

Winter 2015

# CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FOR ASSOCIATES OF CAPELLA HEALTHCARE



NPMHC  
National Park Medical Center



## National Park Medical Center launches \$25 million expansion project

Retired police captain Johnny Mann, MSgt., is one of many patients whose lives have been saved at this outstanding Hot Springs hospital. Now, thanks to significant growth and community support, the hospital is expanding numerous services through a major construction project.

*Read more on page 3.*



CAPELLA  
HEALTHCARE™

PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED WITH MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center joins Capella Healthcare

A 116-bed hospital with 80+ years of community service, Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center (CPRMC) in Hartsville, South Carolina, is now a part of the Capella Healthcare family.

## A RICH HISTORY COMBINED WITH STEADY GROWTH

Originally known as Byerly Hospital, CPRMC began as a small clinic built in 1933 as an addition to the home of Dr. W.L. Byerly, Sr. Since then, it has experienced significant growth, adding numerous services and physicians. The facilities on the campus include an acute care hospital and an adjoining medical office building. From routine checkups to complex surgeries, Carolina Pines is the healthcare provider of choice in the region, which includes the counties of Darlington, Chesterfield, Lee and Marlboro.

## A COLLABORATION WITH MUSC HEALTH

In conjunction with the anticipated acquisition of CPRMC, Capella announced the formation of a clinical affiliation with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC Health) in November. The partnership brings together MUSC Health's academic expertise, clinical excellence and commitment to education and research with Capella's proven expertise in running community-based hospitals.

"With a rich history of community service and excellent care, Carolina Pines is an outstanding community hospital. MUSC Health is the premier academic medical center in South Carolina and one of the top performing healthcare providers in the entire nation," said Michael Wiechart, President and Chief Executive Officer of Capella Healthcare. "Our collaboration with MUSC Health uniquely positions Carolina Pines – and other hospitals we partner with – to better serve their communities in this new era of healthcare. We are excited about our opportunity to serve South Carolinians and to welcome Carolina Pines to the Capella family."



Leaders gathered prior to one of the "Welcome to the Family" town hall meetings. From left are CPRMC CEO Tim Browne, Capella's President and CEO Mike Wiechart, CPRMC CFO Wes Knight and Physician Services Director Mark Jones, Capella's Physician Services President Ben Ross and SVP-Human Resources Carolyn Schneider.

## SEAMLESS ACCESS TO COMPLEX CARE

"MUSC Health is proud to serve as Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center's preferred partner for complex tertiary and quaternary care," says Dr. Patrick J. Cawley, CEO of MUSC Medical Center, "giving patients seamless access to care for these services when needed, and ensuring that as much care as possible is delivered close to where patients live and work."

Tim Browne, CEO of Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center, said: "We are excited to be a part of Capella Healthcare and the new collaboration with MUSC Health. Our patients will have access to a phenomenal continuum of care that will be second to none."

The addition of Carolina Pines expands the Capella Healthcare family to seven states, from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, with 14 acute care and specialty hospital facilities.



These Carolina Pines nurses posed for this photo as part of a recruitment campaign conducted last year. They are just a few of the employees who live outside of Darlington County and choose to drive to CPRMC in Hartsville to serve.

ADDITION TO INCLUDE 22-BED ER AND HEART CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

# NPMC breaks ground on \$25+ million expansion

National Park Medical Center (Hot Springs, AR) has begun work on a 67,000-square-foot expansion that will create a stand-alone heart and vascular center of excellence as well as expand the emergency department.

"We have a large compliment of specialists, physicians, and hospital personnel who dedicate their lives to providing the best care," said Jerry Mabry, president of Capella Healthcare's Arkansas Market, at the groundbreaking ceremony. "This facility is what health care is about — being good stewards of how we approach the healthcare delivery system, and about making life better for you and your children."

The initial expansion will cost between \$25 and \$26 million, but adjunct plans that include annual capital investments will push the investment even higher over a three-year period. The expansion will enable greater specialization, especially in the area of cardiology.

The project will double the capacity of the existing emergency department and add a stand-alone cardiology center of excellence featuring the latest heart care technology in one location for all the hospital's advanced heart care services.

Joe Dierks, chairman of the NPMC Board of Directors and CEO of Greenleaf Financial, said the hospital's leadership team, physicians, staff and board of directors have committed to increasing the healthcare services and specialists available in the Hot Springs area.

"Having served on the board for many years, I'm proud of the

*Johnny Mann, MSgt., has come to know National Park Medical Center and his cardiologist Dr. Jeffrey Tauth very well over the years. "Dr. Tauth listens to me – he has a talent that God gave him and he puts it to good use. It's more than just being a doctor to him. He knows that I know my body better than anyone else. He was a God-send to me and my family."*

progress and improvements National Park Medical Center continues to make in the healthcare climate of Hot Springs. I'm proud to be part of that commitment and honored to be part of the groundbreaking on the next phase of growth for NPMC," he said.

"For those of you who have had the opportunity to have received care at this



hospital, you know they live their slogan, 'Caring Comes First, Always.' The level of individualized care and dedication to each individual patient's well-being really sets this facility apart. They always put the patient first and that's why this expansion is so important," he said.

General surgeon and NPMC Chief of Staff Dr. Robert Breving said: "We're doing great things here and today breaking ground on a beautiful, state-of-the-art expansion, which will provide additional medical services to a community, add new and advanced technology, decrease patient suffering and save more lives," he said.

The expansion will create new jobs – both clinical and nonclinical – for local residents, bring work for Arkansas construction companies, and increase revenues to the local tax base, he said.

# FORWARD TOGETHER



Michael Wiechart  
President and CEO

Capella Healthcare's tenth year of service is shaping up to be one of our most exciting in history. In this issue of *Connections*, you'll see why.

In January, we welcomed a new hospital and another new partner to the Capella family. In addition to being our newest hospital, Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center is also the first member of the new network we've formed with Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC Health).

While there to welcome the staff to our family, I shared this quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which I think is relevant for each one of us: "If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michaelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well!'"

To me, that means that whatever skills and talents we have, whatever job we are tasked with doing, we are to do it to the very best of our ability. In view of your commitment to serve others in the profession of healthcare, I know that you believe in giving your all to those you serve. And that you are always seeking ways to improve.

When we're giving our best, recognition is often a result. So, I hope you'll enjoy reading here about your sister hospitals' significant achievements in our five pillars, including national quality recognition, best workplace honors, and investments to expand services and add new technology. You'll also see how so many are serving their communities beyond the hospital walls, caring for those most in need. I'll end my column with my favorite MLK quote and a challenge to you: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

You can read more about this in my January blog posting. Let me know how you would answer this question by posting a comment at: [Healthcare-Together.com](http://Healthcare-Together.com)



## PILLAR TALK

# Hospitals earn national recognition for quality care and workplace culture

### QUALITY

#### WVMC named Top Performer for the fourth year in a row

For the fourth consecutive year, Willamette Valley Medical Center (McMinnville, OR) has been named one of The Joint Commission's Top Performers on Key Quality Measures®. The hospital has been recognized for its excellence in accountability measure performance shown to improve care in pneumonia and surgical care, and is one of only 1,224 U.S. hospitals to achieve the distinction as a Top Performer. To further that distinction, this is Willamette Valley Medical Center's fourth consecutive year winning the award making them one of only 147 hospitals to achieve such elitism in quality care.



CEO Peter Hofstetter



CNO Connie Pullen

"At Willamette Valley Medical Center, we have made it a top priority to address patient safety and quality health care by improving upon our evidence-based care processes," said Peter Hofstetter, CEO, Willamette Valley Medical Center.

Read more about how this hospital has sustained their success at [CapellaHealthcare.com/measuringup](http://CapellaHealthcare.com/measuringup)



#### Saint Mary's named Top Performer

Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center (Russellville, AR) has been recognized for the first time as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures by the Joint Commission. Their quality achievements were recognized in three areas: heart attack, pneumonia and surgical care.

### PEOPLE

#### Southwestern Medical Center again named among the Top Places to Work in Oklahoma

In 2014, for the second year in a row, Southwestern Medical Center (Lawton, OK) has been recognized as one of the "Top Places to Work" in Oklahoma. The hospital is one of only seventy companies receiving this award and the only hospital in the large company division. The program is sponsored by *The Oklahoman* newspaper, which points



out that companies considered to provide great working environments also have employees that outperform their peers.

"We are honored to be recognized as one of the Top Places to Work in Oklahoma for two years in a row. This achievement powerfully demonstrates the ongoing commitment of our team members and medical staff to provide healthcare excellence to the people of south-west Oklahoma," said Steve Hyde, CEO.

### SERVICE

#### Two hospitals recognized as "Business of the Year"

EASTAR Health System (Muskogee, OK) is the "2014 Business of the Year," an award sponsored by The Muskogee City-County Port Authority, Indian Capital Technology Center and the Muskogee Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. Honored for its contributions to the growth and quality of life in and around Muskogee and Eastern Oklahoma, EASTAR was cited for its commitment to the community as well as recent growth resulting in development of new services including a Certified Stroke Center, Senior Behavioral Services, a new Women and Children's Campus and advanced Cardiovascular Services. Additionally, more than 60 physicians have been recruited, bringing specialty services formerly not available or expanding access to care.

In January, at The Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Community Service Awards, National Park Medical Center (Hot Springs, AR) was named "Large Business of the Year" in recognition of its outstanding contributions being made in Hot Springs. The Large Business of the Year award recognizes a Hot Springs large business, based on its community involvement, leadership and innovation. Noted contributions included hands-on projects such as community outreach and education, health fairs, screenings and blood drives; involvement in more than 50 community organizations and charities; more than \$1 million in community benefit programs and services, and their recent groundbreaking on a 67,000-square-foot expansion project to improve access to heart care services.

### GROWTH

#### Saint Mary's adds new 128-slice CT Scanner

With an investment of \$1.2 million, Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center (Russellville, AR) became the first hospital in their region to offer and fully utilize a 128-slice CT Scanner. The new GE Optima CT660 computed tomography scanner revolutionizes non-invasive

procedures including coronary angiography by providing more anatomical detail at a lower radiation dose in a fraction of the time previously needed. In fact, the machine can scan the whole body in seconds, providing incredibly sharp 3D images of any organ. It is particularly effective for studying the beating heart. It is also especially useful for brain and peripheral vascular imaging.

"Rather than a one-scan-fits-all approach, we tailor each exam to meet the patient's specific needs," said Dr. Ahmed Athar, who is board-certified in cardiovascular CT. "This new technology will give us more versatility in our imaging protocols."

"We're proud to offer this world-class technology," said Ken Dilday, Director of Radiology. "An accurate diagnosis is key to any health concern, and having access to sophisticated medical technology is vital to delivering a higher level of patient care."

#### Southwestern Medical Center opens new surgery center

Southwestern Medical Center (Lawton, OK) has opened a new \$5 million surgery center. Read more on page 7.

### FINANCE AND QUALITY

#### Capella supporting better patient care through Clinical Information Exchange

Capella Healthcare is well on the way to creating easy-to-access longitudinal patient records. By acquiring and aggregating clinical information from across the various settings of care that serve patients, Capella is empowering clinicians and patients by providing the right information at the right time. To achieve this vision, Capella has partnered with RelayHealth Clinical Connectivity which offers industry-leading capabilities in bringing together multi-vendor data for a single view of the patient.

"Our hospitals are using technologies from three different hospital-based vendor platforms, our employed physicians are using another vendor EHR, and our community or independent medical staff members utilize a variety of other EHRs. All of this creates a fragmented and very complex view of our patients," said Al Smith, SVP, Chief Information Officer at Capella Healthcare. "Even with this complexity, we are working towards our clinicians having easy access to complete patient information at the point of care and not having to put together each patient's story manually. More information will drive more informed care decisions and support coordination across the care continuum. We also believe our patients should have a single portal to interact with in order to provide one-stop shopping in accessing all of their clinical data."

By consolidating clinical information from a wide array of disparate electronic health record (EHR) systems, we are enabling data exchange across the healthcare enterprise, he said. "Working with RelayHealth, we will be acquiring and aggregating information from a variety of information systems into one view, making it possible for clinicians to access comprehensive patient information."

## HEALTH HEROES

#### Nina Wilcher: Trauma Survivor, Marathon Runner

May 24, 2013, is a day that Nina Wilcher will never forget. Nina, who works as an ultrasound tech at River Park Hospital (McMinnville, TN), and her husband, Doug, would have their lives drastically impacted by a motor vehicle accident. Nina was flown to the closest trauma center in Chattanooga with three pelvic fractures and multiple lacerations.

Before the accident, Nina had run three 5K races, gearing up for a half marathon that she hoped to run. However, due to the extent of her injuries from the accident, she was not even allowed to walk for three months.

Her strong desire to run a half marathon pushed her to start running again in January 2014. And she completed her half marathon on September 25. Nina says that her daughter Hannah was "the goal setter" and kept her focused on getting back to running and completing the half marathon that seemed so far out of reach after the accident.



#### Paula Chambers: Another H2U Success Story

Paula Chambers, Tumor Registrar at Capital Medical Center (Olympia, WA), says her story began like most others.

"I chose not to see the changes [of becoming overweight and out of shape]. I didn't see how much I was eating. I didn't see the bigger sizes when I bought clothes. I didn't really look in the mirror – except to check my hair and make sure my clothes were straight. One day when I was walking from the parking lot to the hospital entrance, I got so winded I couldn't catch my breath. I literally thought I was going to die, and I knew I had to do something."

Since the Capella Wellness Program launched in the fall of 2013 to provide health support to employees, Paula has made great strides, including losing weight, lowering her blood sugar, and being able to "plank" for five minutes. "I am healthier now than I've ever been, and plan on continuing my journey to a more healthy me."

The Capella Wellness Program is administered by Health to You (H2U). [Learn more about Paula's story and others at CapellaHealthcare.com/healthheroes](http://CapellaHealthcare.com/healthheroes)





# HOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

## ARKANSAS

### NATIONAL PARK MEDICAL CENTER Hot Springs NPMC recognized by the American Cancer Society

National Park Medical Center has been recognized by the American Cancer Society for their dedication to the fight for a cure at both the local and state levels. NPMC's Relay for Life team raised more than \$21,000 over a year-long fundraising period, making them the top ACS fundraiser in both Garland County and in the Central Arkansas region.



Seen at the circus-themed awards event are from left: NPMC's Angie Tillman and Mandy Golleher with Donna Kay Smith of the American Cancer Society of Garland County and NPMC Team Captain Pat Herrin receiving the trophy for top fundraiser.

"Our team works very hard every year to raise money and awareness for the American Cancer Society, but this year was a particularly motivating one for us here at NPMC," said team captain, Pat

Herrin. National Park Medical Center lost 39-year employee, Human Resources Director Sandra Culliver, to cancer in July of 2013. "This was the first year of Relay since having lost Sandra. She still is a major motivation for our team's exemplary efforts for the ACS. Her strength, will to live, and refusal to let cancer take over her life gave us a constant reminder of why we are fighting for a cure, and the daily research, advocacy and programming that the ACS provides is a very worthy cause for our time and our efforts."

"It's a passion for us. Obviously, we work in a field where we see the impact of cancer daily," said Pat. "It's a lot of work. But on the night of Relay when we see the track surrounded by luminaries – each representing a person who has so personally fought the fight – and when we watch the survivors' lap and the caregivers' lap – it's more than worth all of our time, efforts and dollars spent to help find a cure."

### SAINT MARY'S REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER Russellville

#### Saint Mary's starts something big with ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

Saint Mary's started something big when they challenged others to participate in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge last year in honor of one of their own: Dr. Finley Turner who has ALS.



Saint Mary's leaders take the plunge.

For Capella, it started at the annual leadership awards banquet when three of the company's senior leaders accepted the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge issued by Saint Mary's. Accepting the challenge were President and CEO Michael Wiechart, SVP and President of Hospital Operations Mark Medley and Arkansas Market President Jerry Mabry, who took the icy plunge in front of hospital CEOs and others attending the conference.



With the cascade of challenges following that, corporate office staff raised \$3,000. But that was just a "drop in the bucket" overall since the challenge, which had gone viral already raised more than \$200 million worldwide. The dollars are being used to help fund research to find a cure for ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) as well as to support those impacted by the disease. To see a few of the Ice Bucket challenges, visit [YouTube.com/CapellaHealthcare](http://YouTube.com/CapellaHealthcare).



### Physicians retire

Two long-time physicians affiliated with Saint Mary's Millard Henry Clinic have retired. Together, the two OB-GYNs delivered approximately 10,000 babies. Dr. Vickie Henderson recently retired after 20 years, and Dr. Joe Cloud retired after 32 years.

## MISSOURI

### MINERAL AREA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER Farmington Long-time employees retire

After 100+ years of combined service, three long-time employees of Mineral Area Regional Medical Center have retired. Respiratory Therapist Connie Scott served for 40 years, starting as a Certified Nursing Assistant then transferring after she became a Registered Respiratory Therapist. Rita "Sam" Barnhouse worked in Med/Surg and ICU before transferring to Special Procedures in Surgery, where she worked until her retirement after 35 years. Cook Anna Fuson was the "backbone of the kitchen," where she worked for 27 years. She has done every job in the kitchen, from dish aide to being the kitchen manager.

## OKLAHOMA

### EASTAR HEALTH SYSTEM Muskogee

#### New Women and Children's Center sees nearly 800 births in year one

It's been one year since EASTAR's new Women and Children's Center opened and "the stork" changed his flight path in Muskogee. Since the move of labor and delivery services to the former Muskogee Community Hospital campus, nearly 800 babies have been born at what is now the region's premier women's center.

The unit features five labor-delivery and recovery (LDR) rooms and 12 postpartum rooms, offering a quieter area for the mother and baby. The special care nursery is licensed for 25 bassinets. "We have two



neonatologists on staff and three neonatal nurse practitioners. The LDR rooms are set up so the families can be present – as the mother desires," said Delaine Bartsch, administrator of the EASTAR Women and Children's Center.

### SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER Lawton Visitors tour operating rooms in new surgery center

Unless they work in one, most people never get to see the inside of an operating room. But when Southwestern Medical Center held an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new outpatient surgery services center, they made sure their guests got to see everything.



"We showed visitors what they will get if they choose our facility for a procedure or operation," said Dave Nessel, RN, director of outpatient surgical services. "They saw what the place looks like, all the way from walking

through the front doors, meeting our receptionist, pre-operating areas (where patients are prepared for the surgery) and the operating rooms. We also showed them where our instruments are sterilized, operating areas, where they recover and all the way to where they get discharged and go home."

Chief Nursing Officer Steve Owens said the new facility is more open and brighter than the former center, as well as having new equipment, such as a new fluoroscopy X-ray and computed radiography system that allows staff to view digital images. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography scan (CT) equipment is also available. He also emphasized the privacy and the floor plan of the new facility, which has separate children's rooms. The new \$5 million 10,000-square-foot surgical facility is located next to the hospital.

### Employees retire

Two long-term employees recently retired. Nancy Bird served SWMC for 45 years, and Valorie Eakins served for 25 years. Both worked in patient records, business office, patient registration and physician support services. And both are excited about opportunities to enjoy grandchildren, travel and volunteer for church and SWMC Auxiliary.

## OREGON

### WILLAMETTE VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER McMinnville Staff collects 1,807 pounds of food in annual "Stuff the Bus" holiday drive

With 1,807 pounds of food and 200 toys donated, Willamette Valley Medical Center's annual "Stuff the Bus" holiday event was a huge success. The food and toys were distributed during the holidays to families in need throughout the community.



## TENNESSEE

### DEKALB COMMUNITY HOSPITAL Smithville Hospital now offers genetic testing

DeKalb Community Hospital is one of the first hospital laboratories in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee to perform genetic testing for Clostridium difficile. Molecular testing has now replaced the traditional EIA toxin testing at their facility. "This is a major improvement in diagnosing a condition that can cause severe symptoms and dehydration, especially in the elderly," said Lab Director Kevin Adcock. "The technology behind this test is amazing. It gives us an opportunity to provide our physicians a definitive result with near 100% accuracy. We're proud to be one of the only hospitals in the area to offer testing on the genetic level."

### Employee honored for 40 years of service

Sarah White, RN, was recognized for 40 years of service. And, in fact, the roots of the DeKalb Community Hospital are deeply entwined in her family as it is built on land that once belonged to her husband's great grandfather. "Sarah has been an integral part of the hospital's service for 40 of our 45 years," said CEO Sue Conley. "Serving in one place for 40 years is a rare occurrence and certainly one worth honoring."



### HIGHLANDS MEDICAL CENTER Sparta CNO named

Teresa Roberts, RN, has been named Chief Nursing Officer at Highlands Medical Center. She has been serving as interim CNO for several months and has served as the hospital's Chief Quality Officer for several years. Teresa has demonstrated her technical and leadership capabilities in both of these roles admirably over time including helping lead Highlands to all-time high employee and physician satisfaction on the most recent surveys.



### RIVER PARK HOSPITAL McMinnville RPH expands services

River Park Hospital recently opened a new cardiopulmonary wellness center. Additionally, construction is nearing completion on a new 10-bed geropsychiatry unit to open in May.



### New Fracture Prevention Service established

People who have osteoporosis (or low bone density) are at a significant risk for bone fractures. And, after they've experienced one fracture, they are up to 4.4 times more likely to have a second fracture. To help prevent fractures, RPH has started a Fracture Prevention Service that will provide education about osteoporosis, screening and treatment to increase bone density.

### STONES RIVER HOSPITAL Woodbury Hospitals decorate doors for the holidays

A record twenty departments at SRH and DCH participated in the holiday door decorating contest. Taking first place and winning a departmental pizza party were: SRH Med/Surg Floor with "Santa is on his way" and DCH Radiology with "Lighting up Christmas."



# HOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS – continued from page 7

## WASHINGTON

### **CAPITAL MEDICAL CENTER** Olympia **Hospital celebrates 30 years of service**

Capital Medical Center completed its 30th year of service on January 16. Originally known as Black Hills Community Hospital, the hospital became part of Capella Healthcare in 2005. Plans call for celebrating the 30th year milestone throughout the year.

## CAPELLA CORPORATE

### **Corporate office staff giving back to the community**

Capella's corporate office sponsored and helped to build a new home for a veteran. It was Tennessee's 4,000th Habitat for Humanity build as well as Habitat Williamson's first-ever Veteran's build. Harold Allen, who partnered with Habitat, moved in shortly after the Veteran's Day dedication.

Though neither his parents nor grandparents were homeowners, Harold never gave up on his dream. "Thank you for fulfilling my dream. I thank God for sending an angel. You have really touched my heart, not only for sponsoring my home, but for all of the other families that are blessed with the homes that you build."



*Veteran Harold Allen is pictured with Brent Jean, Director-Reimbursement at Capella and a member of the Habitat Board.*

Later in the fall, Capella's corporate staff United Way campaign made an impressive statement about the generosity and compassion of the corporate office staff. In addition to raising significantly more money than ever before, the staff set new records in both average gifts and per capita giving with 63 employees pledging \$47,150.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY ART CONTEST WINNERS

It was a tie for the Grand Prize in Capella Healthcare's first annual Children's Holiday Art Contest. The winning art was featured on our holiday card. Congratulations to:

- Alejandra Logue-Chavez, granddaughter of Anna Marie Ochsner, Director of Volunteer Services at Southwestern Medical Center in Lawton, OK
- Paige Weber, daughter of Becky Weber, Infection Control Nurse at Mineral Area Regional Medical Center in Farmington, MO



**You can see their art at [CapellaHealthcare.com/for-employees](http://CapellaHealthcare.com/for-employees)**



**CAPELLA HEALTHCARE™**

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*To see this issue on-line, or learn more about Health Heroes and Bright Stars, visit our website's "For Employees" section.*

# BRIGHT STARS

## HONORING THE REAL HEROES

Five years ago, shortly after WVMC formed its Diabetes Support Group, Director Jill Addison met Leonard DeWitt. Instantly, the two hit it off and Leonard and Jill became like family.

A veteran who served the U.S. in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, Retired Lt. Col. Leonard DeWitt fascinated Jill and the support group members with his stories of life, his fight against diabetes, and his love for the USA, along with a few battle stories.

While Leonard had already received a Purple Heart and a Distinguished Service Cross, Jill made it her mission to see that Leonard's service was appropriately recognized in the community and by the country he loves.

He had been nominated earlier for the Medal of Honor for his actions in single-handedly defending the U.S. position in Papua New Guinea against a massive entrenched Japanese fortification. After more than a year of discussions with elected officials and others, Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber recognized the heroic actions of Leonard DeWitt with passage of HJM 17 urging Congress to re-open his Medal of Honor nomination.

Additionally, through the group's hard work over the past year and half, a non-profit organization was formed – called "Real Heroes" – to recognize Yamhill County's real, everyday heroes like Leonard DeWitt. Working with a variety of organizations, the group raised the funds to erect a bronze statue of Leonard DeWitt to commemorate his "coolness under pressure and gallant actions above and beyond the call of duty."

On December 7, 2014 the bronze statue was unveiled on the grounds of Oregon Mutual Insurance. It will stand in the community as a reminder of the bravery shown by Leonard DeWitt and all of the U.S. Armed Forces that fight for freedom every day.

If awarded the Medal of Honor, he will donate the medal to the Oregon National Guard Museum in honor of all current Oregonians who serve under the same 41st "Sunset" Infantry banner.



*Jill Addison with Lt. Col. Retired Leonard Dewitt at the bronze statue erected in his honor.*