NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Two Galion Residents Receive Honors

GALION – Ohio Hospital Association's highest honor, the Donald R. Newkirk Award, has been given to **LaMar Wyse**, retired CEO of **Galion Community Hospital**, for dedicating 35 years to the health care field in Ohio, partly demonstrated by his extensive participation on OHA's Board and several committees. The award was presented June 15,

2009 at a special recognition dinner held during the annual meeting at the Hilton Easton in Columbus, Ohio. The dinner gathered hospital representatives from across the state to honor 84 health care heroes who were nominated for this year's Albert E. Dyckes Health Care Worker of the Year Award.

The Albert E. Dykes Health Care Worker of the Year Award recognizes an employee of an Ohio hospital or health care system who is an outstanding health care worker as demonstrated by leadership, reflecting the values and ideals of Ohio's health care facilities, going above and beyond the call of duty, giving back to the community and overcoming odds to succeed. At this year's annual recognition the award was presented by its founder, Albert E. Dykes, retired OHA Senior Vice President. The nominees were selected by each hospital as their choice for this esteemed award.

Mia Taylor, Galion Community Hospital's nominated choice for Health Care Worker of the Year, is employed in the hospital's laboratory as a medical technician. Commended by staff for her positive attitude and often requested by name from patients, Mia's nomination reflects her genuine concern for patient care. A graduate of the University of Toledo with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, Mia furthered her career by attending Marion Technical College to become a medical technician. She was selected as a member of the 2003 All-Ohio Academic Team, representing the state's best two-year community and technical students, by maintaining a 4.0 grade point average and demonstrating leadership and community service involvement. She has been an employee of Galion Community Hospital for eight years. Mia and her husband, Jonah, reside in Galion.

Earning the prestigious Donald R. Newkirk award, LaMar Wyse has provided leadership in healthcare roles for over 35 years. Mary Rutan Hospital in Bellefontaine was the springboard for Wyse in 1974 beginning as the director of the Cardio-Pulmonary Department. Earning his Master of Health Administration degree, he went on to serve Bluffton Community Hospital, Memorial Hospital (Fremont), Hardin Memorial Hospital in Kenton and Bucyrus and Galion Community Hospitals. In 1999, he moved to

Gallipolis and spent five years with Holzer Health Systems before becoming President/CEO of Galion Community Hospital in 2004. Wyse was familiar with the community as well as the organization, having served as the interim CEO in 1999. His participation with OHA (Ohio Hospital Association) began in 1982 as a member of the Small and Rural Hospital Committee. He began his first of three terms as a Trustee-at-Large on the OHA Board of Trustees on 1990.

In November of 2007, Governor Ted Strickland recognized Wyse's commitment to the community by appointing him to the Ohio Broadband Council. The intent of the Ohio Broadband Council is to bring together private and public businesses to remove barriers to broadband access. Constantly seeking to improve the business climate of his community, Wyse served as Board Chair for the Galion Chamber of Commerce in 2007 and remains active today. He is also a past president of the Galion Area Betterment Commission and has been Vice President of the Crawford County Economic Development Partnership, an organization embracing countywide business cooperation.

Citing Wyse's generous spirit at the dinner, emcee Marcus Thorpe, anchor for NBC 4 in Columbus, applauded the honoree for sharing his keyboard and vocal talents with his community. Wyse received a bachelor's degree from Malone in music before the start of his health administration career and often entertains on a local level.

Wyse, who retired from the hospital in May of 2009, and his wife, Karon, live in Galion. He owns WyseSolutions, LLC, a consulting firm providing services for small, rural, community and critical access hospitals.

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