

Western Maryland Hospital Center

“50 years of making life worth living . . . going strong!”



At the conclusion of Sunday's 50th anniversary celebration at Hagerstown's Western Maryland Hospital Center, there was an official ribbon cutting commemorating the opening of the hospital's new brain injury unit. Pictured from left to right are Donny Cook of WMHC, Dr. Dan Sullivan, the physiatrist at WMHC, Hagerstown's Mayor Robert Bruchey, Hagerstown Councilmember, Martin Brubaker, Pat Mullan, WMHC's first patient successfully returned home from the unit, Secretary John M. Colmers of the Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Cynthia Pellegrino, WMJC's CEO, Jamie McElwee, WMHC Brain Injury Department head and Senator Donald Munson.



November 11, 1957, marked the first day that the Western Maryland Hospital Center opened its doors to the public. Last Sunday marked the 50th anniversary of this great long-term healthcare facility that has served over 10,000 Maryland citizens.

“Over 200 Hospital Faithful On Hand For Golden Anniversary Gala”

The Western Maryland Hospital Center auditorium was packed with over 200 former patients, staff, families and Washington County citizens Sunday, Nov. 11, to celebrate the Maryland long-term-care facility's golden anniversary.

Highlighting the afternoon's activities was a special ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening the new brain injury unit at the Hagerstown-based healthcare facility.

"We give Marylanders a second chance for quality of life through exceptional rehabilitation and healthcare services in our healing environment," said Cynthia Miller Pellegrino, WMHC's CEO. "We've been working hard to get our new brain injury unit opened and we feel this will be a valuable resource for the State of Maryland in caring for all types of brain injuries suffered by our citizens."

On hand for the event were Secretary John M. Colmers of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Senator Donald Munson, Former Maryland Delegate, Dr. Peter Callas, Hagerstown Mayor Robert Bruchey, Hagerstown Councilmember Martin Brubaker, Joyce Brown of the WMHC Citizen Advisory Board and Barbara Jacob, the WMHC Auxiliary President.

"When you enter the doors of Western Maryland Hospital and you have the chance to meet the people and walk around," you know at once that you're at a very special place," said Secretary Colmers. "You notice those little things in the dayrooms, on the walls and then, the beautiful therapeutic gardens developed and maintained by the volunteers. Like the care here at the hospital, it's all out of the ordinary."

During the program, Senator Munson paid special tribute to Dr. Peter Callas, who served in the Maryland House of Delegates for three terms.

"It was my pleasure to work hand in hand with Delegate Callas in the early 1990s to keep the doors of this magnificent hospital open," said Munson. "Thousands of Marylanders have benefited from the exceptional care here at

the Western Maryland Hospital Center over the last 50 years. One of those patients whose quality of life was improved by this hospital's exceptional care was my grandmother."

The anniversary gala featured live entertainment by young classical pianist, Leah Claiborne of Frederick, MD. Leah's mother, Angie, is an employee of the Western Maryland Hospital Center. Also, entertaining during the Sunday afternoon celebration was the Western Maryland Hospital Center Choir, Donnie Cook and the duet of Billy and Sandie Lynch.



*A special day for a special hospital
... the Western Maryland Hospital Center*





Donny Cook of the WMHC staff, entertains at the piano during the formal program in the hospital's auditorium.celebration.



Secretary John M. Colmers of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, chats with Senator Donald Munson at gala.



Barbara Jacob, right, looks on as 93-year-old Millie Fiery talks to the audience of over 200 about her 50 years of volunteering at the Western Maryland Hospital Center in Hagerstown. WMHC opened its doors on Veterans Day, November 11, 1957, and celebrated its 50th anniversary last Sunday at its Pennsylvania Avenue Address.



The last three Western Maryland Hospital Center chiefs of staff. From left to right are Fe Porciuncula, MD, Rose Chan, MD and Monica Stallworth, MD.



Cindy Miller Pellegrino, the hospital's CEO, takes time out to pose with her family during the Golden Anniversary celebration.



Young Leah Claiborne stunned the over 200 in attendance with her classical performance at keyboard.



Joyce Brown, Chair of the WMHC Advisory Board, was a standout with her remarks pertaining to the quality of care at the Western Maryland Hospital Center.



Hagerstown Mayor Robert Bruchey and Hagerstown Councilmember Martin Brubaker visit with Jamie McElwee, the director of WMHC's new brain injury unit.



Former Maryland Delegate, Dr. Peter Callas, right, visits with Linda Strine and Senator Donald Munson at the 50th anniversary celebration of Hagerstown's Western Maryland Hospital Center on Sunday, November 11.



Dr. Pauline Daley, Medical Director of WMHC's Comprehensive Care Unit, takes time to congratulate Leah Claiborne for her exceptional performance on the piano as part of the Golden Anniversary program. To the right is Angie Claiborne, Leah's mother and a member of the WMHC staff.