



TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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Kennedy Honored Posthumously by Hospital Association

AUSTIN (Feb. 16, 2010) – The late Thomas F. Kennedy, CHE, recently retired administrator of Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital in Sweetwater, is being honored posthumously by the Texas Hospital Association this week in Austin. At a dinner being held in conjunction with THA’s annual Leadership Conference, Kennedy’s wife, Kathy, will accept THA’s Trustee Award, which recognizes Kennedy’s contributions to the Association and the health care field.

“Tom was an outstanding hospital leader who devoted his time and talent to his profession and to mentoring others,” said Donna Boatright, RN, chief executive officer of RPMH. “But more than anything, Tom loved health care and he inspired others with his joy at being a part of something bigger than himself. This award is a fitting tribute to his 46-year career in health care,” said Boatright.

Given at the discretion of the THA Board of Trustees, the THA Trustee Award honors outstanding contributions to the “better health of all Texans.” It has been presented only once in the last decade.

Kennedy joined RPMH in 1989 and served as its administrator for nearly two decades. Upon his arrival at the struggling hospital, he initiated a financial turnaround and oversaw the facility’s conversion to a hospital district. During his tenure, RPMH received consistently high accreditation marks from The Joint Commission, opened a new physical therapy and cardiac rehabilitation facility, and constructed a new emergency room. RPMH was recognized by *Modern Healthcare* magazine as one of the “100 Best Places to Work in Healthcare” in 2008.

He was an active member of THA from 1991 until his death in 2009. He served on numerous councils and committees; was a member of the THA Board of Trustees and THA Executive Committee; served on the boards of the Texas Hospital Insurance Exchange and the Texas Hospital Insurance

Network; was the Texas delegate to the American Hospital Association's Regional Policy Board; and was a member of the Northwest Texas Hospital Association, serving on its board from 1990-1999 and as its chairman for 1998-1999. Kennedy also lent his hospital experience to the health care field as a member of the Texas State Technical College Rolling Plains Technical Foundation Board from 1990 through 2009 and as the governor's appointee to the Texas Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners from 2002-2003. He received the Regent's Senior Level Healthcare Executive Award from the American College of Healthcare Executives in 1993.

In addition to his wife, Kathy, Kennedy is survived by his son, Capt. Thomas Hines Kennedy, and daughter-in-law, Capt. Jennifer Trainor Kennedy, D.O., of San Antonio, and his mother, Hollie Louise Kennedy Smith, of Sweetwater. His family and several members of the RPMH leadership team will attend the award ceremony in Austin.

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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>.