

*For Immediate Release*

*Amanda Barney  
(401) 946-7887 ext. 111  
amandab@hari.org*

## **Hospital Association of Rhode Island Honors “Hospital Heroes”**

**Warwick, R.I.** – November 20, 2012 – Individuals from throughout the state were recently honored at “Celebration of Excellence in Hospital Care,” an annual awards ceremony held by the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI). Employees of the year from HARI’s member hospitals were recognized by the HARI Board of Trustees for exemplary performance and dedication to health care. In addition, recipients of the Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award and Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service were honored.

Recipients of the Award for Excellence in Hospital Care include:

William Emerson, Mental Health Worker, Butler Hospital  
Rebecca Morin Lukowicz, Public Relations & Marketing Specialist, Kent Hospital  
Dennis Ayotte, RN, Critical Care Unit, Landmark Medical Center  
Katherine Bollesen, Administrative Secretary, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island  
Monica Manooshian, Staff RN, The Miriam Hospital  
Laurie Allan, Charge Nurse, Newport Hospital  
Jason Legere, Staff Physical Therapist, Rhode Island Hospital  
Robin Ferra, Pharmacy Technician, Roger Williams Medical Center  
Steve Pimental, Senior Telecommunications Cable Technician, South County Hospital  
Robert Delong, Physical Therapist, St. Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island  
Susan Rivet, Program Director and Manager, Providence VA Medical Center  
Christine Gentry, Clinical Informatics Nurse, The Westerly Hospital  
Linda Moroso, Off Site Clerk/Phlebotomist, Women & Infants Hospital

George Vecchione and George Shuster were recipients of the 2012 Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award. Vecchione was honored for dedicated service to Lifespan, where he served as president and CEO. Shuster was recognized for his contributions to Care New England, where he is currently chairman of the board. The Distinguished Service Award is bestowed in honor of Benjamin Sturges, a community leader who devoted his life to health care and to bettering the community. For half a century, Sturges was active in hospital issues as a trustee at South County Hospital and Butler Hospital, and was committed to many educational and environmental causes.

Sen. Jack Reed and Sen. Rhoda Perry were the recipients of the Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service. A long-time supporter of hospitals, Sen. Reed was instrumental in recently securing \$7 million in additional funding for hospitals in Rhode Island. Sen. Perry has been instrumental in forging a series of reforms to improve Rhode Island’s health care system. The Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service honors individuals for remarkable contributions to health care issues. HARI dedicates its public service award to the legacy of Francis Dietz, a long-time CEO of Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island.

###

*Pictures of the award recipients are available electronically by request.*

Hospital Association of Rhode Island, 100 Midway Road, Suite 21, Cranston, Rhode Island 02920