



MEDIA ALERT — INVITATION
October 27, 2011

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**N.C. Stroke Association's Women Honoring Women Luncheon Celebrates
Elizabeth (Libby) Puckett, N.C. Stroke Champion & Pioneer, Friday, November 4**

WHAT: Media is invited to attend a special *Women Honoring Women* luncheon hosted by the N.C. Stroke Association (NCSA). The luncheon will recognize the work of the N.C. Stroke Association in the Triangle.

WHO: **W. James Stackhouse**, MD, MACP, is a practicing cardiologist in Goldsboro and active leader with numerous health-related organizations in North Carolina, including the Justus Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force, will make introductions. **Jay Briley**, president of Duplin General Hospital and vice president of the NC Stroke Association, is the keynote speaker and will shed light on where North Carolina is going with regards to stroke education and prevention. **Peg O'Connell**, JD, senior advisor for government and legislative affairs with Fuquay Solutions, is the event's honorary host.

Libby Puckett's colorful life story includes growing up in South Africa and a career in physical therapy. In the 1960s she moved to Washington, D.C., and moved into hospital administration as she pursued her interest in pediatric health promotion / prevention. She moved to North Carolina in 1994 and began her journey as the Executive Director of the North Carolina Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force in 1996 where she partnered with organizations such as the NC Stroke Association to raise awareness about the importance of stroke prevention and education. Puckett was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from Governor Mike Easley in recognition of her extraordinary service to the state. Much of North Carolina is in the "buckle" of the Stroke Belt, but through innovative organizations such as the Stroke Prevention Task Force and NCSA, the number of stroke deaths in the state continues to drop.

WHEN: 11:30 a.m., Friday, November 4, 2011 (remarks will begin at noon)

WHERE: Embassy Suites, 201 Harrison Oaks Boulevard, Cary, North Carolina

MORE: Stroke awareness is critically important in North Carolina, which has one of the highest stroke death rates in the United States. More women die of stroke than of breast cancer or heart disease. Although strokes can be devastatingly debilitating and fatal, they are also highly preventable and treatable with a healthy lifestyle, awareness of key risk factors and knowledge of stroke symptoms.

NCSA works with partner hospitals across North Carolina to promote stroke prevention and education, including community-based screening tools to identify stroke risk factors. The screening process includes an educational component regarding the signs and symptoms of stroke, as well as the critical importance of seeking immediate help. The faster stroke victims seek treatment, the more treatment options they have and the greater likelihood that the stroke can be treated successfully.

For more information about NCSA and the *Women Honoring Women* luncheon series, visit www.ncstroke.org.