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Union County Commission Honors Local Nurse *2009 Woman of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award*

April 28, 2009 (Edison, NJ) – Each year, the Union County Commission on the Status of Women pays homage to women who have contributed significantly to the improvement of our communities. This year, the Commission honored long-time Solaris Health Care System member Patricia Murphy, RN, MSN, with its 2009 Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award in Healthcare at its 17th annual dinner on March 27, 2009.

Nominated by her peers for the valued expertise and hard work she brings to each and every initiative, Mrs. Murphy has earned recognized success throughout her career and has utilized her position, stature, and expertise to effect positive change. "Her commitment and dedication to the field of healthcare and its benefits to the communities at large are exemplary of extraordinary nurses," says Judy Mathews, Dean, Muhlenberg Harold B. & Dorothy A. Snyder School of Nursing. The accolades bestowed to Mrs. Murphy pays tribute to her lifetime accomplishments and serves as a celebration of her vision and creativity in helping others.

The mission of the Commission of the Status of Women is to provide a permanent, effective voice for women across Union County and New Jersey. Sponsored by The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Commission's mission is to call attention to the contributions of women in select fields and to advance their opportunities. "The Union County Freeholder Board is proud to recognize the achievements of these...outstanding women," said Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella.

For the past thirteen years, Mrs. Murphy has been an integral force at Solaris Health System, where she currently serves as a Professor of Pharmacology Math at the Muhlenberg Harold B. & Dorothy A. Snyder School of Nursing. Here she shares real-life experiences with students as she prepares the next generation of nurses for the challenges that lie ahead. Additionally, she has been instrumental in implementing the schools first on-line nursing course, providing many students with the flexibility required for juggling education, family and career. Prior to joining the Muhlenberg School of Nursing, Mrs. Murphy was an adjunct Professor at Kean University and Felician College as well as an Instructor at the W.B. Baldwin School of Nursing, Hospital Center at Orange.

This Springfield resident and Seton Hall University graduate has been an active member of the nursing community for many years, sharing her wealth of expertise as an Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, an Obstetrics and Community Health Instructor and a Medical/Surgical Instructor at local area hospitals. Mrs. Murphy spoke at the National Oncology Congress, where she presented on criteria to improving patient outcomes and quality care. In addition, Mrs. Murphy has been published in professional journals and presented at numerous industry lectures and programs.

Mrs. Murphy"... represents thousands of others throughout Union County who work hard to excel in their personal lives, and who strive to make our communities stronger," Mirabella continues.

"Her contributions to the nursing profession have not gone unnoticed," Mathews adds. In addition to the 2009 Women of Excellence recognition, Mrs. Murphy has received a distinguished Nursing Alumni Award, Certificates of Appreciation from the American Cancer Society, and an outstanding alumna award from Seton Hall College of Nursing. She was also named the New Jersey State Nurses Association Medical-Surgical Nurse of the Year.

Certified as a teacher of Practical Nursing and as a School Nurse, Mrs. Murphy continues her education by attending nursing seminars related to heart disease, brain injury, depression, pain management and elder care. Moreover, she is involved in professional nursing organizations, social and civic groups, as well as St. James the Apostle Church in Springfield.

As past president to the Summit Area AARP, Mrs. Murphy has a few rules to stay young. Enjoy the simple things. Cherish your health. Laugh often, long and loud. Endure, grieve, and move on. Surround yourself with what you love and always keep learning.

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JFK Medical Center, an affiliate of Solaris Health System, is a 535-bed full-service, acute care hospital, consisting of The Anthony M. Yelensics Community Hospital and the adjacent JFK Johnson Rehabilitative Institute. Located in the heart of Edison, NJ, it has remained at the forefront of quality care in the region since its inception in 1967. Today, JFK accommodates more than 20,000 admissions, 3,000 births and 50,000 Emergency Room visits on a yearly basis. The Medical Center features a complete array of services, including general surgery, emergency medicine, mental health, orthopedics, maternity and pediatric care. It is home to the New Jersey Neuroscience Institute, Regional Cancer Center, Haven Hospice, JFK Imaging Center and the JFK Family Practice Center. Affiliated with UMDNJ -Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Seton Hall University School of Graduate Medical Education, JFK offers residency programs in physical and rehabilitation medicine, family practice and dentistry