



**For Immediate Release**

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## **CHA to Recognize the VA Connecticut Healthcare System's Maddalena DeRosa, MD, as a Healthcare Hero**

WALLINGFORD – At its 97th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Maddalena DeRosa, MD, Medical Director for the Geriatric and Extended Care Service Line at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, as a 2015 Healthcare Hero. She was nominated for this award by Katie Phillips.

For Dr. DeRosa, sometimes it's a veteran's special requested flavor of ice cream, or securing safe travel for a veteran who wants to see the Memorial Wall in Washington one last time. Other times it's taking an hour at the end of an already long day to bring a veteran to the kitchen and cook him pastina, while sitting and talking with him about life as he enjoys (and keeps down) his food for the first time in weeks.

This is a glimpse into the daily work of Dr. DeRosa, and a few of the extraordinary gifts she brings to both veterans and staff. She is willing to go to great lengths to make a veteran's wish possible. She puts her veterans first in all that she does, serving as doctor, friend, confidant, and advocate.

Dr. DeRosa has great empathy and sensitivity for end-of-life issues. She is holistic in her approach and ensures that all dimensions are addressed. Deeply spiritual in nature, it is not uncommon to see her praying at the bedside with family and staff. Her approach to treatment is never limited to symptom management and healing; it encompasses treating the entire body and soul.

Dr. DeRosa is the heart of the Community Living Center, helping veterans live a life of dignity until their time comes, and then assisting them with dying a dignified death.

CHA's Healthcare Heroes award 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 14th year, the presentation of the Healthcare Heroes awards has become a highlight of CHA's Annual Meeting.



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**About CHA**

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 hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, health equity, and hospital reimbursement.