



For Immediate Release

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SMH marks progress of its Regional Cancer Center with Topping Out Ceremony

(Slidell, La.—March 11, 2010)—Construction workers will affix the final structural beam along with a pine tree and an American flag to “top out” the structural framework of Slidell Memorial Hospital’s (SMH) Regional Cancer Center under construction in Legacy Medical Park beside the SMH Founders Building on Robert Road.

SMH invites the community to take part in this customary “Topping Out Ceremony” at 5 p.m., Thursday, March 18, 2010, to mark a major milestone in the Center’s construction. Guests should wear closed-toe shoes and pants, and hard hats will be available at the construction site.

The installation of the last structural “beam,” a steel plate that will be welded atop the Cancer Center’s frame, symbolizes more than the completion of the Center’s steel structure; it represents progress toward a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to optimizing care for cancer patients in Slidell and throughout the Gulf South.

“The building of Slidell Memorial’s Cancer Center is a monument to our ongoing commitment to serve our community,” said SMH Chief Executive Officer Bob Hawley. “It’s a true community project, made possible by the people of Slidell. We know the Center will be worthy of the level of expertise, technology and care for which we are known, at the forefront of cancer care in the region.”

The plate was displayed for several weeks in the hospital’s atrium, where employees, patients and visitors were able to add their signature to commemorate the people who helped make the project possible. During the ceremony, the plate will be raised onto the top of the Center’s frame and put in place with the flag and pine tree, a symbol that was once used to thank tree spirits for providing shelter.

Scheduled to open later this year, the Cancer Center will house all of SMH’s cancer-specific diagnostic and treatment equipment and specialists’ offices under one roof. This will allow for increased collaboration and coordination of care by centralizing the latest technology available for fighting and diagnosing cancer. This includes: the Varian Image-guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) system used in both radiosurgery and more precise, targeted radiation treatment; CT Scanners and a new GE 16-slice CT Scan simulator with four-dimensional respiratory gating capabilities. The center also will feature a comfortable Infusion Center for patients undergoing chemotherapy.

ABOUT SMH

Slidell Memorial Hospital is a full-service 182-bed acute care not-for-profit community hospital located at 1001 Gause Blvd., in the heart of Slidell. Founded in 1959, SMH is the third-largest employer in St. Tammany Parish, employing 1,100 full, part-time and pool employees. SMH

serves as a primary healthcare resource for families in St. Tammany Parish, La.; Pearl River County, Miss.; and the greater Mississippi Gulf Coast region. It is located online at www.slidellmemorial.org.

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