

For Immediate Release

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Rhode Island Disaster Medical Assistance Team Honored for Service in Healthcare in Rhode Island

Providence, RI – The Rhode Island Disaster Medical Assistance Team was honored with the 2005 HARI Award for Public Service by the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) at its recent annual Celebration of Excellence awards ceremony. The HARI Award for Public Service traditionally honors an individual or organization that has been an advocate for quality health care in Rhode Island.

The team was honored for its remarkable response in treating hurricane victims this year. More than 100 team members have been deployed to the gulf area this hurricane season providing medical care in shelters and hospitals. The team was also instrumental in preparing Rhode Island to receive victims of Hurricane Katrina. More than 50 patients were treated by the team at Quonset Air Base and the team continued to provide care at the housing site in Middletown.

“I congratulate the Rhode Island Disaster Medical Assistance Team on receiving the 2005 HARI Award for Public Service,” said Lou Giancola, chair of the HARI board of trustees and president and CEO of South County Hospital Healthcare System. “I applaud each of the team’s members on their dedication to providing quality health care in times of emergency.”

Allen Leadbetter, MD was presented the Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award for his dedication to the health care community.

The employees of the year from HARI’s nine member hospitals were also recognized during the program.

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Pictures of the award recipients are available electronically by request.