

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT:**

Amanda Engler, APR
Texas Hospital Association
512/465-1050

Robin Bodkin
King's Daughters Hospital
254/771-8699



TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Bonner Receives Top Health Care Award

AUSTIN (Oct. 16, 2007) – Tucker Bonner, FACHE, president and chief executive officer of King's Daughters Hospital in Temple, has been named the 2007 recipient of the Texas Hospital Association's Earl M. Collier Award for Distinguished Health Care Administration. Established in 1965, the Collier Award is the highest honor bestowed by THA. Bonner received the award on Oct. 16, during THA's 2007 Leadership Conference in Austin.

"Tucker Bonner exemplifies the leadership qualities that this award recognizes," said Dan Stultz, M.D., FACP, FACHE, president/CEO of THA. "He is well-respected by his peers, and – through his involvement with THA and similar organizations – he is an effective advocate for health care in the Central Texas region. THA is pleased to recognize Tucker with this prestigious award," Stultz said.

Bonner has served the 150-bed King's Daughters Hospital since November 1987. In nominating Bonner for the award, the chairman of the hospital's board of directors, Dr. Ralph Wilson Jr., noted, "During Mr. Bonner's tenure, his 'patients first' focus has kept the community hospital competitive in the market."

Bonner came to Temple from Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene where he served as executive vice president from 1981 to 1987. Prior to that appointment, Bonner rose up the ranks to assistant vice president at the Memorial Hospital System (now Memorial Hermann Healthcare System) in Houston. Michael Waters, FACHE, senior consultant at Hendrick Health System, worked with Bonner at both Memorial and Hendrick. "Employees, department heads, board members, physicians and his peers respect his insight, his professional skill and his achievement," said Waters.

In 1995-96, Bonner served as chairman of the THA Board of Trustees. Wilson noted that at the state level, Bonner has shown an unwavering commitment to health care in his various leadership positions at THA, VHA Texas (currently as chairman) and the Texas Association of Voluntary Hospitals, among others. Currently, he is chairman of the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board 7 and a member of AHA's board of trustees.

Bonner is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Senior Executive Regent's Award from the American College of Healthcare Executives. He also is involved in community activities and serves as immediate past-chairman of the Temple Business League. His educational experience includes a Master in Health Administration from Trinity University and an administrative residency at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston. Bonner originally hails from Jackson, Miss., and he and his wife, Kay, have two grown children – Kevin and Kristin, her husband Marc Knight and one grandson, Harrison.

-30-

Texas Hospital Association

Founded in 1930, the Texas Hospital Association is the leadership organization and principal advocate for the state's hospitals and health care systems. Based in Austin, THA enhances its members' abilities to improve accessibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of health care for all Texans. One of the largest hospital associations in the country, THA represents nearly 85 percent of the state's hospitals and health care systems, which employ some 320,000 health care professionals statewide.

King's Daughters Hospital

Since being founded in 1896 by a local chapter of the International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons, King's Daughters Hospital has been caring for the Temple community. What began as an act of kindness by a nondenominational group of women is now, 110 years later, a community hospital. King's Daughters Hospital is an independent, not-for-profit hospital licensed for 150 beds and accredited by the Joint Commission.