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**Verdugo's Medical Staff Banquet and Installation of Officers
Recognizes Years of Service**

(GLENDALE, CA – February 2, 2010) – More than 100 physicians and their guests attended Verdugo Hills Hospital's (VHH) 32nd Annual Medical Staff Banquet and Installation of Officers on Saturday, January 30, at the La Cañada Country Club. The "Moonlight and Roses"-themed event was hosted by VHH's Chief of Medical Staff, Leo Berkenbile, M.D., who was installed for his third term as Chief of Medical Staff.

"The Banquet provided the opportunity to announce to Medical Staff the implementations of the Hospital's advances in medical technology," said Len LaBella, VHH CEO and President. "The event also provided the opportunity to recognize Medical Staff leadership and those who were being recognized for their years of service, along with those newly elected to the Medical Executive Committee."

During the Banquet, the following medical staff members were honored for their years of service: Collin Cooper, M.D., was recognized for 45 years of service at VHH. Dr. Cooper was appointed to Medical Staff of Behrens Memorial Hospital in 1965, and served as Chief of Medical Staff in 1976. From 1962-1964, he served as a captain in the United States Air Force and was Chief of Medicine at the US Air Force Hospital – Wheelus Air Force Base in Tripoli, Libya. Dr. Cooper continues to serve as VHH's Bylaws Committee Chair and as a member of the Credentials Committee.

The 30-year honorees were: James Roach, M.D., Thomas Tate, M.D., Bruce Finstead, M.D., Bruce Schlecter, M.D., Milan Demeter, M.D., Michael Cann, M.D., Gary Gilbert, M.D. The 20-year honorees were: Happy Khanna, M.D., Vahe Badalian, M.D., William Gifford, M.D., Vatche Bardakjian, M.D., David Sherman, M.D.

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The 2010-2011 Installation of Officers: Leo Berkenbile, M.D., Chief of Medical Staff; Chitra Ramakrishnan, M.D., Assistant Chief for Patient Services; William Reynolds, M.D., Physician Member of the Hospital Board. The new Medical Executive Committee Members for 2010-2011 are: Gary Gilbert, M.D., and Chitra Ramakrishnan, M.D.

All present also enjoyed music performed by The Mary White Band; the Band had recently returned from their fourth annual trip to entertain soldiers at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base.

About the Hospital:

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. Hospital features include Fast-Track emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. The Hospital also offers surgical services, including bariatric and orthopedic surgeries. It is an independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted “Foothills’ Best Hospital” by readers of the *Glendale News-Press* for five consecutive years. For more information, please visit www.vhhospital.org. For more information about funding initiatives or to support the hospital, please call the Foundation at 818.952.2226.

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