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*The collective voice of Long Island's
not-for-profit and public hospitals*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LI Nurses Recognized for Excellence

Good Samaritan Hospital nurse from North Babylon takes top honor

(Hauppauge, NY . . . May 22, 2009) Nurse leaders from Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals gathered Wednesday, May 20, 2009 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. Deans of area nursing schools also submitted nominations recognizing nursing excellence in education. Molloy College and Suffolk County Community College presented nominees.

It was Eileen Roberto RN, Nurse Manager Breast Health and Palliative Care Services, Good Samaritan Hospital, however, who took the top honor as Long Island's "Nurse of Excellence."

"Nurses bring extraordinary expertise and talent, compassion and dedication to our hospitals day in and day out," said Charles Bove, chief administrative officer for Good Samaritan Hospital. "Eileen is certainly no exception and we congratulate her on today's honor."

Roberto was the driving force behind the formation of Good Sam's Palliative Care Unit, working with administrators, nursing staff, physicians, social workers, care managers, pastoral care givers, and volunteers to bring the unit to life. Her colleagues describe her passion for evidence-based practice and patient advocacy as contagious. Her overarching goal is to ensure quality of life for patients and families facing life-altering diagnoses.

"I have always maintained a philosophy of care based on competence, compassion, and clinical excellence to improve care for patients facing these illnesses," said Roberto. "I share this award with the collective voices who allowed me to build on my passion."

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 continue this program voluntarily. It is now in its 14th year. The NSHC represents Long Island's 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: Gara Edelstein, Chairperson, Nurse Excellence Subcommittee and Senior VP Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center; Charles Bove, Chief Administrative Officer, Good Samaritan Hospital; 2009 Nurse of Excellence Winner Eileen Roberto from Good Samaritan Hospital; Pat Hogan, Senior VP and Chief Nursing Officer, Good Samaritan Hospital; Patricia Darcy, Chairperson, NSHC Nurse Executive Committee and Chief Nursing Officer and VP Patient Care Services, Southampton Hospital.

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