



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Elizabeth Hamilton  
Manager, Communications  
(203) 294-7216  
[hamilton@chime.org](mailto:hamilton@chime.org)

**CHA to Recognize Johnson Memorial Hospital's Mary Alsing and Mary Guglielmo, as Healthcare Heroes**

WALLINGFORD – At its 99th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Mary Alsing and Mary Guglielmo, longtime volunteers at Johnson Memorial Hospital, as 2017 Healthcare Heroes. They were nominated for this award by Ana Maria Ohan.

Mary Alsing holds the record as the longest serving Johnson Memorial Hospital volunteer, with 40 years, and Mary Guglielmo holds the record for the highest total volunteer hours, with more than 24,000 logged.

The Two Marys, as they are affectionately called by their peers, were born only 16 days apart in May of 1917. Ms. Alsing retired as a personnel secretary for the Hartford Board of Education, while Ms. Guglielmo worked as a machine operator at Electrolux prior to her relocation to Stafford in 1981.

Regarded by their colleagues as compassionate, steadfast, and humble, both Marys will do whatever is asked of them to help patients and their families. They put the needs of others first, even volunteering on holidays or during snowstorms. Ms. Guglielmo regularly volunteered on Thanksgiving—Thursdays were her day before she gave up her car, while Ms. Alsing will only “call out” during the worst of snow storms.

Ms. Alsing, who delivers refreshments and chats with patients two days a week, is well known and well liked for her charming demeanor. In the words of Reverend Carol Mento, “As the hospital’s chaplain, I know patients oftentimes feel anxious or lonely, but Mary A. has a delightful way of connecting with them. Several patients have remarked to me about how much Mary’s visits have meant to them. They may not remember her name, but they remember who she was to them, her kindness and her ability to listen.”

Ms. Guglielmo’s many volunteer hours have nearly all been in the Emergency Department. “She simply loves the ED,” says Pat Lake, former Director of Volunteers, “and would do anything ... even help with fundraising efforts. Her favorite fundraiser, and my favorite memory of her, was a motorcycle ride. She couldn’t wait to man a checkpoint and enthusiastically cheered on the riders, all while promoting the ED. She’s helped with many fundraisers but this one was really cute, the little old lady with all these big, loud motorcycles.”

Their long service is proof that healthcare heroes come in all sizes and ages. They don’t all have MD or RN after their names. Some of them are simply known as Mom, Dad, or, in this case, Mary and Mary.

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 16th 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 hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.

