



**For Immediate Release**

CONTACT: Fritz Guthrie – 936.291.7573

**HUNTSVILLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL HOSTS  
TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION AS THEY HONOR  
LOIS KOLKHORST FOR LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

(Huntsville, TX) – State Representative Lois Kolkhorst was honored by the Texas Hospital Association (THA) at a luncheon reception at Huntsville Memorial Hospital.

In his opening remarks, John Hawkins, THA senior vice president for advocacy and public policy said, “We are pleased to again present Representative Kolkhorst the THA Tribute Award for her overwhelming support in all nursing and medical funding areas. Due to her efforts, the original \$6 million appropriated in 2005 to address the nursing shortage was bumped to \$50 million for the coming year. This will make monumental changes in assuring that high performing nursing schools get the dollars they need up front, instead of upon completion of their work.”

“I love this award,” was Kolkhorst’s immediate reaction upon accepting the award. As a recipient of this award multiple times, she thanked all who are on the frontline of healthcare. “From the board to physicians, administrators and the individuals who deliver care to the patients, my thanks,” she said.

Kolkhorst admitted that she loves giving back to Texas. “All I ever hoped for was a chance to look at and solve problems that would provide me with a way to give back to the wonderful communities in which I live. I find the problems, solve them one at a time, and appreciate that I was elected to be such a part of the process. I want to continue to do this in partnership with organizations such as THA and Huntsville Memorial.”

Passionate about the nursing shortage since 2005, Kolkhorst has been asked repeatedly if she *is* a nurse due to her knowledge base and commitment to the field. Not a nursing professional, her passion comes only from understanding and learning more about the issues that face healthcare. She hopes to soon concentrate some of her efforts on finding a way to assist physicians with loan repayment and finding ways to help the nation, state and the greater Huntsville area in training, finding and keeping the physicians needed to care for their communities.

Welcoming Rep. Kolkhorst back to Huntsville Memorial Hospital, CEO Sally Nelson said, “We really can make changes at the local level, and with Lois Kolkhorst on our side, and our physicians who have become an active part in our

co-management model, Huntsville Memorial will continue to provide new and innovative programs for our community.”

The program for training Licensed Vocational Nurses has been in place at Huntsville Memorial Hospital for 25+ years. Next week 32 will graduate from the current program, with the new class beginning by the end of the month. HMH is working with Sam Houston State University to create additional educational opportunities for those looking to enter the medical arena, including a biomed technical degree and an RN program that will initially be housed at Huntsville Memorial.

In closing, Rep. Kolkhorst said, “All that we are doing happens because someone wants to do it. Because of the interest and commitment of the hospital, the hospital district, university and others, we are going to make some of it happen right here in Huntsville.”

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## **CUTLINES**

Rep. Lois Kolkhorst (center left) received the Texas Hospital Association Tribute Award in a ceremony at Huntsville Memorial Hospital. With her are John Hawkins, THA senior vice president for advocacy and public policy; Sally Nelson, CEO at Huntsville Memorial and Freddy Watson, governmental relations at Memorial Hermann.

## **About Huntsville Memorial Hospital**

*Since 1927, Huntsville Memorial Hospital has provided benevolent and charitable health care services, setting the standard for quality, proficient health care for the residents of Walker County and the surrounding communities. At Huntsville Memorial, we have great people who are passionate about your health. We have outstanding physicians, motivated leadership, and compassionate staff. We are your friends and neighbors – dedicated to excellence in everything we do – right here at home.*