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**Chambers Health Board Member Receives
Texas Healthcare Trustees 2011 Founders' Award**

(AUSTIN – Aug. 3, 2011) – Ben T. “Tommy” Willcox, chair of the Chambers County Public Hospital District Board of Directors, has received the Texas Healthcare Trustees’ highest honor, the Founders’ Award, for 2011. Willcox was honored at a luncheon last week held in conjunction with THT’s Annual Conference in Fort Worth.

Established in 1972, the award is presented to trustees who have provided leadership and contributed significantly to the health care field. The award originally was given to the five founders of the Texas Healthcare Trustees, and the 42 subsequent recipients’ accomplishments have exemplified the group’s dedication to and concern for the health care field.

Willcox’s tenure at Chambers Health – which operates Bayside Community Hospital, Bayside Clinic and West Chambers Medical Center, and The Wellness Center at Bayside – has spanned more than a decade, and during that time he witnessed some of the organization’s greatest highs and tragic lows. “I can say, without reservation, that we would not be here today without Tommy,” said Chambers Health CEO/Administrator Robert A. “Bob” Pascasio, FACHE. “His insightful leadership and his calm, steady influence have allowed Chambers Health to become the pre-eminent provider of health care services in Chambers County.”

After joining the board in 2001, Willcox helped lead the organization from Chapter 9 bankruptcy to being named by *Modern Healthcare* magazine among the 25 most profitable Critical Access Hospitals in the country in 2005. His leadership and determination guided the hospital district as it responded to meet community needs following three separate hurricanes, including the devastating Hurricane Ike. The storm destroyed Willcox’s family home and caused significant damage to some of Chambers Health’s facilities. During those tough weeks that impacted so

many thousands of Texans and put his hospital's staff to the test, Willcox kept Chambers Health focused on its mission of "What You Need, Where You Are."

Willcox has strong ties to the community. His family has resided in the Anahuac/Wallisville area for five generations and Willcox taught science in the Anahuac school district for nearly three decades. He has held leadership roles in numerous civic organizations and was named the 1999 person of the year by the Anahuac Area Chamber of Commerce. He holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in science from Sam Houston State University and also is a licensed pilot. Willcox and his wife, Marsha, have three children and five grandchildren.

-30-

About Texas Healthcare Trustees

Texas Healthcare Trustees is an affiliated organization of the Austin-based Texas Hospital Association. THT members serve on the governing boards of hospitals and health systems. THT has approximately 450 hospital/health system governing boards representing nearly than 4,000 trustees. For more information about THT, visit www.tht.org.