



Harris County Hospital District

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MEDIA RELEASE

HCHD Foundation Pays Tribute to Volunteers' Years of Service, Dedication *Event celebrates hospital district's 40th anniversary*

HOUSTON (Sept. 19, 2006) – Current and former members of the Harris County Hospital District and HCHD Foundation boards joined local business and community leaders at The Briar Club on Sept. 6 for the foundation's 2006 awards luncheon. The event paid tribute to four outstanding individuals for their selfless commitment and dedication to the hospital district and the foundation.

"We are proud to honor these exceptional individuals who have given so much of themselves to our community," said presenter J. Evans Attwell, HCHD board chair. "They are an inspiration to all of us, and we can't thank them enough for all they have done."

Elvin Franklin, Jr., was honored for his continued involvement with the hospital district and the foundation. He has served on the HCHD Board of Managers for more than 20 years and on the foundation's Board of Trustees since its inception in 1992. Franklin, who is currently the treasurer of the foundation's board, is the only member concurrently serving on both boards. On hand to present his award was Harris County Commissioner El Franco Lee, who first appointed Franklin to the hospital district board in 1986.

The next honoree was Quentin Mease, who was awarded for his pioneering role within both organizations. Mease is one of the original members of the HCHD board, which was formed in 1965. He served as board chair for 19 years. Mease is also a founding member of the foundation's Board of Trustees, which he chaired for eight years. He is currently chairman emeritus. Friend and colleague Jack S. Blanton, Sr., presented his award.

Barbara Schachtel, Ph. D., was honored for more than 30 years of volunteer service. Appointed in 1971, Schachtel was among the first females to serve on HCHD's board. She currently serves as secretary of the foundation's board, of which she is also a founding member. Her son, Rabbi Bard Schachtel, traveled from Dallas to present his mother with her award.

The foundation also presented its first "Above and Beyond Award" to Hank Coleman for his immeasurable contributions through the years. Coleman was instrumental in the foundation's formation, writing bylaws and securing non-profit status for the organization. This special tribute will now be called the "Hank Coleman Above and Beyond Award" in honor of its namesake. The award was presented by former board member and trustee Marc Shapiro.

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The awards ceremony marked the 40th anniversary of the hospital district, which first opened its doors to residents of Harris County on Jan. 1, 1966. On hand to mark the special occasion was HCHD President and CEO David S. Lopez, who, together with Attwell, led a symbolic lighting of candles on birthday cakes at each table.

“We’ve come a long way in the past 40 years,” said Lopez, who also thanked board volunteers in attendance for their years of service and support. “We have grown tremendously, but the need for our services in the community continues to grow. The hospital district has evolved into one of the most respected public health care systems in the nation, but our work is not done. This celebration is a time to reflect on our history and move forward.”

In addition to providing access to quality health care to the uninsured and underinsured residents of Harris County, the hospital district plays a key role in teaching the next generation of health professionals through partnerships with Baylor College of Medicine and The University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

The Harris County Hospital District is the public healthcare system for the nation’s third most-populous county. It provides more than 1.1 million health care visits each year to uninsured, underinsured and medically needy residents of Harris County. The hospital district operates Ben Taub General Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Quentin Mease Community Hospital, 12 community health centers, a dental center, seven school-based clinics, 13 homeless shelter clinics and four mobile health units.

The HCHD Foundation was chartered by the State of Texas on March 2, 1992, as a non-profit corporation whose exclusive purpose was to operate a charitable, scientific, and educational entity solely for the benefit of the hospital district. The foundation raises endowment funds and works conjointly with HCHD’s governing board in raising the consciousness of health welfare in the community.

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Photos of honoree available upon request.