



MEDIA RELEASE

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HAROLD COURTOIS TO RECEIVE ASSOCIATION'S HIGHEST HONOR

(Sept. 2, 2025) – It is with great pleasure that the Kansas Hospital Association announces Harold Courtois, retired CEO, Memorial Health System, Abilene, is the recipient of 2025 Charles S. Billings Award. Courtois will be awarded at the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show on Sept. 4-5 in Wichita.

The Charles S. Billings Award, named after the association's first president, was created in 1971 to recognize distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the field of health care in Kansas. The Kansas Hospital Association reserves this award for those who have shown their commitment, leadership and dedication to that noble pursuit. Courtois, the 45th recipient of this award, has demonstrated these qualities during his devoted health care career of more than 50 years.

Prior to his retirement earlier this year, Courtois served as the Chief Executive Officer at Memorial Health System in Abilene since July 2017. Before joining MHS, he served as the CEO at Russell Regional Hospital in Russell, KS, as well as Trego County Lemke Memorial Hospital in WaKeeney, KS.

Courtois was a member of the Kansas Hospital Association Board from 2019-2024 serving as treasurer in 2024. He served two stints on the KHA Workers' Compensation Fund Board, holding the position of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Courtois also served on numerous KHA committees and was the past chair of the KHA Northwest District.

Courtois earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Southwestern College in Winfield, KS, and a Master of Science in Management from Friends University. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives; past President of the Russell Area Chamber of Commerce; past President of

Leadership Kearney; past member of the Leadership Kearney Board of Directors; current member of Rotary International; and past member of the Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce.

“Harold’s leadership in health care has been felt on a local, state and national level,” said Chad Austin, KHA president and CEO. “He has been a mentor to many health care leaders across the state, fostering innovation and empowerment among all who have worked with him.”

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 242 member facilities, of which 124 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA’s vision is Optimal Health for Kansans and Kansas hospitals.

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