

Almon Recognized as Grassroots Champion

Cranston, R.I. – June 3, 2008 – The American Hospital Association (AHA), in partnership with the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI), has honored Ted Almon, trustee, Women & Infants Hospital Foundation, with the Partnership for Action *Grassroots Champion Award*. As a 2008 Grassroots Champion, Ted is being recognized for his exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community activity in support of the hospital mission.

The award was created to recognize hospital leaders who most effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect hospitals' vital role in the community, have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support, and is a tireless advocate for hospitals and patients. The award is presented annually to one individual from each state. Winners are chosen by the state association and were recognized at a special Breakfast of *Grassroots Champions* at the AHA Annual Membership Meeting.

“Ted Almon is a tireless advocate,” said Edward J. Quinlan, president of HARI. “His contributions are gratefully appreciated as stakeholders continue to collaborate to further improve health care in Rhode Island. Ted’s insight and support is valued and sought after throughout the community.”

Ted has been an active leader in hospital and health care issues in Rhode Island for decades. He provides unique perspectives to align the incentives of the business community with those of health care providers to accomplish fundamental reform in the areas of cost, quality and access. He has served on countless health care taskforces, study groups and panels on both the state and national level. Ted is the president and chief executive officer of Claflin, a leading regional independent health care equipment and product distributor.

Founded over a half century ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island is a statewide trade organization that assists member hospitals in effectively meeting the health care needs of Rhode Island, through advocacy, representation, education and services. HARI members work collaboratively to improve the quality of care delivered and address issues threatening access to health care including increasing health costs, workforce shortages and decreasing reimbursement. HARI members work together to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high quality health care.

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