



## **Gunn: Celebrating excellence at KershawHealth**

By Terry Gunn, KershawHealth CEO  
C-I contributing columnist  
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KershawHealth is joining healthcare systems around the country to celebrate National Hospital Week -- a time to recognize the enormous skill, dedication, and compassion our employee team brings to their jobs every day.

This dedication has helped us achieve a number of significant designations and accreditations, including The Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval, Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence Team Performance Award, South Carolina Hospital Association's Certified Zero Harm Award for Hip and Knee Replacement Surgery, American College of Radiology's designation as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence and American Heart Association's Fit-Friendly Worksite Gold Achievement, just to name a few. These awards are a reflection of our ongoing commitment to excellence.

We are also celebrating our nurses during National Nurses Week. Nurses provide the hands-on, moment-by-moment care our patients depend on and cherish. They truly reflect the compassion, heart and soul of our organization. We are grateful to have an exceptional group of nurses at KershawHealth. Among them are nine Palmetto Gold winners and three DAISY Award recipients. Palmetto Gold recognizes the top 100 nurses in South Carolina each year, recognizing their outstanding clinical skills, dedication to the nursing profession, and involvement in their community. The DAISY Award acknowledges the incredible compassion and selfless service nurses exhibit on a daily basis, and is presented to the top nurses in hospitals around the world. Five DAISY Award winners are presented each year at KershawHealth.

And finally, this is also National Long Term Care Week. As our population ages, the need for high-quality, compassionate long term care is increasingly important. For nearly 45 years, Karesh Long Term Care has been an integral part of our community and one of the hospital's most-cherished services. In addition to offering long term care, it is home to RACE Rehab, a short-term inpatient rehabilitation program which helps patients quickly regain the everyday

skills needed to live independently. Today, Karesh Long Term Care continues to provide outstanding nursing and rehabilitation care, and boasts Tier One Designation in the American Health Care Association's Quality Initiative Recognition Program.

A dynamic and growing hospital is essential to the ongoing success of any community. Not only does it provide care for local citizens, but it enhances the quality of life, is an important factor in attracting business and industry, and contributes a significant number of high-paying jobs to the local economy. Ultimately, it yields benefits for generations to come.

For more than a century, the physicians and employees of KershawHealth have committed to serving with excellence. Today, we continue to work together to bring you the kind of care you expect for your family. It's this dedication we celebrate -- not only this week, but all year long.

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