

*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 17, 2009 – 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 HARI Award for Public Service were honored.

Recipients of the Award for Excellence in Hospital Care included:

Britt Harrington, Clinical Coordinator, Pharmacy, Landmark Medical Center  
Marcia Carr-Carvalho, Registered Nurse, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island  
Angela Creta, Registered Nurse, The Miriam Hospital  
Steve Reid, Certified Nursing Assistant, Newport Hospital  
Linda Resnik, Research Health Scientist, Providence VA Medical Center  
Christine McAniff, Clinical Specialist, Physical Therapy, Rhode Island Hospital  
Theresa Pennacchia, Transfer Coordinator, Roger Williams Medical Center  
Christine Zydlewski, Food Service Worker, South County Hospital  
Darrick Tow, Physical Therapy Assistant, St. Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island  
Patricia Cote, Physical Therapy Supervisor, The Westerly Hospital

Ruth Waldman, past associate dean of the University of Rhode Island College of Nursing and former South County Hospital board member was posthumously presented with the Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award for her dedication to the health care community. Waldman began her career at The University of Rhode Island in 1974. During her tenure, she was instrumental in developing programs that addressed cultural diversity and allowed nurses to see the influence they could have on the health care needs of other cultures. She provided each of her students with constant leadership, mentoring, and knowledge and left a profound impact on the status and professionalism of nursing in Rhode Island. 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.

Edward and Ted Almon received the HARI Award for Public Service for their extraordinary achievement in serving the people of Rhode Island. Both father and son are active participants in Rhode Island’s health care community and work tirelessly to improve the quality, efficiency, and access of health care for all Rhode Islanders. Edward has served two terms on the Rhode Island Health Services Council and served on the board of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island for 18 years. Ted is best known for his grassroots efforts on health care reform and has served on countless health care taskforces, study groups, and panels on both the state and national level. The Public Service Award honors individuals for remarkable contributions to health care issues in the state.

###

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