



TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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Beeler Honored with Hospital Association's Highest Award

AUSTIN (Feb. 16, 2010) – Don Beeler, FACHE, former regional president and chief executive officer of CHRISTUS Santa Health System in San Antonio (CSRHS), is the recipient of the Texas Hospital Association's 2009 Earl M. Collier Award for Distinguished Health Care Administration. Established in 1965, the Collier Award is the highest honor bestowed by THA. Beeler will receive the award on Feb. 18 at THA's annual Leadership Conference in Austin.

"Throughout his career, Don set an example for his peers and took time to mentor others, all the while maintaining his focus on doing what is best for patients," said Dan Stultz, M.D., FACP, FACHE, president/chief executive officer of THA. "He truly embodies the leadership qualities that the Collier Award recognizes," Stultz said.

Beeler recently retired after 38 years of service with CHRISTUS Health. Although much changed in his four decades as a hospital administrator, one focus never did: compassion for the patient. According to Beeler, he didn't choose a career – he accepted a calling.

During his seven-year tenure at the helm of CSRHS, Beeler oversaw the expansion of children's services and specialty clinics, such as the new pediatric kidney and liver transplant program; championed the expansion of academic training by strengthening ties with The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; expanded the emergency departments of both CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children's Hospital and CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital - Medical Center, increasing patient comfort and decreasing wait times; supported the creation of the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children's Hospital - Center for Miracles, an organization that helps victims of child abuse; expanded partnerships to increase access to top-level treatments of care for cancer patients; and supported the new 68,000-square-foot medical office building of the Medical Center campus.

With "Being the Best, Not the Biggest" as his mantra, Beeler strengthened finances and augmented services, expanding the health system from two campuses and three facilities to a regional delivery system with four campuses, five facilities and a network of outpatient surgery centers. Under his leadership, CSRHS acquired the former McKenna Memorial Hospital in New Braunfels to serve residents of Comal County and South-Central Texas. In July 2009, CSRHS opened CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital - Westover Hills, the first full-service hospital in the fast-growing and underserved area of far west San Antonio. Beeler also facilitated the acquisition of a majority ownership interest in CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Physicians Ambulatory Surgery Centers, which consists of five outpatient surgery centers in San Antonio and New Braunfels.

Stephen Dufilho, CSRHS' outgoing board chairman, noted, "Don has truly transformed this ministry, laying a strong foundation upon which to build and to ensure that the 140-year legacy of the Sisters of Charity is firmly preserved for years to come." Reggie Williams, CSRHS' incoming board chairman added, "Don has assembled an excellent management team capable of continuing CSRHS' wonderful achievements well into the future."

Beeler received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Texas Christian University, as well as a master's degree in health care administration from Trinity University. He began his career at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa in 1973, and later served in leadership positions at CHRISTUS facilities in Beaumont and Texarkana. He moved back to San Antonio in 2003 to lead the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health System.

In addition to being a leader in several local and national health care organizations, Beeler has been an active member of the Texas Hospital Association throughout his career. He served as the chairman of HOSPAC, THA's state and federal political action committees, in 2003-2005. Last year he received the American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion Award for political advocacy efforts at the state and national level.

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About the Texas Hospital Association

Founded in 1930, the Texas Hospital Association is the leadership organization and principal advocate for the state's hospitals and health care systems. Based in Austin, THA enhances its members' abilities to improve accessibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of health care for all Texans. One of the largest hospital associations in the country, THA represents more than 85 percent of the state's acute-care hospitals and health care systems, which employ some 355,000 health care professionals statewide. Learn more about THA at www.tha.org or follow THA on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/texashospitals>.