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Arkansas Methodist Medical Center President/CEO Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

PARAGOULD, AR – Arkansas Methodist Medical Center President and CEO Ron Rooney has been named the 2009 recipient of the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rooney was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award based on his significant contributions to the medical center and the community as a whole.

Under Rooney's leadership, AMMC has earned the reputation of being a leading provider of quality and compassionate healthcare services throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri for nearly 60 years.

Healthcare has played a major role in Ron Rooney's life. He grew up in a medical family, the son of a doctor with several relatives who were also doctors and nurses. The familial foundation sparked a passion in Rooney for caring about the well being of others, which has molded him into the visionary healthcare leader he is today.

He earned his MBA from The George Washington University and holds a BA from Syracuse University. Rooney is also board certified in healthcare management by the American College of Healthcare Executives.

“Giving these awards allows the Chamber the opportunity to honor those that have

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offered their services not only to the Chamber but also to their community”, according to Sue McGowan, Director of Economic Development and CEO for the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Leigh Ann Hestand, Vice President of Operations at First National Bank, received the 2009 Chamber Member of the Year award. Hestand has worked at the bank for 24 years in several different capacities.

She serves on the Arkansas Bankers Association Young Bankers Section as an Executive Council Member. She is also on the Greene County Chamber of Commerce Board, an Exchange Club member, a Greene County Community Fund Board Member and Leadership Paragould Alumni.

A recognized leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould provides progressive, compassionate healthcare to residents throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Additional information about AMMC is available at: www.arkansasmethodist.org.