

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Coffee Regional Medical Center Recognizes Long-Standing Board Members and Announces New Board Appointments

Completing three terms on the Coffee Regional Medical Center, Inc. Board of Directors are Brandy Wilkes and Gary Evans. Mrs. Wilkes joined the board in 2012 and has been a board leader serving as the Chair of Finance Committee since 2013. Mrs. Wilkes not only brought financial leadership but many good ideas and a community perspective to the table during her service on the Coffee Regional board. In her full-time employment role, Mrs. Wilkes serves as Associate Vice President for Economic Development and GaTAPP Executive Director for Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. A tenured Wiregrass faculty member, she plays an integral role by leading the institution's growth and expansion throughout South Georgia.

Mr. Evans is the CEO of Cotton Partners, a cooperative serving 16 counties in South Georgia. He is a graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Chemical Engineering and has worked in a number of industries in operations and leadership roles. Gary has also served on several community boards and is a member of the Jeff Davis County Rotary Club. Mr. Evans joined the CRMC Board in 2014 and served as Chair of the board for three years, 2015- 2017. Mr. Evans contributed valuable insight, thoughtful ideas, and support throughout his tenure.

"The contributions that both Brandy and Gary made to our organization are simply immeasurable. They provided solid leadership and helped navigate through several challenges and successful changes, including helping us balance our scorecard and implement successful growth strategies. We are so very thankful for their service," stated Vicki Lewis.

Mrs. Marlene Baldree will continue to serve on the CRMC board but has asked to step down as Board Chair, a role she has expertly filled for three years, 2018-2020. Vicki Lewis stated, "Marlene's knowledge and guidance have been essential to our organization. We are very grateful that she will remain on our board to complete her upcoming terms and that we can count on her for continued guidance and leadership. Marlene has impacted our organization in ways that will benefit our operations for years to come."

After serving on the board since 2016, CRMC welcomes Mr. Adam Smith as Chair of the board. Adam is a lifetime south Georgia resident and experienced community leader and board member. Adam is currently the Senior Vice President, Food & Agribusiness for Truist Bank. Adam has held several committee positions on the CRMC board and always brings both a community and a business perspective to the table.

Three New Board Members are congratulated and welcomed to the Coffee Regional Medical Center, Inc Board of Directors. Joining the board are Dr. Grace James and Dr. Jim Cottingham, both retired members of the South Georgia State College leadership team, and Mr. Oscar Paulk, the 2021 chairman of the Coffee County Board of Commissioners.

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Dr. James served in many roles at South Georgia State College during her 40-year tenure, including Director of Athletics, culminating with her role as Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. James retired as Vice President Emerita for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Cottingham devoted 32 years to South Georgia State College, serving as a Professor of Education & Psychology before becoming the Vice President for Student Affairs. He retired as the Vice President Emeritus for Student Affairs and Professor Emeritus of Education & Psychology.

Mr. Paulk replaces Mr. Johnny Wayne Jowers, the 2020 Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Jowers is recognized and thanked for his leadership, community perspective, and guidance during his one year term.

"Coffee Regional Medical Center is delighted to welcome all three of these accomplished leaders," said Vicki Lewis, President, and CEO of Coffee Regional Medical Center. "Their experience and knowledge of the communities we serve will be a tremendous asset to our mission."

**About Coffee Regional Medical Center:** Coffee Regional Medical Center, Inc., is a non-profit, acute care hospital, in Douglas, Georgia. The current facility opened in July 1998, replacing the original building constructed in 1953. The 200,000 square foot hospital is designed with inpatient adult and pediatric beds, expanded outpatient service areas, including interventional cardiology and hematology oncology to assure exceptional care and wellness close to home. The Medical Staff membership includes anesthesiology, bariatrics, cardiology, emergency medicine, ENT, family practice, general surgery, GI, hematology, internal medicine, interventional cardiology, nephrology, neurology, OB/GYN, oncology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, pain management, pathology, pediatrics, podiatry, pulmonology, radiology, urology and wound care.

OUR MISSION is ***To Provide Exceptional Care and Wellness Close to Home.***

OUR PURPOSE is ***To Serve. To Heal. To Save.***

OUR VISION is ***Healthy lifestyles. Better lives.***

OUR VALUES include ***Trust, Partnership, Connection, Knowledge, Excellence and Service.***

Serving Coffee and surrounding counties since 1953, we have become an integral part of the fabric of our community as well as a major contributor to the economic health of Douglas, Georgia. To learn more, visit [www.coffeeregional.org/](http://www.coffeeregional.org/)

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