

For Immediate Release

Amanda Barney (401) 946-7887 ext. 111

Francis Dietz, President and CEO of Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, Honored for Service in Health Care in Rhode Island

Warwick, RI – Francis Dietz, president and CEO of Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, was recently honored with the 2007 Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award by the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) at its annual Celebration of Excellence awards ceremony. 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, as well as taking up many educational and environmental causes.

Dietz has been a guiding force in Rhode Island's health care system for more than four decades. Having been appointed president and CEO of Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island in 1966, at the young age of 26, Dietz is the longest serving CEO in the country.

Under his leadership, Memorial has grown from a small community hospital to a major Brown Medical School teaching and researching center. His financial prowess, dedication to ensuring access to health care for the under served, and focus on primary care has had a dramatic effect on citizens of Pawtucket and surrounding communities.

"I congratulate Frank on his hard work and dedication," said Edward Quinlan, president of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island. "He is the latest in a line of remarkable individuals who have made tremendous contributions to our health care community. The association is proud to present him with this award."

"I have been privileged to serve the community of Pawtucket, the community in which I was raised, for the past 41 years," said Francis Dietz. "I am honored to have been chosen by my peers for this special award. Ben Sturges was a remarkable man and I am grateful to be the recipient of an award in his name."

Allan Erickson, MD, former chief of staff of Providence VA Medical Center, received the HARI Award for Public Service for his extraordinary achievement in serving the people of Rhode Island.

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

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Pictures of the award recipients are available electronically by request.