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**The Honorable Mayor Oscar Harris Launches National Nurses Week
At Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital**

DUNN, NC (May 8, 2008) The Honorable Mayor Oscar Harris recently launched National Nurses Week at Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital (BJRH) by delivering a proclamation requesting residents to join him in honoring nurses, the largest health care profession, who are working to improve health care, and meeting the expanding health care needs of our society.

“It is interesting that I was a recipient of your services at a most critical time in my life – when I had a heart attack,” said the Honorable Mayor Harris. “I received marvelous care from everyone who treated me, and I am so thankful for each and every one of you. To be in nursing you have to have a calling. I can see that and feel that this morning. And that is a great feeling. Wherever I go, I always get nothing but great comments about the services you render here and I am very pleased with that, and I hope you are also. It is also important that you know that there are two things I want to say about this hospital, it is a great economic boom for our area, and BJRH provides exceptional healthcare services. I would to thank you for choosing to be in healthcare, and for working at BJRH.”

“The important role that our nurses play in the delivery of healthcare cannot be over estimated,” said Vicki Allen, chief nursing officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services for Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital. “In honoring our Nurses today, I would like to also recognize our entire BJRH team. Because it does take a lot of different people with different skills to ensure that our patients receive outstanding and compassionate care every single day. I would like to end by saying it is such a great tribute having the Honorable Mayor Harris deliver the very first proclamation ever at BJRH. We thank you for making our event a success.”

The work of America’s 2.9 million nurses to save lives and to maintain the health of millions of individuals is the focus of this year’s National Nurses Week. This year, the American Nurses Association (ANA) has selected “Nurses: Making a Difference Every Day” as the theme for 2008.

Annually, National Nurses Week begins on May 6, marked as Nurses Recognition Day, and ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession.



PHOTO: From Left to Right – Ted Fitzgerald, BJRH Board of Trustees Member; Ray Weeks, Chairman of the BJRH Board of Trustees; Vicki Allen, Chief Nursing Office and Vice President of Patient Care Services for BJRH; Ken Bryan, President and CEO for BJRH.

Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital, a 101-bed private not-for-profit hospital based in Dunn, North Carolina, offers emergency, primary and specialty care services to Harnett, Cumberland, Johnston, and Sampson County residents. Serving patients since 1940, the hospital has nearly 100 affiliated physicians and over 770 employees. For more information, visit www.bjrh.org.

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