



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Bruce D. Cummings, FACHE, to Receive the 2017 T. Stewart Hamilton, MD,
Distinguished Service Award**

WALLINGFORD – The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) is pleased to recognize Bruce D. Cummings, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lawrence + Memorial Hospital for 11 years, with the *T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Distinguished Service Award*. Mr. Cummings is the Immediate Past Chairman of the CHA Board.

The award, introduced in 1970, is granted to individuals who “contribute significant, noteworthy services to the health of the public.”

“Bruce has proven throughout his career that he is a visionary leader,” said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. “As CHA Board Chairman, Bruce unified hospitals across the state, exhibiting a relentless pursuit of excellence in quality and patient safety, and steering us through challenging times with a steady hand and calm demeanor. We are pleased to honor Bruce with the *T. Stewart Hamilton Award*.”

Mr. Cummings fully encompasses the qualities and accomplishments extolled by the award. He has exhibited exemplary leadership in facilitating the continued growth and success of L+M Healthcare, guiding first its decision to acquire Westerly Hospital and then leading the process of aligning L+M Healthcare into Yale New Haven Health.

On a broader, systemic level, during his tenure as Chairman of the CHA Board, Mr. Cummings steered Connecticut hospitals through one of their most turbulent eras. In the face of escalating state taxes, cuts to Medicaid reimbursement, and uncertainty about the future of national healthcare funding, Mr. Cummings successfully united hospitals around the goal of protecting Connecticut’s healthcare environment.

Despite these challenges, Mr. Cummings, who previously served as Chairman of the CHA Committee on Patient Care Quality and the Committee on Hospital Finance, never lost sight of where the focus of hospitals and the Association must remain – improving quality and safety in hospitals, and finding better ways to serve communities and patients.

During his tenure, CHA and its member hospitals made concerted efforts to eliminate health disparities, improve health equity, and expand coordination of care across the continuum.

Mr. Cummings has also been a driving force behind one of the Association's most significant endeavors, the continuing quest to improve quality and patient safety through the use of high reliability science. This effort, which has led to the training of more than 50,000 staff and physicians in hospitals across the state in high reliability science, resulted in significant improvements in patient safety, including the reduction of preventable harm.

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



