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BI-KINGS HIGHWAY DIVISION TO PRESENT SERVICE AWARDS ON JANUARY 27

January 25, 2010 -- More than 200 employees are being honored by Beth Israel-Kings Highway Division on Wednesday, January 27, at a breakfast gathering at El Caribe, a catering hall in Mill Basin.

The group is comprised of staff who completed their 15 to 45 years of service in the past three years. Topping the list of honoree is Stella Higgins, nursing assistant, Central Sterile Reprocessing, whose 45th year anniversary occurred last year, but she's not ready for a more leisurely life.

Several years earlier Ms. Higgins professed a desire to become a nurse says she has been inspired by a grandma she had seen on television who received her degree at the age of 90. "I haven't given up on my dream and I am so pleased that one of my daughters is now a nurse," she added.

Reaching their 40-year milestones are Verlene Collins, Mary Phillip, Maria Acevedo, Lillian Frances, Allan Bedeau, Lester Francis, Dieugrand Dacius, Evelyn Barrack, Francis Augustine, Francisco Augustine, Lloyd Goodridge and Sherole Padmore.

Patient Care Services has the largest representation, 76 of them registered nurses, including PCS Managers Redempcion Asuncion, RN, 35 years; Catherine Leota, RN, 30 years; Kathleen Rogers, RN, and Emily Browne, RN, 25 years; and Alexis Raimondi, RN, and Elsa Layos, RN, 20 years.

Other 35-year nursing honorees are Vicki Durso, RN; Luzviminda Runtu, RN; Lorraine O'Connor, RN; Fay D'Aguiar, RN; Carol Fazio, RN; Patricia O'Brien, RN; Carol Battaglia, RN; Joanne Erckert, RN; Aida Olvina, RN; Julia Maroney-Kane, RN, and Maureen Delap, RN.

Pharmacist Thomas O'Brien, RPh, who is receiving his 20-year award is not ready to retire either, but would love to have more time to go cruising with his wife. "We love traveling and hope to do more of it in the coming years, but I enjoy returning to work and being able to help others."

"It is inspiring to see the roster of honorees," said Rhona Hetsrony, KHD VP for Administration, who celebrated her fifth anniversary in 2009. "We are very grateful for their loyalty and long service to Beth Israel and our patients."