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LOCAL HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR RECOGNIZED AS *GRASSROOTS CHAMPION*

HAMILTON, Ala.—The American Hospital Association (AHA), in partnership with the Alabama Hospital Association, recently named Donald Jones, FACHE, administrator of North Mississippi Medical Center-Hamilton, an AHA *Grassroots Champion*. As a 2010 Grassroots Champion Jones is being recognized for his exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community support of the important mission of hospitals.

The Grassroots Champion award is presented annually to one individual from each state with winners chosen by the state association. The 2010 honorees will be recognized at a special breakfast of *Grassroots Champions* at the AHA Annual Membership Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 27. Jones is one of 52 individuals to be honored this year.

“We are extremely pleased to be able to honor Donald and recognize his dedication to Alabama’s hospital industry,” said J. Michael Horsley, president of the Alabama Hospital Association. “Donald exemplifies all that is good about hospitals; his compassion for his patients and his community is evident when he speaks with lawmakers on their behalf. He has been a terrific leader for our association and represents us well in Washington and here at home.”

Jones began his health care career in 1983 at DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa where he served as head nurse, clinical director and assistant administrator. Since leaving DCH Regional Medical Center in 1991, he has served as administrator of several Alabama health care organizations, including Perry County Hospital and Nursing Home, Marion; Vaughan Regional Medical Center, Selma; Chilton Medical Center, Clanton; and Lakeland Community Hospital, formerly Carraway Burdick West Medical Center, Haleyville.

He has served on the board of the Alabama Hospital Association, as president of his local hospital council and as chairman of the association’s statewide public awareness campaign regarding obesity. Jones is also dedicated to his community, serving as a board member for Hospice of Northwest Alabama, an officer for the Hamilton Kiwanis Club, a board member of the Hamilton Area Chamber of Commerce, a past-member of the board of directors of the Community Development Foundation, and an active member and leader of First United Methodist Church in Hamilton.

Jones is a licensed nursing home administrator and holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Alabama and a master's degree in nursing from University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

The Alabama Hospital Association, based in Montgomery, is a statewide trade organization that represents more than 100 hospitals and numerous other health care providers in their efforts to provide quality health care.

About the AHA

The American Hospital Association 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 37,000 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.