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*The collective voice of Long Island's
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LI Nurses Recognized for Excellence

Nassau University Medical Center nurse from Huntington takes top honor

(Hauppauge, NY . . . May 19, 2008) Nurse leaders from Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals gathered Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at the Woodbury Country Club to bestow recognition upon their nurse peers at the Nurse of Excellence Award Ceremony hosted by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC). One nurse from each of the Hospital Council's member hospitals was nominated for this award, which recognizes outstanding leadership and clinical practice. Of the 24 nominees, Huntington resident Amy B. Pakes RN, MS nurse manager of Nassau County Firefighters Burn Center at Nassau-University Medical Center (NUMC), took the top honor as Long Island's "Nurse of Excellence."

"A nurse's approach to patient care is second to none," said Arthur Gianelli, CEO/president of Nassau-University Medical Center. "Our burn center is essentially Amy's vision. We congratulate her on today's honor."

In addition to serving as nurse manager for the Burn Unit, Pakes is nurse manager for the hyperbaric unit and surgical intensive care unit at NUMC. She has developed educational programs on burn care and related conditions that are treated in burn centers, and she participates in significant outreach programs to benefit critically ill trauma and burn patients.

This year's program also invited the deans of area nursing schools to submit nominations recognizing nursing excellence in education. Farmingdale State College and Stony Brook University School of Nursing presented nominees.

"It is striking what nurses contribute to the team," said Lee Xippolitos RN, PhD, chairperson of the Hospital Council's Nurse Administrators Committee and chief nursing officer at Stony Brook University Medical Center.

The Hospital Council's annual salute to nurses is fashioned after the New York State Legislature's Nurse of Distinction Program that ended in 1995. NSHC is one of the few hospital associations in the state to voluntarily continue this program. It is now in its 13th year. The NSHC represents Long Island's 24 not-for-profit and public hospitals.

For more information about this program and a full listing of nominees, visit www.nshc.org.

(See Photo on page 2 . . . MORE)



From left: Arthur Gianelli, CEO and president of Nassau University Medical Center; Julie Mirkin, Senior VP for Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Nassau University Medical Center; the 2008 NSHC Nurse Excellence Award Winner Amy B. Pakes RN, MS.

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