



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Connecticut Hospital Association Recognizes
Hartford Hospital's Vicie Brooks and Pam Vecchiarino (In Memoriam)
As 2011 Healthcare Heroes**

June 24, 2011 - At its 93rd Annual Meeting on June 23, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) recognized two Hartford Hospital nursing leaders, one posthumously, as *2011 Healthcare Heroes*. **Vicie Brooks, RN, BSN, Nurse Manager, Neuro-Trauma Unit, Hartford Hospital**, was nominated for this award by her colleagues Patricia Veronneau, RN, MSN, and Marlene Harris, RN, MS. **Pam Vecchiarino (1965-2011), RN, MSN, Former Nursing Director for Medicine, Oncology, IV Therapy, Hartford Hospital**, was nominated posthumously by her colleague Yvette Meléndez, Vice President, Government and Community Alliances.

Vicie Brooks maintains 24-hour responsibility for one of the most active units in the hospital in addition to extending her time and talents to her staff, family, church, and community. At Christ Temple Church in Hartford, she organizes and directs an annual healthcare fair, securing free medical care in one of Hartford's poorest north-end communities. She has organized exercise sessions, held monthly educational teachings, and performs regular blood pressure screenings. Her colleagues note that her consistent attitude of caring toward others, her generosity of her time and resources, and her cooperative nature are all assets, and that she is disciplined and purposeful in her delivery of information and care to her community.

Pam Vecchiarino was a brilliant nurse, whose laughter and kindness brightened the lives of staff members, patients and families. Honest, open, and deeply empathetic, she had a way of winning the trust of patients and families and a talent for peacefully resolving complex and emotionally charged care issues. Her colleagues describe Pam as diligent, demanding, and fair; always working hard, setting high goals, and being completely responsible and dependable. They note that she inspired all those whom she led to develop the same attributes. Pam was known for her indefatigable energy and an uncanny ability to balance all her priorities and

never drop a ball. Her staff members looked up to her, sought her advice, and tried their best to meet her expectations.

CHA's "Healthcare Heroes" Contest was developed in 2002 to celebrate the invaluable contributions of healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. Now in its tenth year, the presentation of the "Healthcare Heroes" awards has become a highlight of CHA's Annual Meeting.

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The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's not-for-profit hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement