

# Memorial Health Care System

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**Contact: Brian Lazenby, (423) 495-4320**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## *THA Rewards Joan Frierson for Meritorious Service and Governance*

Chattanooga, TN – Tennessee Hospital Association awarded Memorial Health Care System board member Joan Frierson with the 2011 Meritorious Service Award for Governance.

According to the THA, Ms. Frierson was “honored for her exceptional leadership, insight and knowledge in all of her work at Memorial Health Care System.”

Mrs. Frierson helped guide the hospital through important changes in leadership and numerous visionary decisions. She has provided strategic planning and leadership for a number of projects and has been instrumental in fundraising, morale boosting and helping provide essential continuity during critical periods of transition. She has an incredible gift for leadership, an unwavering commitment to the Memorial mission and the ability to listen and to share ideas with tremendous insight, eloquence and grace.

James M. Hobson, president and chief executive at Memorial Health Care System, praised Joan for her leadership and insight.

“Joan is truly deserving of this award,” Mr. Hobson said. “She leads by example and has the remarkable gift of making those around her strive to be better. She has made many contributions to Memorial Health Care System, the healthcare industry and the city of Chattanooga.”

Ms. Frierson has led a distinguished life of philanthropy and community involvement and has a real desire to make a difference in her community. In addition to her involvement with Memorial Health Care System and the Memorial Health Care System Foundation, Mrs. Frierson has served as past chairman of the Board of Girl’s Preparatory School where she co-chaired the school’s 1996 capital campaign, past-president of the Junior League of Chattanooga, past chair of Women’s Build for Habitat for Humanity, past co-chair of Fast Day at the Chattanooga Community Kitchen and past member of the Hunter Museum of American Art Board of Directors.

Mrs. Frierson received the 2009 Humanitarian Award, an annual honor given to an individual who demonstrates outstanding leadership in the Chattanooga community, and

she has been named a Chattanooga Woman of Distinction, an award presented by the American Lung Association to outstanding women leaders.

Mrs. Frierson graduated from Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a bachelor of art degree in 1964. She is married to Dan Frierson, chairman and chief executive of The Dixie Group, a floor covering manufacturer in Chattanooga. They have five children, Haley Frierson, Kennedy Frierson, Rowena Frierson Barker, Jamie Frierson and Emily Frierson Brown. They also have eight grandchildren.

**Memorial Health Care System** is a not-for-profit, faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to the healing ministry of the Church. Founded by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and strengthened as part of Catholic Health Initiatives, it offers a continuum of care including preventative, primary and acute hospital care, as well as cancer and cardiac care, orthopedic and rehabilitation services. Memorial is a regional referral center of choice with 4,000 associates and more than 700 affiliated physicians providing health care throughout Southeast Tennessee and North Georgia. Memorial Health Care System is recognized as one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals® by Thomson Reuters, the health care industry's leading source of information on hospital quality. To learn more, visit [www.memorial.org](http://www.memorial.org).

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