-

Grassroots Champion/ Page 3

Indiana - Robert C. Keen, Ph.D., FACHE
President & CEO, Hancock Regional Hospital

Iowa - Jody Jenner
President & CEO, Broadlawns Medical Center

Kansas - Dennis Franks
Chief Executive Officer, Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center

Kentucky - Bruce A. Klockars, FACHE
Group President - Rural & Critical Access Hospitals, KentuckyOne Health

Louisiana - Milton D. Bourgeois, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer, Ochsner St. Anne General Hospital

Maine - Rebecca Ryder
President and CEO, Franklin Memorial Hospital

Maryland - Thomas A. Kleinhanzl
President & CEO, Frederick Regional Health System

Massachusetts - Mark R. Tolosky, J.D., FACHE
President & CEO, Baystate Health, Inc.

Michigan - Barbara W. Rossman
President & CEO, Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals

Minnesota - Ben Koppelman
President & CEO, St. Joseph's Area Health Services, Inc.

Mississippi - Richard G. Hilton, FACHE
Administrator/CEO, OCH Regional Medical Center

Missouri - David M. Zechman, FACHE
President & CEO, Ozarks Medical Center

Montana - Shane Roberts
Chief Executive Officer, St. Luke Community Healthcare

Nebraska - Leslie Marsh
Chief Executive Officer, Lexington Regional Health Center

- more-

Grassroots Champion/ Page 4

Nevada - Gregory Boyer

Chief Executive Officer, Renown Regional Medical Center

New Hampshire - Peter L. Gosline

President & CEO, Monadnock Community Hospital

New Jersey - Chester B. Kaletkowski

President & CEO, South Jersey Healthcare

New Mexico - Robert J. Heckert

Chief Executive Officer, Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center

New York - Herbert Pardes, MD

Executive Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, New York-Presbyterian Hospital

North Carolina - Oscar K. Weinmeister, III, FACHE

President & CEO, Blue Ridge Regional Hospital

North Dakota - Keith Heuser

President, Mercy Hospital

Ohio - Thomas F. Zenty III

Chief Executive Officer, University Hospitals

Oklahoma - James Berry

Chief Executive Officer, Purcell Municipal Hospital

Oregon - Becky A. Pape, MPA, RN

Chief Executive Officer, Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital

Pennsylvania - David D. Clark

President & CEO, Mercy Health System of Southeastern PA

Puerto Rico - Domingo Cruz

SVP, Operations, San Jorge Children's Hospital

Rhode Island - Edwin J. Santos

Chairman, Board of Trustees, CharterCARE Health Partners

South Carolina - Jamie Bates Adair

Director, Marketing, Planning, Community Relations, Laurens County Health Care System

-more-

Grassroots Champion/ Page 5

South Dakota - Todd Forkel
President & CEO, Avera St. Luke's Hospital

Tennessee - Robert P. (Bob) Main
President & CEO, Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation

Texas - Jaime A. Wesolowski
President & CEO, Methodist Healthcare System of San Antonio

Utah - David Entwistle
Chief Executive Officer, University of Utah Hospitals & Clinics

Vermont - Thomas Dee
President & CEO, Southwestern Vermont Health Care

Virginia - Mark Lawrence
VP, Governmental and External Affairs, Carilion Clinic

Washington - Scott W. Bosch
President & CEO, Harrison Medical Center

West Virginia - David L. Ramsey
President & CEO, CAMC Health System

Wisconsin - Scott McMeans
Administrative Director, Holy Family Memorial

Wyoming - Rick Schroeder
Chief Executive Officer, North Big Horn Hospital District

Winners will be recognized at a special Breakfast of *Grassroots Champions* at the AHA Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2013.

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 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.

#####