



NEWS

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Contact: Marla Friedman
The Waters Pelton Organization, Inc.
Cell: 954-648-9724

Experienced Excellence: Glades General Nurses

Honored for 40 Years of Dedication

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BELLE GLADE, FL January 29, 2008 – When two veteran nurses began their nursing careers at a newly expanded Palm Beach County hospital in the Glades, Lyndon Johnson was president and the year was 1968. Belle Glade residents Winnie Jackson and Geraldine Bailey were recently honored for 40 years of service to Glades General Hospital and its patients. Surrounded by colleagues on the morning of her anniversary at the hospital, Jackson was presented with a nursing charm during a training seminar. Chief Nursing Officer Mary Weeks praised Jackson saying, “Winnie Jackson was here when I arrived more than three decades ago and she is one of the foundations of this hospital. With a strong will and proven leadership, she has mentored countless nurses while her tireless devotion to her patients exemplifies the very best of the nursing profession.”

The charge nurse for the medical surgery and pediatric unit, Jackson first joined the Glades General staff as a nursing assistant in 1967 after having received her training at the hospital. While working in that capacity for 12 years, Jackson continued her education in the Licensed Practical Nurse Program and, upon graduating, practiced as an LPN for a decade before attending Palm Beach Community College in Belle Glade where she attained her Registered Nurse degree. Jackson, along with other members of the nursing staff, participates in a program that places Palm Beach Community College nursing students in the hospital to gain clinical

experience. Working side-by-side nurses like Jackson, these students receive valuable insight into their chosen profession.

Geraldine Bailey began working as a nursing assistant in 1967. She went to the technical school in Belle Glade and became an LPN, then continued her education and became an RN. She has worked in many capacities, including pediatrics and medical surgery, obstetrics, and as a house supervisor on the night shift. Bailey is a resident of Belle Glade and has a grandson playing football for the University of Miami. She works in a supportive role in all areas of the hospital. According to Mary Weeks, "I have great appreciation for her dedication to nursing and to Glades General. Gerrie was a nursing assistant when I worked as a new nurse my first year out of school. She was very helpful to me at that time and has continued to be a wonderful mentor to the nurses who have worked with her."

Now, four decades after their nursing careers began, Jackson and Bailey are excited to see that construction of the new \$73 million regional hospital and medical campus in the Glades is well underway. The Health Care District of Palm Beach County has committed \$50 million toward building the technologically advanced facility, which will replace Glades General Hospital. The hospital will be the first in Palm Beach County to feature all-private patient rooms. The Glades Healthcare Foundation is leading the fund raising campaign to complete the project and those interested in more information can call 561-833-8999. Glades General Hospital CEO David Zechman noted, "As we raise Glades Healthcare Foundation funds and build a new regional hospital serving the western communities that border Lake Okeechobee, it is important to remember that bricks and mortar are only a small part of what makes a hospital great. It takes people like Winnie and Geraldine who never waiver in their commitment to this community and the people who live and work here."

About Glades General Hospital

Glades General Hospital, Palm Beach County's only public hospital, is a JCAHO accredited 73- bed acute care facility located in the heart of a large agricultural belt on the southern shores of Lake Okeechobee. Operated by the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, GGH is one of the largest employers in the Glades with just over 300 employees. The Health Care District is currently constructing a \$73 million new regional hospital and medical campus that will open in 2010. Glades Healthcare Foundation is leading the fundraising campaign for this technologically-advanced facility that will feature all-private patient rooms. The new 70-bed hospital hopes to attract physicians and patients from all over Palm Beach County with services including: a Trauma Hawk air landing pad; a 24-hour physician staffed emergency room; obstetrics with advanced diagnostic testing; general surgery; social services; radiology and nuclear medicine.